

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Cal Groen, Director

Project W-170-R-33

Progress Report



FURBEARER

Study III, Job 1

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

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**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE: Idaho **JOB TITLE:** Furbearer Survey
PROJECT: W-170-R-33
SUBPROJECT: 1-7 **STUDY NAME:** Statewide Fur Harvest Survey
STUDY: III
JOB: 1
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

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 2008-2009 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 presentations on trapping and furbearers through the media, including radio, newspapers, and television. Personnel contacted individuals regarding interest in trapping and furbearers.

ABSTRACT

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) sold 1,218 trapping licenses for the 2008-2009 season. Harvest reports for the 2008-2009 season were submitted by 864 (71%) of the 1,218 licensed trappers. Trappers reported harvesting 23,433 animals. A total of 13,948 pelts were sold for a value of \$179,047.58. Muskrat, beaver, coyote, raccoon, and marten, respectively, were the most frequently trapped species. Price per pelt for all harvested species ranged from an average of \$208.16 for bobcats to \$2.85 for muskrats. The top 5 furbearers based upon total dollar value of pelts sold were bobcat, beaver, muskrat, coyote, and marten. Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 1,013 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. Starting with the 2005-2006 season, trappers were also able to fill out and electronically submit their 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 based on the premise that as populations decline, fewer animals are available to be trapped; therefore, CPUE should decline, or vice versa, as populations increase, CPUE would increase. 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. CPUE is recorded as animals trapped per 100 trap nights.

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 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 (GMU).

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. Regional quotas for Magic Valley and Upper Snake were increased to 30 and 15 otters, respectively, for the 2008-2009 season. The overall state quota was increased to 122 otters for the 2008-2009 season.

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

The otter season for a region closes 72 hours after the harvest quota is met. Trappers are allowed to keep otters within this 72-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 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

One thousand two hundred and eighteen trapping licenses (Table 1) were sold for the 2008-2009 season, including 1,203 residents (1,091 adult and 112 junior residents under 18 years-of-age) and 15 non-residents. The number of licenses sold increased by 6% from the previous season.

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).

Trappers trapped more muskrat and beaver per 100 trap-nights than other species (Table 3) during the 2008-2009 season. Statewide population trends, based upon animals trapped per 100 trap-nights (Table 4), were stable to slightly declining for bobcat, raccoon, and coyote. Trend was down for most other furbearers. Badger, skunks, and weasel are usually trapped incidentally to trapping for other species. Some trappers trap specifically for otter, but otters are also trapped incidental to beaver trapping. Many trappers who report harvest of badger, skunks, weasel, and sometimes otter, do not report trap nights or traps set for these 4 species since they are trapping for other species. They are not setting traps specifically for these species, thus, CPUE may not be an accurate reflection of population trend for badger, otter, skunks, and weasel.

Mandatory Trapper Harvest Reports

Harvest reports were submitted by 864 (71%) of the 1,218 licensed trappers for the 2008-2009 season. The fur harvest, based on 643 reporting trappers who trapped, was 23,433 animals (Table 5), up from 20,405 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 13,948 pelts (60%) were sold for a value of \$179,047.58. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$12.84 each, compared to \$29.26 the previous year. Trappers harvested an average of 36 pelts per trapper and

sold an average of 22 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$12.84 and 22 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$282.48, down from \$585.20 the previous season. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those who did not submit a report, was 33,004 animals taken and 19,645 pelts sold. The estimated statewide pelt value of pelts sold is \$423,774.25, down from \$746,312.88 in the previous season.

The muskrat, beaver, coyote, raccoon, and marten, respectively, were the most frequently harvested species. Price per pelt for all harvested species ranged from an average of \$208.16 for bobcats (\$299.00 in 2007-2008) to \$2.85 for muskrats (\$3.10 in 2007-2008). The top 5 furbearers based upon value of pelts sold were bobcat, beaver, muskrat, coyote, 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 and trap.

