

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Steven M. Huffaker, Director**

**Project W-170-R-26**

**Progress Report**



**FURBEARERS**

Study III, Job 1

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**PROGRESS REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

**STATE:** Idaho                      **JOB TITLE:** Furbearer Survey  
**PROJECT:** W-170-R-26  
**SUBPROJECT:** 1-7                      **STUDY NAME:** Statewide Fur Harvest Survey  
**STUDY:** III  
**JOB:** 1  
**PERIOD COVERED:** July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002

**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 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Analyze the mandatory trapper reports to estimate trends in furbearer harvest and the dollar value of species.  
*This was accomplished and is included in the following report.*
2. Continue to collect bobcat harvest information through the mandatory export tag program.  
*All bobcats harvested were tagged with CITES tags and the method of harvest recorded. This information is included in the report.*
3. Compile the sex and age structure of the bobcat harvest from the analysis of lower jaws and sectioned teeth, and use this information to evaluate and monitor the statewide population.  
*The Idaho Fish and Game Commission decided not to require trappers to surrender the jaws of bobcats harvested in Idaho during the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 seasons.*
4. Conduct surveys to determine the population status of selected furbearers.  
*No coordinated surveys of furbearer populations were conducted during this reporting period. A winter track survey protocol for forest carnivores was drafted and will be implemented during winter 2002-2003.*
5. Prepare an annual report on furbearer harvest.  
*The annual report is found herein.*
6. Conduct public meetings to inform the public and obtain information on hunter/trapper acceptance of season regulations.  
*Public meetings were held statewide to provide public comment on furbearer rule changes.*
7. Make presentations on furbearer biology to the public.  
*A regional presentation was provided to a group of homeowners regarding nuisance beavers.*

## ABSTRACT

Trapping licenses sold during the 2001-2002 season totaled 647, which included 637 residents (91 junior residents under 18 years of age) and 10 nonresidents. The number of licenses sold was up 7% from the previous year. Harvest reports for the 2001-2002 season were submitted by 519 (80%) of the 647 licensed trappers. From this total, 414 (99.8%) of 415 license holders who indicated they trapped provided information on trapping effort on the mandatory trapper report form. These trappers averaged 4.0 hours afield per day and 32.9 days afield setting and checking traps and scouting trapping areas. The fur harvest, based on 414 reporting trappers was 20,576 animals, up from 17,159 the previous trapping season. A total of 14,306 pelts (70% of reported harvest) were sold for a value of \$146,233.04. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$10.22 each, compared to \$8.63 for the previous season. The 414 trappers harvested an average of 50 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 34 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$10.22 and 34 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$347.48. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those that did not submit a report, was 25,720 animals taken, with an estimated statewide pelt value of \$271,816.71. Beaver, muskrat, coyote, raccoon, and red fox, respectively, were the most frequently caught species. Average prices per pelt for these species were \$12.56, \$2.24, \$18.91, \$8.04, and \$23.81, respectively. Price per pelt (for all harvested species) ranged from an average of \$115.02 for bobcats (\$103.58 in 2000-2001) to \$2.24 for muskrats (\$1.83 in 2000-2001). In total statewide value of pelts sold, the top 5 furbearers include bobcat, red fox, beaver, coyote, and muskrat. Pelt values were up for all furbearers except beaver, marten, otter, and weasel.

Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 959 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 (70% of the total) came from the Department's Panhandle, Clearwater, and Southwest Regions. A statewide quota of 100 otters resulted in 80 legally-harvested otters being tagged by the Department. Age data based on an evaluation of sectioned canine teeth from 76 otters (4 teeth could not be analyzed) indicated that 56% of the harvest was made up of juveniles and yearlings. The oldest otter aged was 10 years. Males made up 70% of the otters aged. The lower mandible is turned in by the trappers and sent to Matson's Laboratory in Montana for analysis. Trappers reported 15 nontarget otters trapped during the 2001-2002 season; up from 8 the previous year.

## 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. Any trapper failing to send in a report by this date is refused a trapper's license the following year. Harvest reports for the 2001-2002 season were submitted by 519 (80%) of the 647 licensed trappers. 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. Comments by the trapper are also accepted on the harvest report ( Appendix 1). Trappers that ask specific questions (in the comment section) receive a personal call from the appropriate Department personnel.

### 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 2001-2002 mandatory report card. Beginning with 2002-2003, Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) will be included. CPUE measures the harvest per unit of time and will be useful in predicting population trends.

### 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, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003 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 checkpoint 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, method of take (trapping, calling/hunting, with hounds, incidental hunting) and beginning in 2002-2003, catch per unit effort. 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 were tagged were sent to the Wildlife Health Laboratory where they were cleaned and sent to Matson's Laboratory, Milltown, Montana. Matson's

Laboratory extracted, sectioned, and counted cementum annuli from a canine tooth of each otter to determine its age. The Department has petitioned for CITES approval for river otter export tags, but in the meantime, metal state tags are affixed to each pelt. Beginning with the 2002-2003 season, trappers will be required to relinquish the entire river otter carcass for analysis. A graduate research project will look at reproductive rates, genetic variance within the state, toxins, and stomach contents of harvested animals for at least 2 seasons.

### Nontarget Catches

By Commission rule, any trapper who captures and kills a nontarget species (any species for which the season is closed) 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 turned in to the Department. Since a river otter season was initiated in 2000-2001, only otters trapped after the regional quota was reached must be surrendered to the Department. Beginning with the 1996-1997 season, trappers also received \$5.00 for each accidentally caught lynx or wolverine. Most nontarget animals turned in were 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 2001-2002 season totaled 647, and included 637 residents (91 junior residents under 18 years of age) and 10 nonresidents (Table 1). The number of licenses sold was up from the previous year.

