

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-170-R-30

Progress Report



FURBEARER

Study III, Job 1

July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

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**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE: Idaho **JOB TITLE:** Furbearer Survey
PROJECT: W-170-R-30
SUBPROJECT: 1-7 **STUDY NAME:** Statewide Fur Harvest Survey
STUDY: III
JOB: 1
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Estimate the population size, structure, and trend of harvested furbearers.
2. Determine hunter and trapper attitudes about preferences for the furbearer program.
3. 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 and river otter harvest information through the mandatory export tag program.
All bobcats harvested were tagged with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) tags and the method of harvest recorded. All river otters legally harvested were tagged with CITES tags. This information is included in the following report.
3. Compile the sex and age structure of the river otter harvest from analysis of sectioned teeth, and use this information to evaluate and monitor the statewide population.
The Idaho Fish and Game Commission (Commission) decided not to require trappers to surrender teeth of otter harvested in Idaho. Teeth were not collected during the 2005-2006 trapping season.
4. Conduct surveys to determine the population status of selected furbearers.
A winter track survey protocol for forest carnivores was completed and the pilot study implemented statewide during winter 2002-2003. The official survey began during winter 2003-2004. This survey is primarily for lynx, wolverine, fisher, and marten.
5. Prepare an annual report on furbearer harvest.
The annual report is found herein.

6. Make presentations on furbearer biology to the public.
Personnel conducted provided presentation on trapping and furbearers through the media, including, radio, newspapers and television. Personnel contacted individuals regarding interest in trapping and furbearers.

ABSTRACT

The Department sold 1,001 trapping licenses for the 2005-2006 season. Harvest reports for the 2005-2006 season were submitted by 733 (73%) of the 1,001 licensed trappers. Trappers reported harvesting 25,782 animals. A total of 16,175 pelts were sold for a value of \$393,766.69. Muskrat, coyote, beaver, red fox, and bobcat, respectively, were the most frequently harvested species. Price per pelt for all harvested species ranged from an average of \$283.61 for bobcats to \$3.67 for muskrats. The top 5 furbearers based upon total dollar value of pelts sold were bobcat, coyote, beaver, muskrat, and martin. Pelt values were up for all furbearers. Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 1,721 animals. The lynx season remained closed. The Department affixed CITES tags to harvested bobcats and otters. A voluntary trapper education program is being developed.

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 (Appendix A) and the amount received for the sale of these pelts. The report must be submitted by 31 July. Any trapper failing to send in a report by this date can be refused a trapper's license the following year. 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, postage-paid folding card is sent to trappers each spring so they may conform to Idaho law. Trappers were also able to fill out and electronically submit their 2005-2006 trapper report card via the Department's website.

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. Previously, questions on how many days the trapper spent afield scouting and setting/checking traps, and how many hours, on average, the trapper spent afield each day was included. These questions were initially included in the mandatory report beginning with the 1993-1994 trapping season and were used to gather information on trapping effort. Results of this information were then projected to estimate the statewide trapping effort both in total hours and days afield. Beginning with the 2002-2003 trapping season, these questions were changed to include Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (CPUE). CPUE measures the harvest per unit of time and will be useful in predicting population trends. CPUE is calculated by multiplying the total number of nights trapped by the average number of traps set per night (for a given species) and then dividing the number of animals trapped by this number.

Comments by trappers are also accepted on harvest report cards.

CITES Export Tags

By Commission rule, trappers and hunters are required to have all bobcats tagged with 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. Starting with the 2000-2001 season, 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 close of 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 animal's sex, harvest location, date harvested, method of take (trapping, calling/hunting, with hounds, incidental hunting) and beginning with the 2002-2003 season, CPUE. Mandatory harvest report data continue to be used to estimate the total statewide bobcat harvest by Department administrative region and big game management unit.

The first river otter trapping season since 1972 was authorized during the 2000-2001 trapping season. The Commission originally approved a quota of 100 otters statewide. 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 harvest quota was changed to 102 animals for the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 trapping seasons; the individual trapper's quota was decreased from 5 to 2 river otters. The only quota change for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 trapping seasons was an increase for Salmon Region from 10 otters to 15, increasing the overall state quota to 107 otters (Appendix A).

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

The otter season is closed 48 hours after the harvest quota for a region is met. Trappers are allowed to keep otters within this 48-hour period, provided their personal quota of 2 has not been reached, which may cause the total harvest to exceed harvest quotas. River otters harvested after the season is closed, or otters in excess of the trapper's personal quota of 2 are surrendered to the Department. Pelts from non-target or incidentally-captured river otters are either processed and used for educational purposes within the regions or sold at the state fur auction.

Non-target Catches

By Commission rule, any trapper who captures and kills a non-target 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. Beginning with the 1990-1991 trapping season, the Department paid trappers \$5.00 for each accidentally-caught fisher and river otter turned in to the Department. Beginning with the 1996-1997 season, trappers also received \$5.00 for each accidentally caught lynx or wolverine. Beginning with the 2004-2005 trapping season, the payment increased to \$10.00 and also included bobcat.

Most non-target animals turned in are sold at the Department's annual fur and horns auction. Since 1991, the proceeds have been earmarked for use in trapper education and trapping management.

STATEWIDE RESULTS

Trapping License Sales

Trapping licenses sold during the 2005-2006 season (Table 1) totaled 1,001 and included 989 residents (858 adult and 131 junior residents under 18 years-of-age) and 12 non-residents. The number of licenses sold decreased 2% (21 licenses) over the previous season sale.