Mandatory Bobcat Tagging and Harvest Reports

Trappers and hunters checked 1,013 bobcats (Table 8). The lynx season remained closed. Trappers reported no accidental captures of lynx. More bobcats were harvested from the Panhandle Region (28%) than any other region (Table 9). Trapping accounted for 68% of the statewide bobcat harvest, followed by the use of hounds (24%).

Submission of bobcat jaws for age analysis (Table 10) was reassessed when the Commission reviewed trapping regulations during spring 2004 and the Commission decided to no longer require mandatory submission of bobcat jaws.

Mandatory River Otter Tagging and Harvest Reports

The Department affixed CITES tags to 124 legally harvested otters, including incidental captures, during the 2008-2009 trapping season (Table 11). Region quotas were not filled in Southwest and Salmon regions.

Sex ratio of harvested river otters (Table 12), including incidental captures, was 52% male, 42% female, and sex of 6% were not identified.

Reported Non-target Catches

Trappers were paid \$10.00 each for 12 otters (Table 13) and 1 fisher surrendered to the Department for reimbursement. Since the 1990-1991 trapping season, 21 fisher and 464 otter 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.

Furbearer Depredation

Beaver continue to be trapped in several regions to address damage complaints. When feasible, these animals are live-trapped and 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 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 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 2007-2008 season. In January 2008, the Commission set furbearer harvest rules for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 seasons.

In 2006, a questionnaire survey on trapper knowledge and use of trapping best management practices (BMPs) was mailed to all trappers ($n = 1,197$) in April 2006. Fifty-two percent ($n = 621$) of the trappers responded to the survey. Of the trappers responding to the survey, 52% were familiar with BMPs. Approximately 43% ($n = 266$) used BMPs during the 2006-2007 trapping season, whereas 14% ($n = 86$) did not use BMPs, 3% ($n = 17$) did not trap in 2006-2007 season, and 41% ($n = 252$) did not respond to the question. Of the trappers using BMPs in the 2006-2007 season, 61% used BMPs for bobcats, 64% for coyotes, 37% for red fox, 32% for raccoon, and 5% said they used BMPs but did not list what species. Of the trappers using BMPs in the 2006-2007 season, 9% used padded jaws, 70% used off-set jaws, 31% used laminated jaws, 26% used wide jaws, 51% used snare loop size, 28% used snare break-away device, and 5% did not select a BMP from the list provided. Sixty-three percent ($n = 394$) of trappers responding to the survey requested a trapping BMP CD be mailed to them. Twelve percent ($n = 74$) of trappers were interested in applying to become an instructor for the trapper education program being developed.

Department 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 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 was conducted during fall 2007 in the Upper Snake Region.

Management Actions

1. The Southwest regional furbearer coordinator investigated potential beaver release sites. Beavers were released on 3 occasions on private land in Bates Creek in GMU 40. The beaver were translocated from areas with beaver damage complaints.
2. The Magic Valley regional furbearer coordinator attended a field trip into the South Hills, GMU 54, sponsored by the Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development Area (RCDA) beaver committee to look at the historic beaver “ghetto” along Shoshone Creek, and discuss potential sites for a beaver demonstration area for public viewing.
3. Four beaver (2 adults and 2 kits) were translocated to private property in GMU 54 (Left Hand Fork of Beaverdam Creek)
4. The Magic Valley regional furbearer coordinator attended the Wood River RCDA beaver committee meeting. He also served as the Department’s representative on the newly created Mid-Snake RCDA beaver committee.
5. Potential beaver relocation sites are being investigated in the Magic Valley Region.
6. A beaver trap and translocation program was started in GMU 69 in the Upper Snake Region with support of local trappers and the Bonneville County Cattleman’s Association. Four beaver were translocated.
7. Hair snare trapping for fisher was conducted in the Beaverhead mountain range within the Salmon Region. Survey methodology followed the U.S. Rocky Mountain Fisher Survey Protocol developed by Schwartz (2006). Survey GMUs were established in 9 drainages with suitable fisher habitat and a total of 62 hair snare sets deployed. Sets were collected at ≥ 21 day sessions. A total of 58 genetic samples (hair, urine, gland excretion) were collected for analyzes.
8. Fisher trapping was conducted in the Clearwater Region. Eleven fisher were captured and collared with satellite transmitters. Fisher movement and habitat selection will be tracked every 3 days into 2009.
9. Public interviews with local television, national public radio, and local newspapers were conducted by regional furbearer coordinators and state coordinator.
10. Public surveys were conducted and input provided by trappers, hunters, and the general public regarding future furbearer harvest seasons.
11. 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 2008, 131 HIP projects improved 16,447 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 2008-2009.