### Trapper Days Afield

For the 2001-2002 season, 414 (99.8%) of the 415 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 32.9 days afield setting and checking traps and scouting trapping areas; they averaged 4.0 hours afield per day. Statewide, all active trappers spent an estimated total of 13,627 days afield. These figures represent an increase in trapping effort from last year in terms of days afield and hours afield per day.

### Mandatory Trapper Harvest Reports

Harvest reports were submitted by 519 (80%) of the 647 licensed trappers for the 2001-2002 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 415 reporting trappers who trapped, was 20,576 animals (Table 3), up from 17,159 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 14,306 pelts (70%) were sold for a value of \$146,233.04. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$10.22 each, compared to \$8.63 for the previous year. The 415 trappers harvested an average of 50 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 34 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$10.22 and 34 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$347.48. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those who did not submit a report, was 25,720 animals taken, with an estimated statewide pelt value of \$271,816,71.

The beaver, muskrat, coyote, raccoon and red fox respectively, were the most frequently caught species. Average price per pelt for these species were \$12.56, \$2.24, \$18.91, \$8.04, and \$23.81, respectively. Price per pelt (for all harvested species) ranged from an average of \$115.02 for bobcats (\$103.58 in 2000-2001) to \$2.24 for muskrats (\$1.83 in 2000-2001). In total statewide value of pelts sold, the top 5 furbearers include bobcat, red fox, beaver, coyote, and muskrat (Table 4). Pelt values were up for all furbearers except beaver, marten, otter, and weasel. (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 identifies areas of higher harvest and may indicate areas of high furbearer populations.

#### Mandatory Bobcat Tagging and Harvest Reports

Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 959 animals from a 2-month (January and February) season (Table 6); 6 additional animals were reported as being confiscated by Idaho Fish and Game. The lynx season remains closed; no accidental captures were reported. The largest number of bobcats harvested (70% of the total) came from the Department's Panhandle, Clearwater, and Southwest Regions (Table 7). Trapping accounted for 49% of the statewide bobcat harvest, followed by the use of hounds (30%). Hound hunting for bobcats predominated in the 2 northern regions of the state while trapping predominated in the Southwest Region.

During the 2001-2002 season, the Commission did not require hunters and trappers to surrender jaws for aging. Region 7 voluntarily submitted jaws (Table 8); bobcat age data will be analyzed from the canine tooth by Matson's Laboratory.

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 87 legally-harvested otters statewide during the trapping season (Table 9). The harvest quota was reached in the Department's Panhandle, Southwest, Magic Valley, and Salmon Regions. The maximum allowable harvest was reached in the Magic Valley Region and in the Salmon Region. An additional 15 otters caught incidental to other trapping were surrendered to the Department (Table 10).

Eighty river otter jaws were sent to Matson's Laboratory for aging (Table 11). Of this total, 56 (70%) were males and 21 (26%) females. Three were of unknown sex. Four could not be aged due to the condition of the teeth. Juveniles constituted 35% of the harvest, while yearlings made up 21%. Combined, juveniles and yearlings made up 56% of the 10 age groups represented in the harvest.

### Reported Nontarget Catches

Among the nontarget species reported trapped was a variety of birds and mammals (Table 12). Nontarget animals with minimal injury were released at the site of capture. Trappers reported 70 nontarget animals captured. Trappers were paid \$5.00 each for 23 otters surrendered to the Department for reimbursement. Since the 1990-1991 trapping season, 7 fisher and 355 otters have been turned in to the Department for reimbursement (Table 10). These animals were 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 2001-2002. Winter track survey routes are currently being developed in each of the Department's administrative regions and will be implemented as a pilot project during the winter 2002-2003. Targeted species will include, but not be limited to, fisher, lynx, marten, and wolverine.

### Furbearer Research

The Department continues to cooperate with the Hornocker Wildlife Institute (Wildlife Conservation Society) on a wolverine research project along the Idaho and Wyoming border. A departmental employee and Boise State University graduate student will begin a river otter research project with the 2002-2003 trapping season. The project will look at reproductive biology, genetics, toxins, and stomach contents of harvested river otters statewide.

### Furbearer Depredation

Beaver continue to be live-trapped in several regions to solve damage complaints. When feasible, these animals will be 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. Staff attended the Western Working Group of the Forest Carnivore Committee in Spokane, Washington, in Spring 2002. Melquist and Patton represented the Department at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Western Region National Trappers' Association convention in Pocatello. Bret Stansberry represented the Department at the Idaho Trappers' Association convention in Howe. The lynx listing issue and its potential impact on trapping continues to be a topic of great interest. Staff is staying involved with the development of the "4d" rule for lynx. The Service may prepare a special rule, pursuant to section 4(d) defining conditions under which activities that may result in incidental take of a threatened species would be exempted from the taking prohibitions of section 9 and, therefore, would not violate the Endangered Species Act. 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 provided no indication that Idaho trapping and hunting seasons have adversely impacted furbearer populations. 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 2001-2002 trapping seasons.