Catch-Per-Unit-Effort

Questions on how many days the trapper spent afield scouting and checking traps, and how many hours, on average, the trapper spent afield each day, were collected from the 1993-1994 season through the 2001-2002 season (Table 2). Beginning with the 2002-2003 trapping season, the Department began collecting data on CPUE. CPUE is based on the premise that as more and more animals are removed from a population, fewer are available to be caught, or in this instance, trapped; therefore, catch-per-unit should decline. CPUE has been recorded per species (Table 3) for the past 3 trapping seasons (Table 4).

Mandatory Trapper Harvest Reports

Harvest reports were submitted by 733 (73%) of the 1,001 licensed trappers for the 2005-2006 season. The fur harvest, based on 580 reporting trappers who trapped, was 25,782 animals (Table 5), up from 25,543 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 16,175 pelts (63%) were sold for a value of \$393,766.69. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$24.34 each, compared to \$21.61 the previous year. Trappers harvested an average of 44 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 28 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$24.34 and 28 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$682.92, up from \$497.03 the previous season. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those who did not submit a report, was 35,318 animals taken and 22,158 pelts sold. The estimated statewide pelt value of the pelts sold is \$539,406.42, up from \$398,670.49 in the previous season.

The muskrat, coyote, beaver, red fox, and bobcat, respectively, were the most frequently harvested species. Price per pelt for all harvested species ranged from an average of \$283.61 for bobcats (\$198.64 in 2004-2005) to \$3.67 for muskrats (\$1.78 in 2004-2005). Pelt values were up for all furbearers. The top 5 furbearers based upon value of pelts sold were bobcat, coyote, beaver, muskrat, and marten (Table 6).

Species harvested within a county (Table 7) may be indicative of areas with higher furbearer populations. However, harvest distribution is also partly a function of where trappers live.

Mandatory Bobcat Tagging and Harvest Reports

Trappers and hunters checked 1,721 bobcats (Table 8). The lynx season remained closed. Trappers reported no accidental captures of lynx. More bobcats were harvested from the Southwest Region (23%) than any other region (Table 9). Trapping accounted for 72% of the statewide bobcat harvest, followed by the use of hounds (21%).

Submission of bobcat jaws for age analysis (Table 10) was reassessed when the Commission reviewed trapping regulations during spring 2004; the Commission decided not to require mandatory submission of bobcat jaws for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 seasons.

Mandatory River Otter Tagging and Harvest Reports

The Department affixed CITES tags to 111 legally harvested otters during the 2005-2006 trapping season (Table 11). Quotas were filled in all regions.

Sex ratio of harvested river otters, including incidental captures, was 59% (62) male and 41% (44) female (Table 12).

Reported Non-target Catches

Trappers were paid \$10.00 each for 15 otters (Table 13) surrendered to the Department for reimbursement. Since the 1990-1991 trapping season, 12 fisher and 421 otters have been turned in for reimbursement. Many of these animals were sold at the Department's annual auction with proceeds earmarked for trapper education and related projects. Other animals' pelts are processed and used for educational purposes. Trappers reported catching 349 non-target animals during the 2005-2006 season (Table 14). Non-target animals with minimal injury were released at the site of capture.

Furbearer Depredation

Beaver continue to be live-trapped in several regions to address damage complaints. When 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. Beaver are typically the most common species in which kill permits are issued, followed by muskrat and raccoon.

Administrative Activities and Coordination

Public input on proposed 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 furbearer seasons was collected at regional offices, state office, via a survey on the Department's website, and a mail/telephone survey of all licensed trappers for the 2005-2006 season. In May 2006, the Commission set furbearer harvest rules for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 seasons.

Department personnel attended the Idaho Trapper's Association convention in Mackay. Personnel also attend trapper association fur sales in Blackfoot and Filer. The Department hosted an information booth at the Western Trappers Convention during 23-25 June 2006 in Blackfoot. Personnel wrote newspaper articles on trapping and furbearers. Personnel responded to information requests by phone, e-mail, or letter regarding interest in trapping and furbearer species.

The Department is developing a voluntary trapper education program. A draft of a Department trapper education manual was written based upon the trapper education manual prototype developed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. A pilot trapper education class is planned for fall 2006.

A trapping workshop for Department employees is being developed. The goal of the workshop is to enhance employee's knowledge and understanding of furbearers and trapping.

Management Actions

Clearwater Regional Furbearer Coordinator operated a bobcat pelt tagging check station in Grangeville. RFC also conducted snow track surveys for forest carnivores and assisted with fisher hair snag surveys. General public, landowner, and trapper input regarding removing a county wide beaver closure was solicited.

Southwest Regional Furbearer Coordinator position was vacant for 5 months. RFC relocated 2 beaver to streams on private property for riparian restoration. RFC attended the Western Trapper's Association meeting.

Magic Valley Regional Furbearer Coordinator attended the Beaver Trap and Transplant Committee meeting in March 2006 for Blaine and Camas Counties. RFC also is working with Mid-Snake RC&DA, Minidoka Ranger District (Sawtooth National Forest), Burley BLM, Idaho Department of Lands, and NRCS offices in Twin Falls and Cassia Counties to develop and implement a beaver trap and translocate program in Twin Falls and Cassia counties with a goal to improvement riparian habitat. The Camas and Twin Falls committee has developed a trap and translocate plan.