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
2006-2007	1,042	132	26	1,200	839	70	662	79	948
2007-2008	1,015	112	23	1,150	919	80	649	71	817
2008-2009	1,091	112	15	1,218	864	71	643	74	901

^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, 2008-2009.

Species	Number of animals trapped ^a (a)	Total number of nights trapped (b)	Average number of traps set/night (c)	CPUE $a/(b*c) * 100$
Badger	229	1534	12	1.30
Beaver	2872	6511	7	6.32
Bobcat	595	8778	16	.42
Coyote	1880	7369	12	2.18
Marten	1225	2321	19	2.74
Mink	719	4069	11	1.62
Muskrat	12814	5563	18	13.11
Otter	101	1084	6	1.71
Raccoon	1248	5965	9	2.35
Red Fox	871	4156	11	1.93
Spotted skunk	21	259	9	.93
Striped skunk	762	2988	9	2.75
Weasel	96	1014	12	.78

^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 2008-2009.

Year	CPUE by species												
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel
2002-2003	1.88	8.41	.81	2.09	4.14	2.47	20.86	2.98	2.46	3.40	.94	3.50	1.53
2003-2004	3.14	9.50	1.00	3.15	3.72	3.29	11.96	2.62	4.45	3.00	2.24	5.53	4.57
2004-2005	1.64	8.21	.68	2.46	4.64	1.98	12.97	2.60	3.34	2.84	2.04	4.01	1.72
2005-2006	.85	8.39	.70	2.10	4.09	1.96	15.42	2.17	2.78	3.05	.98	3.69	2.71
2006-2007	1.12	8.00	.85	2.23	4.07	2.23	11.70	2.13	3.24	2.26	.51	2.69	2.24
2007-2008	1.10	7.04	.58	1.19	2.87	1.25	10.92	1.71	2.66	2.05	0	1.90	1.04
2008-2009	1.30	6.32	.42	2.18	2.74	1.62	13.11	1.71	2.35	1.93	.93	2.75	.78

Table 5. Statewide harvest and pelt value of furbearers trapped based on trappers who reported they trapped, 2008-2009.

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 / .71)	% of total value
Badger	72	229	3	92	40%	\$1,905.98	\$20.72-	\$4,744.23	\$6,682.02	1.52%
Beaver	346	2,872	8	1,496	52%	\$23,470.88	\$15.69-	\$45,059.07	\$63,463.48	14.44%
Bobcat ^c	214	595	3	376	63%	\$78,266.38	\$208.16-	\$123,852.38	\$174,439.98	39.68%
Coyote	255	1,880	7	982	52%	\$15,841.39	\$16.13-	\$30,327.71	\$42,715.09	9.72%
Marten	110	1,225	11	727	59%	\$16,986.92	\$23.37-	\$28,623.08	\$40,314.19	9.17%
Mink	165	719	4	379	53%	\$3,201.44	\$8.45-	\$6,073.44	\$8,554.15	1.95%
Muskrat	264	12,814	49	8,780	69%	\$25,061.73	\$2.85-	\$36,576.42	\$51,516.09	11.72%
Otter ^c	72	49	1	23	23%	\$1,147.02	\$49.87-	\$5,036.91	\$7,094.24	1.61%
Raccoon	243	1,248	5	541	43%	\$4,831.79	\$8.93-	\$11,146.16	\$15,698.82	3.57%
Red Fox	159	871	5	406	47%	\$7,591.62	\$18.70-	\$16,286.46	\$22,938.67	5.22%
Spotted Skunk	11	21	2	2	10%	\$18.00	\$9.00	\$189.00	\$266.20	0.06%
Striped Skunk	121	762	6	100	13%	\$480.43	\$4.80-	\$3,660.88	\$5,156.16	1.17%
Weasel	38	96	3	44	46%	\$244.00	\$5.55+	\$532.36	\$749.81	0.17%
Actual Total (71%)		23,433	--	13,948	--	\$179,047.58	\$12.84-	\$300,879.72		
Estimated Total (100%)		33,004	--	19,645	--	\$252,179.69		--	\$423,774.25	100.00%