| Year <sup>a</sup> | Licenses Sold |     |         | Total | Reports Received |    | Reporting Trappers Who Trapped |    | Estimated Active Trappers <sup>b</sup> |
|-------------------|---------------|-----|---------|-------|------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|--|
|                   | Residents     | Jr. | Nonres. |       | %                | %  | %                              | %  |  |
| 1985-1986         | 1,370         | -   | 23      | 1,393 | 1,071            | 77 | -                              | -  | -                                      |
| 1986-1987         | 1,473         | -   | 24      | 1,497 | 1,112            | 73 | -                              | -  | -                                      |
| 1987-1988         | 1,564         | -   | 30      | 1,594 | 1,338            | 86 | -                              | -  | -                                      |
| 1988-1989         | 1,266         | -   | 22      | 1,288 | 1,045            | 81 | -                              | -  | -                                      |
| 1989-1990         | 921           | -   | 17      | 938   | 722              | 77 | -                              | -  | -                                      |
| 1990-1991         | 636           | -   | 7       | 643   | 508              | 79 | -                              | -  | -                                      |
| 1991-1992         | 678           | -   | 8       | 686   | 478              | 70 | -                              | -  | -                                      |
| 1992-1993         | 666           | -   | 7       | 673   | 525              | 78 | -                              | -  | -                                      |
| 1993-1994         | 588           | -   | 8       | 596   | 489              | 82 | 425                            | 87 | 518                                    |
| 1994-1995         | 738           | -   | 10      | 748   | 547              | 73 | 432                            | 79 | 591                                    |
| 1995-1996         | 631           | -   | 7       | 638   | 445              | 70 | 362                            | 81 | 518                                    |
| 1996-1997         | 772           | -   | 7       | 779   | 590              | 76 | 463                            | 78 | 610                                    |
| 1997-1998         | 740           | 130 | 12      | 752   | 586              | 78 | 473                            | 81 | 609                                    |
| 1998-1999         | 612           | 110 | 14      | 626   | 502              | 80 | 381                            | 76 | 476                                    |
| 1999-2000         | 451           | 98  | 9       | 558   | 459              | 82 | 362                            | 79 | 441                                    |
| 2000-2001         | 504           | 97  | 6       | 607   | 492              | 81 | 390                            | 79 | 480                                    |
| 2001-2002         | 546           | 91  | 10      | 647   | 519              | 80 | 415                            | 80 | 518                                    |

<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 2001-2002, based on trappers' reports received.

| Year    | Reporting Trappers Who Trapped | Trappers Reporting Time Afield | %   | Average Time Afield per 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     |
| 2001-02 | 415                            | 414                            | 100 | 4.0                             | 32.9    | 518                             | 68,169      | 13,627     |

Table 3. Statewide harvest and pelt value of furbearers trapped during the 2001-2002 season based on 415 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>a</sup> (c / b = d) | Total Value (a x d = e) | Estimated Statewide Pelt Value <sup>b</sup> (e / .80) | % of Total Value |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| Badger              | 52                           | 190               | 4             | 55               | 29             | 1,103.49           | 20.06+                              | 3,811.40                | 4,764.25  | 1.75             |
| Beaver              | 201                          | 2,780             | 14            | 1,549            | 56             | 19,462.10          | 12.56-                              | 34,916.80               | 43,646.00   | 16.06            |
| Bobcat <sup>c</sup> | 101                          | 460               | 5             | 335              | 73             | 38,531.03          | 115.02+                             | 52,909.20               | 66,136.50   | 24.33            |
| Coyote              | 148                          | 1,647             | 11            | 1,139            | 69             | 21,544.18          | 18.91+                              | 31,144.77               | 38,930.96   | 14.32            |
| Marten              | 31                           | 278               | 9             | 162              | 58             | 2,430.00           | 15.00-                              | 4,170.00                | 5,212.50  | 1.92             |
| Mink                | 107                          | 574               | 5             | 374              | 65             | 3,125.34           | 8.36+                               | 4,798.64                | 5,998.30  | 2.21             |
| Muskrat             | 178                          | 11,065            | 62            | 8,538            | 77             | 19,161.18          | 2.24+                               | 24,785.60               | 30,982.00   | 11.40            |
| Otter <sup>c</sup>  | 43                           | 93                | 2             | 39               | 42             | 2,178.00           | 55.85-                              | 5,194.05                | 6,492.56  | 2.39             |
| Raccoon             | 163                          | 906               | 6             | 585              | 65             | 4,701.81           | 8.04+                               | 7,284.24                | 9,105.30  | 3.35             |
| Red Fox             | 148                          | 1,711             | 12            | 1,386            | 81             | 32,995.66          | 23.81+                              | 40,738.91               | 50,923.64   | 18.73            |
| Spotted Skunk       | 10                           | 22                | 2             | 0                | -              | 0.00               | 0.00-                               | 0.00                    | 0.00  | -                |
| Striped Skunk       | 93                           | 688               | 7             | 126              | 18             | 866.25             | 6.88+                               | 4,733.44                | 5,916.80  | 2.18             |
| Weasel              | 27                           | 89                | 3             | 15               | 17             | 16.00              | 1.07-                               | 95.23                   | 119.04  | .04              |
| Other               | 5                            | 73                | 15            | 3                | 4              | 118.00             | 39.33+                              | 2,871.09                | 3,588.86  | 1.32             |
| Actual              |                              |                   |               |                  |                |                    |                                     |                         |   |                  |
| Total (80%)         | -                            | 20,576            | -             | 14,306           | 70             | 146,233.04         | 10.22+                              | 217,453.37              | -   | 100.00           |
| Estimated           |                              |                   |               |                  |                |                    |                                     |                         |   |                  |
| Total (100%)        | -                            | 25,700            | -             | 17,883           | -              | 182,791.30         | -                                   | -                       | 271,816.71  | -                |

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

<sup>b</sup> Estimated totals and statewide pelt value were determined based on the assumption that the harvest reported by trappers represented 80% of the actual harvest if all active trappers had submitted a harvest report.