Upper Snake RFC initiated beaver restoration on streams of Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Four beaver were trapped and relocated to the WMA. RFC attended and operated

an information booth at the Western Trappers Convention. RFC attended trapping association meetings.

Beaver season is closed on several streams (Appendix A) in an attempt to reestablish beaver populations. The Department, U.S. Forest Service, and private landowners are trapping and translocating beaver to several of the closed streams.

Furbearer habitat improvements are a secondary benefit of the Department's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP). The HIP objective is to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners and public land managers who want to enhance upland game bird and waterfowl habitat. HIP projects also benefit many of Idaho's furbearers. In state fiscal year 2006, 205 HIP projects improved 25,692 acres of upland, riparian, and wetland habitat.

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.

Table 1. Trapping license sales and usable harvest reports received from trappers, 1983-1994 through 2005-2006.

Season	Licenses Sold			Total	Reports received	%	Reporting trappers who trapped		Estimated active trappers ^a
	Adult resident	Junior resident	Non-resident				%	%	
1983-1984	1,559		15	1,574	930	59			
1984-1985	1,485		23	1,508	664	44			
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
2002-2003	690	126	8	824	657	80	513	78	643
2003-2004	835	130	10	975	791	81	615	78	761
2004-2005	871	137	14	1,022	749	73	590	79	807
2005-2006	858	131	12	1,001	733	73	580	79	791

^a 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 based on trapper reports received, 1993-1994 through 2001-2002.

Year	Reporting trappers who trapped	Trappers reporting time afield ^a	%	Average time afield per trapper		Projected statewide time afield		
				Hrs/day	Days/yr	Estimated active trappers	Total hours	Total days
1993-1994	425	285	67	5.0	36.4	519	93,432	18,871
1994-1995	432	330	76	4.4	35.5	591	92,314	20,981
1995-1996	362	271	75	4.1	38.4	517	80,139	19,546
1996-1997	463	441	95	4.9	42.7	608	127,212	25,962
1997-1998	473	404	85	4.4	35.6	609	95,394	21,680
1998-1999	381	335	88	4.1	33.2	476	64,793	15,803
1999-2000	362	357	99	4.2	38.0	441	70,384	13,549
2000-2001	390	383	98	3.9	31.9	480	59,717	12,209
2001-2002	415	414	100	4.0	32.9	518	68,169	13,627

^a The trapper report card form was changed for the 2002-2003 season and no longer records the days and time afield per trapper.

Table 3. Catch-Per-Unit Effort data from trapper report cards, 2005-2006.

Species	Number of animals trapped ^a (a)	Total number of nights trapped (b)	Average number of traps set/night (c)	CPUE a / b * c
Badger	176	1,471	14	1.68
Beaver	2,824	4,810	7	4.11
Bobcat	1,021	8,587	17	2.02
Coyote	2,382	8,090	14	4.12
Marten	753	1,150	16	10.48
Mink	891	3,249	14	3.84
Muskrat	13,803	4,710	19	55.68
Otter	95	875	5	.54
Raccoon	1,010	4,044	9	2.25
Red Fox	1,122	3,677	10	3.05
Spotted skunk	42	358	12	1.41
Striped skunk	803	2,415	9	2.99
Weasel	176	927	7	1.33

^a Reflects only animals trapped and does not include animals hunted.

Table 4. Catch-Per-Unit Effort based on trappers reporting they trapped, 2002-2003 through 2005-2006.

Year	CPUE by species												
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel
2002-2003	2.71	3.03	2.08	5.35	16.60	2.99	75.30	0.48	2.46	5.74	1.85	2.84	1.24
2003-2004	2.54	3.42	1.69	6.18	13.40	2.66	30.60	0.42	1.60	4.32	0.56	2.71	1.14
2004-2005	1.05	4.02	2.20	4.82	16.80	2.40	46.80	0.42	2.14	3.44	1.31	3.25	1.10
2005-2006	1.67	4.11	2.02	4.12	10.48	3.84	55.68	0.54	2.25	3.05	1.41	2.99	1.33

Table 5. Statewide harvest and pelt value of furbearers trapped based on 580 trappers who reported they trapped, 2005-2006.

Species	Trappers reporting a harvest	Animals taken (a)	Pelts/trapper	Animals sold (b)	% Sold (b / a)	Money received (c)	Price/pelt ^a (c / b = d)	Total value (a x d = e)	Estimated statewide pelt value ^b (e / .73)	% of total value
Badger	70	190	3	91	48%	\$2,018.80	22.18+	\$4,215.08	\$5,774.08	.71%
Beaver	264	2,824	11	1,337	47%	\$25,840.02	19.33+	\$54,579.07	\$74,765.85	9.25%
Bobcat ^c	244	1,073	4	809	75%	\$229,442.24	283.61+	\$304,315.85	\$416,871.03	51.57%
Coyote	273	2,897	11	1,630	56%	\$44,095.90	27.05+	\$78,371.67	\$107,358.45	13.28%
Marten	47	753	16	568	75%	\$22,946.21	40.40+	\$30,419.89	\$41,671.08	5.15%
Mink	143	891	6	504	57%	\$7,254.40	14.39+	\$12,824.74	\$17,568.14	2.17%
Muskrat	208	13,803	66	10,068	73%	\$36,963.76	3.67+	\$50,676.48	\$69,419.83	8.59%
Otter ^c	64	95	2	54	57%	\$5,838.62	108.12+	\$10,271.65	\$14,070.75	1.74%
Raccoon	198	1,068	5	305	29%	\$2,623.89	8.60+	\$9,187.92	\$12,586.19	1.56%
Red Fox	157	1,159	7	656	57%	\$15,695.78	23.93+	\$27,730.81	\$37,987.41	4.70%
Spotted Skunk	15	42	3	8	19%	\$169.88	21.24+	\$891.87	\$1,221.74	.15%
Striped Skunk	98	808	8	60	7%	\$422.11	7.04+	\$5,684.41	\$7,786.87	.96%
Weasel	44	179	4	85	47%	\$455.08	5.35+	\$958.34	\$1,312.80	.16%
Actual Total (73%)		25,782		16,175	63%	\$393,766.69	24.34+	\$590,127.78		100.00%
Estimated Total (100%)		35,318		22,158		\$539,406.42			\$808,394.21	