^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 71% 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											Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel	
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter ^b	Raccoon	Red fox					
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	10		11
1997-1998	9	1	3	5	8	7	2			6	4	12	10		11
1998-1999	9	1	2	5	8	7	4			6	3	12	10		11
1999-2000	9	2	1	5	10	7	4			8	3	12	6		11
2000-2001	11	3	1	4	6	9	5	8		7	2	13	10		12
2001-2002	11	3	1	4	10	8	5	7		6	2		9		12
2002-2003	11	4	1	3	6	10	5	8		7	2	12	9		13
2003-2004	8	4	1	2	6	11	5	9		7	3	13	10		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
2006-2007	9	4	1	2	5	8	3	10		7	6	13	11		12
2007-2008	8	3	1	2	4	9	5	10		6	7		11		12
2009-2009	10	2	1	4	5	8	3	9		7	6	13	11		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, 2008-2009.

County	Species												
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel
Ada	32	130		58		109	870	1	67	152		135	
Adams		47	3	47	11	3	58	2	25	7		21	2
Bannock	7	40	6	34		17	274		41	19	3	15	2
Bear Lake	5	49	6	17		52	370		77	20		13	10
Benewah		47	28	13	10		22		6	1			15
Bingham	5	94	26	102		21	294	2	47	19		42	1
Blaine	1	236	11	29	82	7	97	13	15	12		10	
Boise	1	43		13	34	3	4	1	10	26			
Bonner		194	19	23	16	16	54	5	36	1		14	18
Bonneville	2	245	8	18	14	7	504	6	60	13		12	2
Boundary		79	2	47	14	3	33	4	2				
Butte		7	5										
Camas	36	45		113	2				5	96		46	
Canyon	51	174		63		60	739	1	57	70		47	
Caribou	5	134	2	15		43	1186		73	18	2	35	1
Cassia	10	32	66	160		7	10	2	11	23	7	10	
Clark		23	9	12	16	1	6						
Clearwater		58	31	3	20	12	41	2	6			3	21
Custer	4	164	20	76	190	13	504	5	14	54			
Elmore	6	55	13	45	32	15	252	3	27	15	1	34	
Franklin	1	67	4	10		31	936		99	18		26	
Fremont	1	22		9	101	10	80	3	25	4		4	2
Gem	3	77	1	23		55	421	1	30	25		7	
Gooding	5	36	6	135		54	926	5	105	28	6	92	
Idaho	1	27	52	53	72	3	2	5	46	12	1	22	
Jefferson		54		4		11	1018	1	44	3		27	
Jerome	1	13		13		7	81	1	5		1	1	
Kootenai		95	30	42		1	300	3	22			7	1
Latah	1	123	22	33		6	34	8	13			8	6

Table 7. Continued.

County	Species												
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel
Lemhi	16	111	30	212	110	22	512	4	58	74		13	
Lewis	2			6			2		3			23	
Lincoln	4	22	6	54		5	355		6	6		7	
Madison		26		10	11	9	961	2	4			1	
Minidoka	4	4	3	25		4		3	13	28		15	
Nez Perce		13	3	20					5				
Oneida		12	1	6					13	2		4	
Owyhee	8	39	117	77		17	211	4	23	16		14	
Payette	5	25	7	30		5	90	1	4	27			
Power	1	5	3	51		17	366		4				
Shoshone	1	72	35	19	4	5	79	3	11			4	12
Teton		35		11	159	10	408		21	25		1	
Twin Falls	10	30	14	99		51	635	4	108	19		43	
Valley		48	4	12	327	6	50	6	5	25			3
Washington		20	2	11		1	29		2	13		6	

Table 8. Bobcat and lynx pelts tagged with USFWS export tags by IDFG, 1983-1984 through 2008-2009.