<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 <sup>a</sup> | Rank by Value |           |           |           |           |           |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                      | 1996-1997     | 1997-1998 | 1998-1999 | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 |
| Badger               | 9             | 9         | 9         | 9         | 11        | 11        |
| Beaver               | 2             | 1         | 1         | 2         | 3         | 3         |
| Bobcat               | 3             | 3         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Coyote               | 4             | 5         | 5         | 5         | 4         | 4         |
| Marten               | 8             | 8         | 8         | 10        | 6         | 10        |
| Mink                 | 7             | 7         | 7         | 7         | 9         | 8         |
| Muskrat              | 1             | 2         | 4         | 4         | 5         | 5         |
| Otter <sup>b</sup>   | N/A           | N/A       | N/A       | N/A       | 8         | 7         |
| Raccoon              | 6             | 6         | 6         | 8         | 7         | 6         |
| Red Fox              | 5             | 4         | 3         | 3         | 2         | 2         |
| Spotted Skunk        | 12            | 12        | 12        | 12        | 13        | N/A       |
| Striped Skunk        | 10            | 10        | 10        | 6         | 10        | 9         |
| Weasel               | 11            | 11        | 11        | 11        | 12        | 12        |

<sup>a</sup> Nontarget “Other” species trapped are excluded from this ranking.

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

Table 5. Distribution of the furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers for the 2001-2002 season.

| County     | Badger | Beaver | Bobcat | Spotted<br>Skunk | Coyote | Fox | Marten | Mink | Muskrat | Raccoon | Otter | Striped<br>Skunk | Weasel |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|------------------|--------|-----|--------|------|---------|---------|-------|------------------|--------|
| Ada        | 26     | 99     | 4      | 2                | 36     | 49  | 1      | 31   | 225     | 51      | 1     | 54               | 0      |
| Adams      | 2      | 11     | 0      | 0                | 72     | 5   | 0      | 6    | 28      | 5       | 1     | 0                | 0      |
| Bannock    | 0      | 34     | 5      | 1                | 3      | 9   | 0      | 8    | 162     | 11      | 0     | 1                | 0      |
| Bear Lake  | 8      | 262    | 8      | 0                | 28     | 165 | 0      | 73   | 195     | 44      | 0     | 31               | 0      |
| Benewah    | 0      | 34     | 12     | 0                | 1      | 0   | 0      | 4    | 5       | 2       | 0     | 1                | 17     |
| Bingham    | 4      | 204    | 7      | 0                | 26     | 107 | 0      | 10   | 602     | 28      | 1     | 9                | 0      |
| Blaine     | 0      | 177    | 3      | 0                | 0      | 2   | 15     | 0    | 40      | 0       | 16    | 0                | 0      |
| Boise      | 6      | 59     | 0      | 0                | 29     | 6   | 14     | 0    | 9       | 4       | 1     | 4                | 0      |
| Bonner     | 0      | 84     | 1      | 0                | 0      | 0   | 1      | 6    | 77      | 3       | 1     | 11               | 8      |
| Bonneville | 2      | 107    | 5      | 0                | 108    | 437 | 0      | 7    | 128     | 34      | 1     | 62               | 0      |
| Boundary   | 0      | 53     | 0      | 0                | 13     | 0   | 2      | 1    | 14      | 1       | 1     | 5                | 0      |
| Butte      | 0      | 19     | 3      | 0                | 0      | 4   | 0      | 0    | 0       | 0       | 0     | 0                | 0      |
| Camas      | 17     | 19     | 3      | 0                | 96     | 86  | 0      | 0    | 37      | 0       | 4     | 85               | 0      |
| Canyon     | 3      | 138    | 1      | 0                | 20     | 99  | 0      | 107  | 1,327   | 52      | 5     | 65               | 1      |
| Caribou    | 5      | 109    | 4      | 0                | 56     | 33  | 0      | 13   | 181     | 6       | 1     | 0                | 0      |
| Cassia     | 2      | 28     | 1      | 0                | 5      | 8   | 0      | 2    | 0       | 9       | 0     | 10               | 0      |
| Clark      | 3      | 27     | 0      | 0                | 70     | 24  | 3      | 0    | 0       | 0       | 0     | 0                | 0      |
| Clearwater | 0      | 39     | 2      | 0                | 10     | 0   | 1      | 17   | 9       | 14      | 4     | 0                | 1      |
| Custer     | 2      | 120    | 19     | 0                | 63     | 65  | 6      | 4    | 64      | 39      | 7     | 8                | 0      |
| Elmore     | 20     | 99     | 2      | 0                | 37     | 20  | 0      | 47   | 2,292   | 39      | 8     | 15               | 0      |
| Franklin   | 1      | 20     | 5      | 0                | 8      | 28  | 0      | 39   | 223     | 143     | 0     | 20               | 0      |
| Fremont    | 1      | 102    | 0      | 0                | 0      | 40  | 26     | 13   | 285     | 26      | 0     | 44               | 0      |
| Gem        | 1      | 126    | 8      | 0                | 22     | 6   | 0      | 24   | 248     | 16      | 7     | 1                | 1      |
| Gooding    | 0      | 56     | 25     | 9                | 6      | 15  | 0      | 53   | 1,979   | 82      | 2     | 9                | 1      |
| Idaho      | 0      | 18     | 37     | 0                | 13     | 13  | 20     | 12   | 2       | 22      | 1     | 0                | 0      |
| Jefferson  | 5      | 49     | 1      | 0                | 31     | 102 | 0      | 9    | 652     | 47      | 0     | 19               | 2      |
| Jerome     | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0                | 0      | 1   | 0      | 0    | 6       | 1       | 0     | 0                | 0      |
| Kootenai   | 0      | 201    | 14     | 0                | 25     | 0   | 0      | 4    | 870     | 20      | 6     | 0                | 17     |
| Latah      | 0      | 1      | 14     | 0                | 45     | 0   | 0      | 4    | 50      | 13      | 3     | 0                | 0      |
| Lemhi      | 18     | 72     | 52     | 0                | 324    | 102 | 17     | 3    | 358     | 35      | 8     | 79               | 0      |
| Lewis      | 0      | 0      | 2      | 0                | 0      | 1   | 0      | 0    | 0       | 1       | 3     | 0                | 0      |
| Lincoln    | 3      | 0      | 2      | 0                | 34     | 6   | 0      | 0    | 17      | 9       | 2     | 18               | 0      |
| Madison    | 0      | 29     | 0      | 0                | 7      | 60  | 0      | 11   | 392     | 27      | 1     | 5                | 0      |
| Minidoka   | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0                | 37     | 54  | 0      | 20   | 23      | 0       | 0     | 3                | 0      |
| Nez Perce  | 0      | 3      | 1      | 0                | 12     | 0   | 0      | 3    | 0       | 5       | 0     | 0                | 0      |
| Oneida     | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0                | 0      | 0   | 0      | 0    | 0       | 0       | 0     | 0                | 0      |