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

^b Estimated totals and statewide pelt values were determined based on the assumption that the harvest reported by trappers represented 73% of actual harvest if all active trappers had submitted a harvest report.

^c Reflects only the number reported by trappers on the mandatory report card.

Table 6. History of statewide rank by value for animals trapped.

Season	Species ^a												
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter ^b	Raccoon	Red fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel
1992-1993	9	3	2	1	7	6	5			8	4		10
1993-1994	9	3	4	1	6	7	5			8	2		10
1994-1995	10	3	4	2	6	7	5			8	1	9	11
1995-1996	9	3	5	4	7	8	2			6	1	11	10
1996-1997	9	2	3	4	8	7	1			6	5	12	11
1997-1998	9	1	3	5	8	7	2			6	4	12	11
1998-1999	9	1	2	5	8	7	4			6	3	12	11
1999-2000	9	2	1	5	10	7	4			8	3	12	11
2000-2001	11	3	1	4	6	9	5	8	7	7	2	13	12
2001-2002	11	3	1	4	10	8	5	7	6	6	2	9	12
2002-2003	11	4	1	3	6	10	5	8	7	7	2	12	13
2003-2004	8	4	1	2	6	11	5	9	7	7	3	13	12
2004-2005	11	3	1	2	6	9	5	8	7	4		10	12
2005-2006	11	3	1	2	5	7	4	8	9	6	13	10	12

^a Non-target “other” species trapped are excluded from this ranking.

^b Otter was not included on the trapper report card until 2000-2001.

Table 7. Distribution of furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers, 2005-2006.

County	Species												
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Spotted skunk	Coyote	Red fox	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon	Otter	Striped skunk	Weasel
Ada	32	102	0	1	52	101	5	76	195	216	0	227	0
Adams	13	2	21	0	136	9	0	0	0	8	0	15	0
Bannock	6	29	13	0	34	16	0	16	210	17	0	6	3
Bear Lake	9	150	10	0	31	83	0	60	301	39	0	18	45
Benewah	1	35	24	0	31	0	0	1	105	5	3	2	19
Bingham	6	61	55	0	190	5	0	1	198	25	2	0	0
Blaine	0	78	14	0	16	10	60	6	48	2	0	10	1
Boise	2	52	14	1	29	57	25	5	26	7	3	9	1
Bonner	0	122	24	0	55	0	26	10	128	19	3	4	4
Bonneville	5	161	11	0	39	7	0	15	264	18	2	13	1
Boundary	2	34	6	0	4	0	9	18	168	16	3	2	0
Butte	0	19	38	0	22	6	0	2	23	0	1	0	0
Camas	11	14	0	0	71	118	0	1	4	0	2	60	18
Canyon	1	288	17	0	16	153	0	206	1,740	81	0	52	0
Caribou	7	86	12	0	54	57	0	47	551	34	1	5	5
Cassia	3	17	114	12	190	50	0	9	20	9	0	170	5
Clark	4	71	20	0	139	22	0	0	3	9	0	1	0
Clearwater	0	51	9	0	17	0	16	15	31	20	8	11	6
Custer	2	186	43	1	118	45	32	11	418	22	11	2	0
Elmore	3	96	21	1	111	46	38	62	762	36	9	20	0
Franklin	2	34	8	0	10	37	3	34	440	99	0	14	18
Fremont	0	32	0	0	6	3	226	1	139	10	0	4	20
Gem	9	37	8	0	60	50	0	49	815	42	2	48	0
Gooding	10	101	11	5	46	23	0	36	1,410	73	13	78	1
Idaho	2	15	95	3	49	1	13	15	22	43	2	15	3
Jefferson	1	72	3	0	1	7	0	5	620	12	1	11	0
Jerome	0	16	0	0	25	6	0	0	65	0	2	3	0
Kootenai	0	136	49	0	80	0	0	14	742	12	2	6	4
Latah	0	55	21	0	98	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0
Lemhi	13	97	68	0	169	26	28	27	900	31	5	22	0
Lewis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	7	24	12	0	155	21	0	3	51	1	1	23	0

Table 7. Continued.

County	Species												
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Spotted skunk	Coyote	Red fox	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon	Otter	Striped skunk	Weasel
Madison	0	69	0	0	0	0	0	11	670	5	0	1	0
Minidoka	3	14	2	0	85	52	0	13	157	3	0	1	0
Nez Perce	0	2	30	0	35	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0
Oneida	0	11	12	0	8	12	0	2	122	16	0	7	1
Owyhee	24	21	204	11	340	9	0	19	763	14	3	3	0
Payette	3	95	9	0	58	46	0	30	307	31	4	44	0
Power	0	5	18	0	23	5	0	0	2	10	0	1	1
Shoshone	0	237	26	0	36	0	20	3	107	25	2	4	21
Teton	0	4	0	0	6	0	54	18	566	2	0	1	2
Twin Falls	6	24	14	7	165	9	0	41	665	19	3	36	0
Valley	0	24	4	0	4	34	198	7	12	3	5	0	0
Washington	3	45	13	0	83	29	0	1	33	23	2	6	0

Table 8. Bobcat and lynx pelts tagged with USFWS export tags by IDFG, 1983-1984 through 2005-2006.