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
2006-2007	2,404	0
2007-2008	1,452	0
2008-2009	1,013	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), 2004-2005 (2), 2005-2006 (1), and 2007-2008 (2).

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

Table 9. Bobcat harvest by method of take reported by Region, 2008-2009.

Region	Total harvest	%	Method of Take ^a							
			Trapping	%	Calling	%	With hounds	%	Incidental hunting	%
Panhandle	280	28	157	56	5	2	106	38	12	4
Clearwater	234	23	121	52	2	1	95	41	16	7
Southwest	183	18	154	84	4	2	15	8	10	5
Magic Valley	107	10	92	86	1	1	2	2	12	11
Southeast	73	7	55	75	2	3	13	18	3	4
Upper Snake	67	7	55	82	2	3	7	10	3	4
Salmon	69	7	53	77	4	6	7	10	5	7
Total	1013	100	687	68	20	2	245	24	61	6

^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 females	% ^b	Adult males	% ^b	Juveniles & subadults (<2 years) ^c	% ^b
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	490 ^d	164	33	152	31	173	35
1999-2000	782 ^e	305	39	143	18	330	42
Total	7,304	2,020		2,700		2,576	
Average	664	184	28	245	37	234	35

^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, 2008-2009.

Region	River otter harvest and quotas by region		
	Harvest quota	Date quota reached	Total harvested ^a
Panhandle	15	11/9/2008	21
Clearwater	15	3/2/2009	15
Southwest	30	not reached	27
Magic Valley	30	2/15/2009	31
Southeast	2	11/13/2008	2
Upper Snake	15	11/29/2008	17
Salmon	15	not reached	11
Total	122		124

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

Table 12. Sex distribution of river otters harvested in Idaho, 2008-2009.

Region	River otter harvest ^a		
	Male	Female	Unknown
Panhandle	10	11	1
Clearwater	7	8	
Southwest	17	6	2
Magic Valley	17	15	
Southeast	0	1	1
Upper Snake	7	6	2
Salmon	5	5	1
Total	63	52	7

^a 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 2008-2009.

Species Year	Region where animal was trapped ^a							Unk.	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
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
2006-2007	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
2007-2008	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2008-2009	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	3	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
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
2006-2007	1	0	6	1	0	3	5	0	16
2007-2008	0	4	3	6	1	1	0	0	15
2008-2009	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	12
Total	68	35	92	133	11	40	78	7	464

^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.

APPENDIX A
IDAHO
2008-2009 SEASON
TRAPPING RULES

2008-2009 & 2009-2010 Upland Game, Furbearer & Turkey Seasons and Rules



Photo contribution: Cary Glanzer

Major changes highlighted in yellow.

You may refer to this link for laws pertaining to this rule book:
Administrative Procedures Act:
<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa13/13index.htm>



RULES

2008 — 2009

2009 — 2010

Upland Game Birds, Turkeys, Rabbits and Hares

April 2008-March 2009

April 2009-March 2010

Furbearers, Predators & Unprotected Species

July 2008-June 2010

Crows, Doves and Sandhill Cranes

September 2008-January 2009

September 2009-January 2010

Falconry

August 2008-March 2010

Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Seasons by Region
 The trapping brochure is no longer in print. These rules apply.

Panhandle Region: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
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 1 - March 15
Raccoon*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round

Clearwater Region: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
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 1 - March 15
Raccoon*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round

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: Potlatch River drainage upstream from and including the Corral Creek drainage; and the Palouse River drainage upstream from Laird Park Dam; 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.