Table 5. Continued.

| County     | Badger | Beaver | Bobcat | Spotted<br>Skunk | Coyote | Fox | Marten | Mink | Muskrat | Raccoon | Otter | Striped<br>Skunk | Weasel |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|------------------|--------|-----|--------|------|---------|---------|-------|------------------|--------|
| Owyhee     | 10     | 82     | 157    | 8                | 324    | 46  | 0      | 3    | 297     | 72      | 1     | 8                | 1      |
| Payette    | 0      | 55     | 0      | 0                | 12     | 33  | 0      | 13   | 70      | 16      | 4     | 13               | 1      |
| Power      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0                | 34     | 22  | 0      | 0    | 7       | 0       | 0     | 0                | 0      |
| Shoshone   | 0      | 133    | 44     | 0                | 1      | 0   | 4      | 8    | 29      | 12      | 0     | 0                | 38     |
| Teton      | 0      | 20     | 0      | 0                | 1      | 9   | 21     | 0    | 0       | 0       | 0     | 0                | 0      |
| Twin Falls | 50     | 6      | 4      | 2                | 26     | 41  | 0      | 16   | 142     | 7       | 0     | 0                | 0      |
| Valley     | 0      | 20     | 0      | 0                | 1      | 9   | 147    | 3    | 20      | 1       | 3     | 0                | 1      |
| Washington | 0      | 44     | 14     | 0                | 11     | 4   | 0      | 0    | 0       | 9       | 0     | 0                | 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 2001-2002.

| 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> | 1,026        | 0    |
| 2001-2002 <sup>c</sup> | 959          | 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.

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

Table 7. Bobcat harvest report for the 2001-2002 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 |     | Unk. |    |   |
|              |               | %              | %   | %       | %  | %           | %   | %                  | %   | %    | %  |   |
| Panhandle    | 215           | 22             | 94  | 44      | 2  | 1           | 103 | 48                 | 12  | 5    | 4  | 2 |
| Clearwater   | 195           | 20             | 54  | 28      | 8  | 4           | 100 | 51                 | 29  | 15   | 4  | 2 |
| Southwest    | 265           | 28             | 147 | 56      | 54 | 20          | 39  | 15                 | 20  | 7    | 5  | 2 |
| Magic Valley | 86            | 9              | 51  | 59      | 17 | 20          | 12  | 14                 | 6   | 7    | 0  | - |
| Southeast    | 92            | 10             | 56  | 61      | 6  | 7           | 16  | 17                 | 14  | 15   | 0  | - |
| Upper Snake  | 15            | 2              | 9   | 60      | 0  | -           | 1   | 7                  | 5   | 33   | 0  | - |
| Salmon       | 91            | 9              | 61  | 67      | 0  | -           | 12  | 13                 | 18  | 20   | 0  | - |
| Total        | 959           | 100            | 472 | 49      | 87 | 9           | 283 | 30                 | 104 | 11   | 13 | 1 |

Table 8. Sex and age of harvested bobcats, based on examination of canines and cementum analyses, 1989-1990 through 2001-2002. 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       | -  | 0     | -  | 0   | -  |
| 2001-2002 <sup>f</sup> | 0                | 0       | -  | 0     | -  | 0   | -  |
| Total                  | 7,304            | 2,020   | -  | 2,700 | -  | 2,576   | -  |
| 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.

<sup>f</sup> 48 bobcat jaws were collected (voluntarily) for the 2001-2002 season but have not been analyzed to date.