Year	Pelts tagged	
	Bobcat ^a	Lynx ^b
1983-1984	1,242	0
1984-1985	1,025	0
1985-1986	752	0
1986-1987	1,034	0
1987-1988	1,035	0
1988-1989	738	0
1989-1990	952	1
1990-1991	523	0
1991-1992	640	2
1992-1993	754	0
1993-1994	533	0
1994-1995	794	0
1995-1996	421	0
1996-1997	1,018	0
1997-1998	929	0
1998-1999	715	0
1999-2000	885	0
2000-2001	1,026	0
2001-2002	959	0
2002-2003	1,277	0
2003-2004	1,977	0
2004-2005	1,887	0
2005-2006	1,721	0

^a Pelts confiscated by IDFG are included in the bobcat totals for 2000-2001 (3), 2001-2002 (6), 2002-2003 (2), 2003-2004 (1), and 2004-2005 (2).

^b Lynx harvest was closed following the 1995-1996 season.

Table 9. Bobcat harvest by method of take reported by Region, 2005-2006.

Region	Total harvest	Method of Take ^a								
		%	Trapping	%	Calling	%	With hounds	%	Incidental hunting	%
Panhandle	316	18	162	51	6	2	138	44	10	3
Clearwater	281	16	107	38	5	2	150	53	19	7
Southwest	392	23	326	83	23	6	28	7	15	4
Magic Valley	283	16	252	89	9	3	14	5	8	3
Southeast	173	10	137	79	4	2	13	8	19	11
Upper Snake	138	8	126	91	0	0	5	4	7	5
Salmon	138	8	124	90	0	0	7	5	7	5
Total	1,721	100	1,234	72	47	3	355	21	85	5

^a Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table 10. Sex and age of harvested bobcats, based on examination of canines and cementum analyses, 1989-1990 through 1999-2000.

Year	Teeth examined ^a	Adult		Juveniles ^c & subadults (<2 years)	
		females	% ^b	males	% ^b
1989-1990	725	184	25	293	40
1990-1991	418	92	22	148	35
1991-1992	581	126	22	247	42
1992-1993	754	168	22	268	36
1993-1994	504	223	44	211	42
1994-1995	776	218	28	253	33
1995-1996	413	102	25	150	36
1996-1997	948	217	23	385	41
1997-1998	913	221	24	450	49
1998-1999	490 ^d	164	33	152	31
1999-2000	782 ^e	305	39	143	18
Total	7,304	2,020		2,700	
Average	664	184	28	245	37

^a Milk canines and those with open root canals were aged as juveniles; male canines with closed root canals were aged as adults; female canines with closed root canals were sectioned and the annuli counted, sex based on canines with closed canals was determined by measurement (Johnson et al. 1981). Sex of juveniles was not determined. Bobcat jaws were not collected after 1999-2000.

^b Percent is based on total number of teeth examined.

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

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

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

Table 11. Summary of river otters trapped and tagged in Idaho, 2005-2006.

Region	River otter harvest and quotas by region		
	Harvest quota	Date quota reached	Total harvested ^a
Panhandle	15	1/30/06	16
Clearwater	15	3/29/06	15
Southwest	30	1/12/06	30
Magic Valley	20	11/25/05	22
Southeast	2	11/6/05	3
Upper Snake	10	1/3/06	10
Salmon	15	3/9/06	15
Total	107		111

^a Total harvest may exceed harvest quota. The otter season closes in each region 48 hours after the harvest quota for that region is met. Trappers are allowed to keep otters within this 48-hour period provided their personal quota of 2 has not been reached.

Table 12. Sex distribution of river otters harvested in Idaho, 2005-2006.

Region	River otter harvest ^a	
	Male	Female
Panhandle	9	5
Clearwater	8	5
Southwest	15	8
Magic Valley	12	10
Southeast	2	1
Upper Snake	4	6
Salmon	8	6
McCall	4	3
Total	62	44

^a Five river otters taken with a sex of unknown. These figures include carcasses collected from river otters that were legally harvested and incidentally captured.

Table 13. Fisher and otter caught accidentally by trappers and turned in for a reward, 1990-1991 through 2005-2006.

Species Year	Region where animal was trapped ^a								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unk.	
Fisher									
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
2002-2003	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2003-2004	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2004-2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005-2006	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Otter^b									
1990-1991	1	4	3	2	1	3	6	0	20
1991-1992	6	1	6	11	3	4	5	0	36
1992-1993	2	4	5	2	0	4	4	2	23
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	1	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	8
2001-2002	8	0	8	3	0	3	1	0	23
2002-2003	0	1	6	10	1	0	5	0	23
2003-2004	0	1	4	8	0	1	4	0	18
2004-2005	2	0	2	5	0	1	2	0	12
2005-2006	0	0	1	8	0	3	3	0	15
Total	65	29	82	123	9	35	72	6	421

^a Figures do not include road-kills and other unknown mortalities. Figures only include non-targets that were surrendered to the Department.