Table 9. Summary of river otters trapped and tagged during the 2001-2002 otter season in Idaho. Excludes road-kills and other unknown mortalities.

| River Otter Harvest and Quotas by Region |               |                    |                   |                 |
|--|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Region                                   | Harvest Quota | Date Quota Reached | Maximum Allowable | Total Harvested |
| Panhandle                                | 9             | 12/13/01           | 11                | 11              |
| Clearwater                               | 14            | Not reached        | 17                | 12              |
| Southwest                                | 27            | 1/18/02            | 33                | 30              |
| Magic Valley                             | 17            | 11/30/01           | 20                | 20              |
| Southeast                                | 10            | Not reached        | 12                | 2               |
| Upper Snake                              | 14            | Not reached        | 17                | 4               |
| Salmon                                   | 9             | 11/28/01           | 11                | 11              |
| Total                                    | 100           | -                  | 121               | 90              |

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 2001-2002. Figures do not include road-kills and other unknown mortalities.

| Species Turned In      | Region Where Animal was Trapped <sup>a</sup> |    |    |    |   |    |    | Unk. | Total |
|------------------------|--|----|----|----|---|----|----|------|-------|
|                        | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5 | 6  | 7  |      |       |
| <b>Fisher</b>          |  |    |    |    |   |    |    |      |       |
| 1990-1991              | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 1     |
| 1991-1992              | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 1     |
| 1992-1993              | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 1     |
| 1993-1994              | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 0     |
| 1994-1995              | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 3     |
| 1995-1996              | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 1     |
| 1996-1997              | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 0     |
| 1997-1998              | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 0     |
| 1998-1999              | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 0     |
| 1999-2000              | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 0     |
| 2000-2001              | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 1     |
| 2001-2002              | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 0     |
| Total                  | 1  | 7  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 8     |
| <b>Otter</b>           |  |    |    |    |   |    |    |      |       |
| 1990-1991              | 1  | 4  | 3  | 4  | 1 | 3  | 6  | 0    | 22    |
| 1991-1992              | 6  | 1  | 5  | 11 | 3 | 2  | 6  | 0    | 34    |
| 1992-1993              | 2  | 4  | 5  | 3  | 0 | 4  | 5  | 2    | 25    |
| 1993-1994              | 9  | 4  | 6  | 2  | 0 | 2  | 6  | 0    | 29    |
| 1994-1995              | 10   | 9  | 4  | 3  | 1 | 1  | 4  | 0    | 32    |
| 1995-1996              | 4  | 1  | 4  | 11 | 0 | 4  | 12 | 0    | 36    |
| 1996-1997              | 7  | 1  | 8  | 4  | 0 | 6  | 9  | 0    | 35    |
| 1997-1998              | 9  | 2  | 12 | 9  | 3 | 3  | 7  | 0    | 45    |
| 1998-1999              | 0  | 1  | 6  | 21 | 0 | 0  | 3  | 0    | 31    |
| 1999-2000              | 6  | 0  | 5  | 19 | 0 | 0  | 1  | 4    | 35    |
| 2000-2001 <sup>a</sup> | 1  | 0  | 2  | 5  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0    | 8     |
| 2001-2002              | 8  | 0  | 8  | 3  | 0 | 3  | 1  | 0    | 23    |
| Total                  | 63   | 27 | 68 | 95 | 8 | 28 | 60 | 6    | 355   |

<sup>a</sup> Regions: 1=Panhandle, 2=Clearwater, 3=Southwest, 4=Magic Valley, 5=Southeast, 6=Upper Snake, 7=Salmon

<sup>b</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 2001-2002 season based on tooth analysis. Percentages are in parenthesis.

| Age   | Region <sup>a</sup> |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Total |
|-------|---------------------|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
|       | 1                   |   | 2 |   | 3  |   | 4  |   | 5 |   | 6 |   | 7 |   |       |
|       | M                   | F | M | F | M  | F | M  | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |       |
| 0     | 0                   | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7  | 1 | 4  | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 26    |
| 1     | 1                   | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3  | 3 | 5  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 17    |
| 2     | 1                   | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7     |
| 3     | 0                   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 1 | 2  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5     |
| 4     | 0                   | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2  | 1 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7     |
| 5     | 0                   | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2     |
| 6     | 0                   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4     |
| 7     | 0                   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 1 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2     |
| 8     | 0                   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     |
| 9     | 0                   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2     |
| 10    | 1                   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1     |
| Unk.  | 0                   | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1  | 0 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4     |
| Total | 3                   | 1 | 9 | 2 | 18 | 7 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 77    |

<sup>a</sup> Regions: 1=Panhandle, 2=Clearwater, 3=Southwest, 4=Magic Valley, 5=Southeast, 6=Upper Snake, 7=Salmon. Region 3 had one juvenile (0) and one 6-year old with no sex data. Region 2 had one juvenile (0) with no sex data.

Table 12. Nontarget animals captured.

| Species       | Number Taken |
|---------------|--------------|
| Bear          | 1            |
| Bobcat        | 16           |
| Domestic Cat  | 4            |
| Deer          | 1            |
| Dog           | 1            |
| Fisher        | 4            |
| Mountain Lion | 9            |
| Other         | 1            |
| Otter         | 15           |
| Owl           | 1            |
| Pheasant      | 1            |
| Rabbit        | 9            |
| Skunk         | 1            |
| Squirrel      | 5            |
| Turkey        | 1            |

**APPENDIX I**

2001-2002 Idaho trapper survey

## **BEAVER**

Trapping season should be open to the end of April for beaver, mink, and muskrats.

Please review your beaver permit on the Palouse River drainage. I spent about 100-120 hours taking an overall survey on the beaver. I found a total of about 3 active houses, maybe about 20 beaver total. I did not set a trap for beaver. This permit should be pulled for about 3-4 years.

I was trapping “troubled” beaver for Fish and Game at Rotary Pond, Caldwell.

The beaver on the Upper Salmon River have really taken over. Beaver prices are down compared to the work involved. One thing that might help out is to open the season a bit earlier so the cold weather doesn’t interfere with trapping them. Thanks.

Open beaver and otter season on the same day.

Open Latah County for beaver, at least in St. Maries drainage which no one traps and is crawling with beaver.

Beaver population down along South Fork of the Snake River.

## **BOBCAT**

Stop changing the bobcat and otter season.

Bobcats are good by November 1<sup>st</sup> and completely prime by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The cat season should run for at least 2 months.

Glad the bobcat season has been extended. I hope to do more trapping next season.

Shorter bobcat season.

The bobcat season needs to be shortened back to the month of December only.

Recommend that the bobcat season open December 1 in Idaho, at least eastern Idaho, because snow conditions usually prevent trapping this species when the season opens late.

I think that it is dumb for us to have a December open season for bobcat. The fur is flat and its that way sometimes in January. The fur trade doesn’t want any flat bobcat pelts. I fear that December open season will deplete bobcat.

I think the new bobcat trapping dates are perfect.

Three-month bobcat season.

Subject- Bobcat seasons. Be cautious of long seasons. Prices for bobcat pelts are increasing. A weak U.S. dollar usually means higher fur prices. Fur prices are starting to increase for most species. Remember that a lot of bobcats are caught in coyote sets.

Please open the bobcat season in December. The areas I know where bobcats inhabit and would like to trap are inaccessible by January due to snow. Otherwise great job! Thank you.

I believe the seasons and regulations are OK. The only thing I believe would be better is if the bobcat and otter tagging could be done at the same places that bear and cougar are checked and pelt tagged. Thank you.

Longer bobcat trapping season.

A December 1-January 31 cat season is plenty. December 1 to February 28 is too long.

I think you should shorten the bobcat season. I am seeing fewer bobcats.

Cat season should be January 1- February 28.

Check stations for bobcat and otter should be in each county instead of by regions. Tags for animals should be issued at big game check stations.

Open bobcat season from December 1<sup>st</sup> – February 28<sup>th</sup>. This would put more pressure on coyotes. Keep up the good work!

You need to leave Unit 23 open to bobcat trapping all of December, January, and February.

Thank you for dropping the lower jaw requirements on cats.

## **COYOTES**

The seasons for all species should open on November 1<sup>st</sup> statewide. The Department, cattle ranchers, and almost everybody wants coyotes trapped but trappers can't justify trapping coyotes and not bobcats until December 15<sup>th</sup> when coyotes start to rub and have no value. The best coyotes are caught from November 1<sup>st</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>.

My only comment is that I don't like to see coyotes killed from the air or snowmobiles. There are more people calling coyotes now; this should offset the other.

I found several diseased coyotes, probably parvovirus and mange.

## **FOX**

Put a season back on red fox. Killing off the fox will not bring back our pheasants! You made it sound good to the general public but you don't fool the trappers!

I feel trappers should be able to trap red fox on private land in the McCall area. Private landowners should have that right. Thank you.

I just trapped fox on my property to protect my livestock.

### **MARTEN**

Of the 12 marten trapped, 3 were eaten by fox and 1 was donated to the ITA.

Should stock marten in more places, like South Hills, south of Twin Falls.

I trapped 6 days on my old line for marten; that was a good line. Did not catch a marten; found no sign. It hasn't been trapped for 11 years. No one else that were marten trappers are catching marten either. Could distemper or something of that nature have wiped them out? Curious, I trapped in the Elk City area (American River-Selway Falls).

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

I would like to see the laws enforced that trappers from other states can only take what is allowed in their state.

A list of current buyers of fur in back of the regulations.

I am a trapper and I think raising the trapping license in 1 year is just a little ridiculous especially when the price of fur is no good. I didn't even get a \$5.00 average on the beaver furs last year.

Why is all the paperwork necessary? Just to provide jobs and increase the paper mill?

States should not pay anyone to control predators. Predator control expense is the sole responsibility of the rancher. If there is no state predator control, more ranchers would welcome trappers.

It would be helpful if the hunting and fishing licenses went from July 1 to June 30, like the trapping licenses do.

Set an extensive canine line on Thanksgiving weekend covering Jerome, Lincoln, and Blaine counties. Was snowed out that same weekend and caught nothing. In these areas, I found that predators were having little effect on the sage grouse, even in deep snow.

Trapping is a great way for my 2 sons and I to spend time together. Let's all work to keep trapping going in Idaho.

You're doing a great job. Please don't let what happened in Washington happen here.

Keep trapping alive in Idaho!

I am glad to live in Idaho where trapping, hound hunting, and baiting are still legal.

In all, 8 trappers stated their appreciation to the Department for a good job and many others are grateful they have the right to trap.

Three trappers commented on having their traps stolen and the need for stricter enforcement of laws protecting their traps.

### **MOUNTAIN LION**

My brother and myself trapped together and caught 3 lions. Why not a rule to keep a trapped or snared lion like you are doing with otters?

Need an accidental catch for lions.

### **MUSKRAT**

From all reports for this area, muskrat populations down, probably due to low waters. My son and a friend trapped Sand Creek Ponds and found very few rats. Would recommend closed for rats.

Rat and beaver season should be November 1 in Bannock County.

The Coeur d' Alene Wildlife Management Area's rat habitat continues to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance of the dikes and cultures.

### **OTTER**

I believe we could double an otter take without hurting the population.

Thank you for changing the otter regulations. Hopefully next year I will get to keep my otter.

Leave otter quota at original amount for Upper Snake Region. The season has been closed for so long that the trappers need to have a chance to regain the skills to effectively pursue otter.

Thank you for considering our input on otter over the years. I greatly respect the decision that was made to put feelings and opinions aside and consider the otter as an animal that can be harvested if the otter population is healthy. Again, I would reiterate that otters are depredate heavily on juvenile Chinook salmon in all tributaries of the Salmon River where I trap.