^b 2000-2001 is the first season since 1972 that river otters could be legally trapped.

Table 14. Non-target animals captured, 2005-2006.

Species	Captured	Released	Found dead	Unknown status
Beaver	1	1		
Blue Heron	1	1		
Bobcat	3	3		
Cat	216	157	59	
Chukar	3	1	2	
Deer, doe	5	5		
Dog	6	5	1	
Duck	8	5	2	1
Goose	1		1	
Magpie	20	7	13	
Mallard	2	1	1	
Mtn. Lion	21	15	6	
Mule Deer	1	1		
Otter	10		10	
Packrat	8		2	6
Porcupine	9	2	7	
Rabbit	14	6	8	
Raccoon	6		6	
Raven	1	1		
Snowshoe hare	1		1	
Squirrel	1		1	
Striped Skunk	4		4	
Turkey	3		3	
Wolf	1		1	
Wood duck	1		1	
Wood rat	2		2	

APPENDIX A
IDAHO
2005-2006 SEASON
TRAPPING RULES

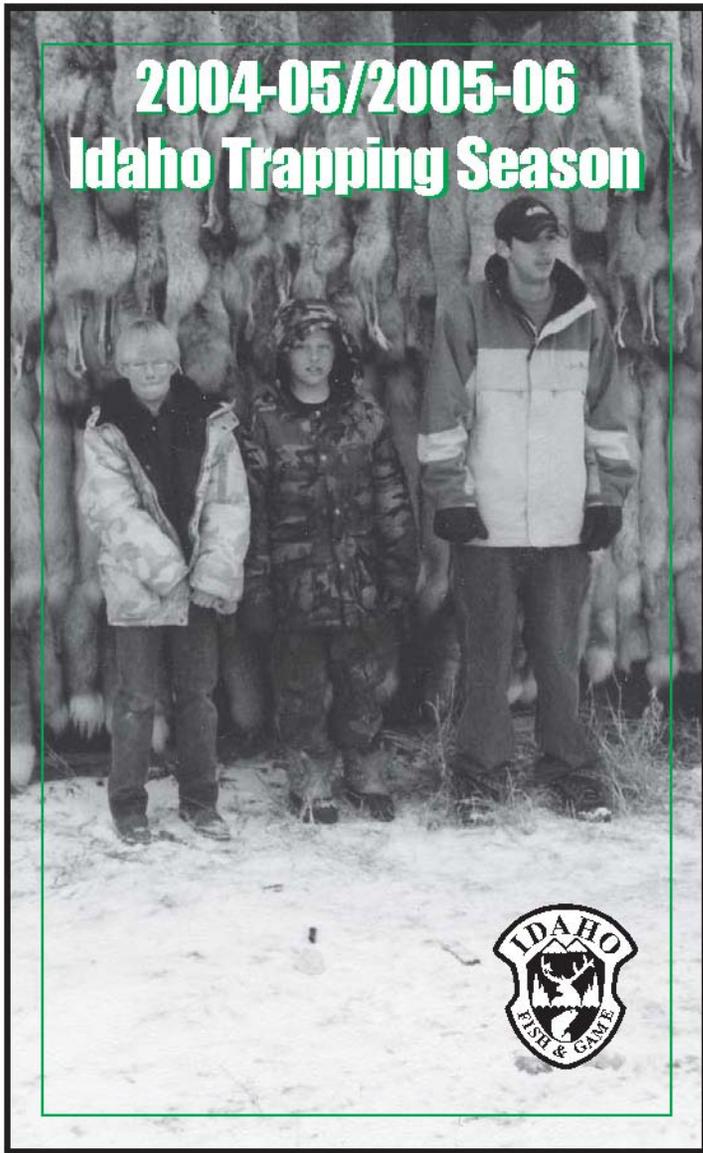


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Please note: all changes new this year are highlighted in green text.

PANHANDLE REGION:

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone Counties

Badger *	.....	July 1–June 30
Beaver	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Bobcat *	.....	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	.....	Oct 15–Jan 31
Marten	.....	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Muskrat	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Otter ^	.....	Nov 15–March 15
Raccoon *	.....	July 1–June 30

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Information in this brochure summarizes the rules and is the official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of furbearers. The official rules are available from the Division of Statewide Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries.

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

Clearwater Region:

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties

Badger *	.....	July 1–June 30
Beaver	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Bobcat *	.....	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	.....	Oct 15–Jan 31
Marten	.....	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Muskrat	.....	Nov 1–March 31
Otter ^	.....	Nov 15–March 15
Raccoon *	.....	July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Clearwater County: East Fork Potlatch River drainage; CLOSED

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

Latah County: CLOSED

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

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

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

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Southwest Region:

**Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee,
Payette, Valley & Washington Counties**

Badger *	July 1–June 30
Beaver	Nov 1–March 31
Bobcat *	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	July 1–June 30
Marten	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	Nov 1–March 31
Muskrat	Nov 1–March 31
Otter ^	Nov 15–March 15
Raccoon *	July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Ada & Boise Counties: The Boise River WMA; CLOSED.

Elmore County: All public lands within the following drainages: Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lime Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), and Wood Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), AND EXCEPT all lands within the Boise River WMA; CLOSED

Gem County: Squaw Cr. above the Ola Bridge; CLOSED.

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

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

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.
See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

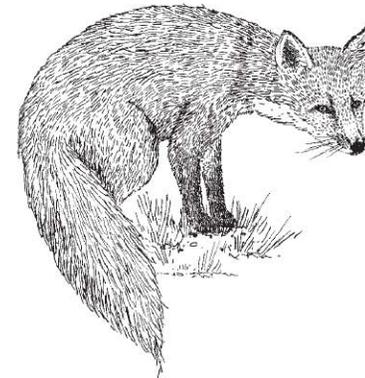
EXCEPTIONS: FOX

Adams County: Private lands within the Little Salmon R. drainage; CLOSED

Valley County: Fox may be taken only by trapping and only on National Forest and State of Idaho lands.

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

North Fork of the Payette R. from Cabarton Bridge downstream to Horseshoe Bend, confluence of the Middle Fork and South Fork Payette R. downstream to the confluence with the North Fork Payette R. at Banks, and Boise R. from Lucky Peak Dam to Caldwell; CLOSED



Magic Valley Region:

**Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln,
Minidoka & Twin Falls Counties**

Badger *	.....	July 1-June 30
Beaver	.....	Nov 1-March 31
Bobcat *	.....	Dec 14-Feb 16
Fox *	.....	July 1-June 30
Marten	.....	Nov 1-Jan 31
Mink	.....	Nov 1-March 31
Muskrat	.....	Nov 1-March 31
Otter ^	.....	Nov 15-March 15
Raccoon *	.....	July 1-June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Blaine County: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Wood R., Copper Cr. (trib. to Muldoon Cr.); and all lands within the following drainages: Little Fish Cr., Hailey Cr., Sheep Cr., and Cold Spring Cr. (trib. to Little Wood R.); CLOSED

Camas County: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Deer Cr., Corral Cr. above Baseline Road, Elk Cr., Lime C., Little Smoky Cr., and Willow Cr.: CLOSED

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

Lincoln County: All public lands in Preacher Cr. drainage: CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: MINK

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

EXCEPTIONS: MUSKRAT

Gooding County: Hagerman WMA, Feb 15 – Feb 28.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Southeast Region:

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

Badger *	.....	July 1-June 30
Beaver	.....	Oct 22-April 15
Bobcat *	.....	Dec 14-Feb 16
Fox *	.....	July 1-June 30
Marten	.....	Nov 1-Jan 31
Mink	.....	Oct 22-April 15
Muskrat	.....	Oct 22-April 15
Otter ^	.....	Nov 1-March 15
Raccoon *	.....	July 1-June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

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

Bear Lake County: Pearl Cr. drainage: CLOSED

Bingham County: Cedar Cr. and Miner Cr.: CLOSED

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

Franklin County: Logan R. drainage including the Beaver Cr. and White's Cr. drainages: CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: MARTEN

Bear Lake & Franklin Counties: CLOSED

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

Portneuf R. downstream from Lava Hot Springs.: CLOSED

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Upper Snake Region:

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison & Teton Counties

Badger *	July 1–June 30
Beaver	Oct 22–April 15
Bobcat *	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	July 1–June 30
Marten	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	Oct 22–April 15
Muskrat	Oct 22–April 15
Otter ^	Nov 1–March 15
Raccoon *	July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Clark County: Within the following drainages: Edie Cr., Irving Cr., Miners Cr., Three Mile Cr., West Camas Cr. upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary and [Indian Creek upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary](#): CLOSED

Teton County: The following drainages upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary: North Twin Creek, South Fork of Pack-saddle Creek, Trail Creek, [Patterson Creek](#), and [Dry Creek including McRenolds Reservoir](#): CLOSED

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

South Fork Snake R. from Palisades Dam to the Heise Cable, mainstem Buffalo R., mainstem Warm R. and mainstem Henry's Fork R. from Big Springs to [Del Rio Bridge](#) at St. Anthony: CLOSED.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Salmon Region:

Custer & Lemhi Counties

Badger *	July 1–June 30
Beaver	Oct 22–April 15
Bobcat *	Dec 14–Feb 16
Fox *	July 1–June 30
Marten	Nov 1–Jan 31
Mink	Oct 22–April 15
Muskrat	Oct 22–April 15
Otter ^	Nov 1–March 15
Raccoon *	July 1–June 30

EXCEPTIONS: BEAVER

Custer Co: Marsh Cr. drainage: CLOSED

Lemhi Co: Dahlenega Cr. drainage: CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: OTTER

Main Salmon R. downstream from North Fork, Id.: CLOSED.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. See page 28 for regional otter harvest quotas.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

RIVER OTTER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Pelts must be tagged by IDFG personnel at the regional office in the region in which the animal was taken within 72 hours of taking. Trappers unable to comply with the tagging requirements due to special or unique circumstances must report their harvest to the appropriate regional office or field personnel within 72 hours and make arrangements for tagging at the proper regional office. Pelts not registered or presented to IDFG personnel within 72 hours are subject to confiscation.
- River otter carcasses do not have to be turned in to IDFG, **EXCEPT** for otters harvested after the season has closed, or otters in excess of the trappers' personal quota of two. Check with the IDFG regional office for further information when reporting a harvest.
- No person shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 72 hours after the close of the season, any raw otter pelt legally harvested in Idaho which does not have an official state export tag attached.

Season Limits:

- A maximum limit of 2 otters is allowed for any one trapper, provided the harvest quota for that region is not exceeded.