Need longer otter season in the Magic Valley Region. Otters are everywhere!! I caught and released 2 from fix sets. Need a lifetime trapping license. I bet this would bring a lot of money in.

When a quota is met in an area for otters, trappers should be sent a letter.

I really like the otter season idea, and the new bobcat season. You're doing a good job. Thank you.

Otter export tags.

Open otter season later so that pelts will be prime.

I waited for the otter to prime up and by the time they were prime the quota was filled. At the sale I went to, none of the otter pelts were prime. I think the season on otter needs to open later in the year.

I'd like to see the otter quota increased and the maximum limit per trapper to at least 4 to make it worthwhile and bringing in the entire carcass might be a problem for some trappers that have to pack an animal out some distance, rather than just skin it there and bring out just the hide and jaw.

Your otter season tagging system is not good. I have to drive 120 miles down and back, and waste a half a day. The fuel alone costs 10 dollars and my time is worth a lot more. Make it so the local game warden can tag them.

Good change in otter regulations.

I believe we could double an otter take in Unit 1 without hurting the population.

## **RACCOON**

I think there should be a season on raccoons because people are wiping them out in the summertime. The mothers can't raise their young. There are very few raccoons to trap here in the Oneida Narrows. Too much unrestrictive hound hunting.

Submitted by:

*Gina Patton*  
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Wildlife Technician

Approved by:

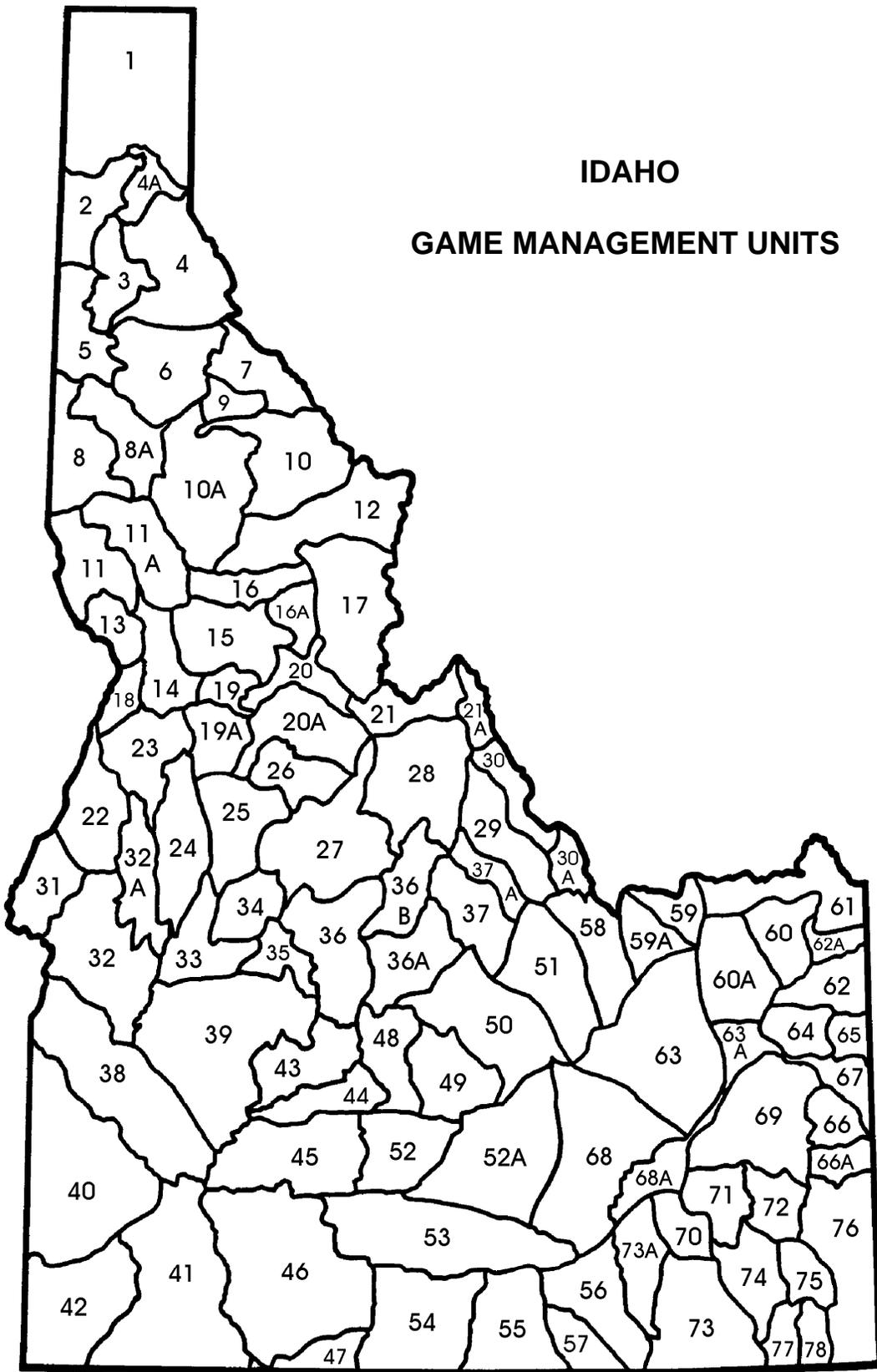
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*Dale E. Towell*  
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Dale E. Towell  
Wildlife Program Coordinator  
Federal Aid Coordinator

*J. W. Unsworth*  
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James W. Unsworth, 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.