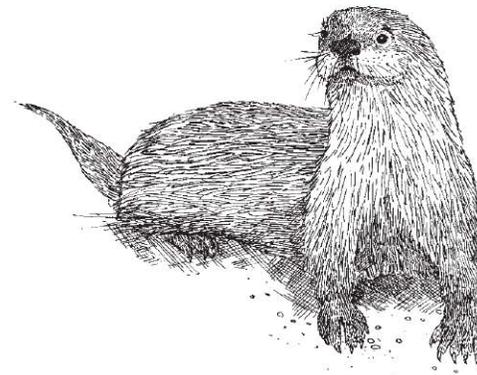
Quota/Season Closure:

- The otter season will close in each region 48 hours after the harvest quota for that region is reached. Trappers will be allowed to keep otters within this 48-hour period provided their personal quota of 2 has not been reached. Any otters trapped and brought in 48 hours after the regional quota is met must be surrendered to the Department for a **\$10.00** reward. Otter may only be turned in for reporting and tagging within the region where they were harvested.

- Current otter harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate IDFG regional office during normal business hours or by calling **1-800-323-4334** 24 hours a day. The otter season will close statewide no later than March 15.
- All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. Additional closures have been identified for the purpose of reducing potential conflicts between trappers and other user groups.

RIVER OTTER TRAPPING QUOTAS

<u>REGION</u>	<u>HARVEST QUOTA</u>
Panhandle	15
Clearwater	15
Southwest	30
Magic Valley	20
Southeast	2
Upper Snake	10
Salmon	15
STATEWIDE TOTAL	107



Submitted by:

Summer Crea

Technical Records Specialist

Approved by:

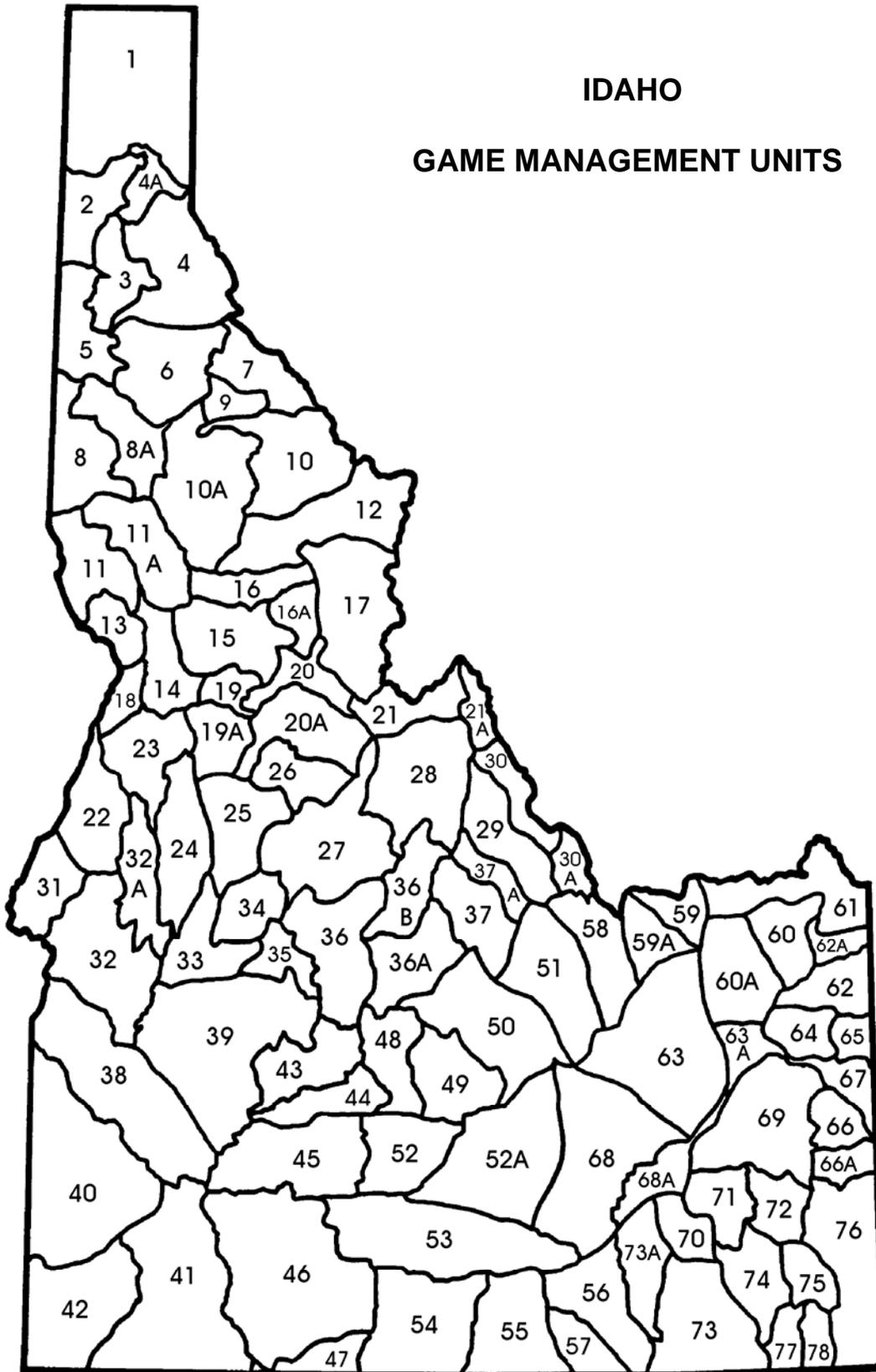
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Toweill
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Federal Aid Coordinator

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.