Southwest Region: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	Nov 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	Dec 14 - Feb 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	Nov 1 - Jan 31
Mink	Nov 1 - March 31
Muskrat	Nov 1 - March 31
Otter [^]	Nov 1 - March 15
Raccoon*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round

Exceptions: Beaver

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

Elmore County: All public lands within the following drainages: Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lake Cr. (trib. to Fall Cr.) but flows into Anderson Ranch Reservoir, Wilson Cr. Little Wilson Cr. and Elk Cr. on Wilson Flat north of Anderson Ranch Dam, Lime Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. in the Danskin Mts. (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: Raff Creek, Dennet Creek, Wolf Creek, Trail Creek, Sumac Creek, Thorn Creek, and Rock Creek on the Rocking M Ranch Conservation easement in Unit 31; CLOSED.

Exceptions: 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.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

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

Magic Valley Region: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties.	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	Nov 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	Dec 14 - Feb 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	Nov 1 - Jan 31
Mink	Nov 1 - March 31
Muskrat	Nov 1 - March 31
Otter^	Nov 1 - March 15
Raccoon*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Exceptions: Beaver	
Blaine County: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Wood River above Magic Reservoir Dam, Copper Cr. (trib. to Muldoon Cr.); all lands within Little Fish Cr.: CLOSED	
Camas County: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Deer Cr., Corral Cr. above Baseline Road, Elk Cr., 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.	

Southeast Region: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties.	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	Oct 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	Dec 14 - Feb 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	Nov 1 - Jan 31
Mink	Oct 22 - April 15
Muskrat	Oct 22 - April 15
Otter^	Oct 22 - March 15
Raccoon*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
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., Willow Creek drainage and all its tributaries: 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	

Attention Marten Trappers!

Trappers are encouraged to set marten traps at least two feet above the ground or snow level to reduce the harvest of female marten.

Upper Snake Region: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton counties.	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	Oct 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	Dec 14 - Feb 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	Nov 1 - Jan 31
Mink	Oct 22 - April 15
Muskrat	Oct 22 - April 15
Otter^	Oct 22 - March 15
Raccoon*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Exceptions: Beaver	
Bonneville County: All streams on the Tex Creek WMA; Willow Creek and all of its' tributaries: CLOSED.	
Clark County: Within the following drainages: Edie Cr., Irving Cr., Miners Cr., Three Mile Cr., West Camas Cr., Indian Creek and Middle Creek, upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary: CLOSED	
Teton County: The following drainages upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary: North Twin Creek, South Fork of Packsaddle Creek, Trail Creek, and Dry Creek including McRenolds Reservoir: CLOSED	
Exceptions: Otter	
South Fork Snake R. from Palisades Dam to the Heise Cable, mainstem Buffalo R., mainstem Warm R. and mainstem Henry's Fork R. from Big Springs to Del Rio Bridge at St. Anthony: CLOSED.	

Salmon Region: Custer and Lemhi counties.	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	Oct 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	Dec 14 - Feb 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	Nov 1 - Jan 31
Mink	Oct 22 - April 15
Muskrat	Oct 22 - April 15
Otter^	Oct 22 - March 15
Raccoon*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Exceptions: Beaver	
Custer County: Marsh Cr. drainage: CLOSED	
Lemhi County: Dahlenega Cr.: CLOSED	
Exceptions: Otter	
Main Salmon R. downstream from North Fork, Id.: CLOSED.	

Trapping on Game Preserves and Wildlife Management Areas (IDAPA 13.01.16.600)

02. Contact or Registration Requirements. Trappers who are trapping on any of the following Wildlife Management Areas must contact or register either at the management headquarters or the regional office:

- Billingsley Creek
- Blackfoot River
- Boise River
- Andrus
- Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh
- C.J. Strike
- Carey Lake
- Cartier Slough
- Coeur d'Alene River
- Craig Mountain
- Fort Boise
- Georgetown Summit
- Hagerman
- Market Lake
- McArthur Lake
- Montpelier
- Mud Lake
- Niagara Springs
- Payette
- Portneuf
- Sand Creek
- Snow Peak
- Sterling
- Tex Creek

* Indicates species can also be hunted.
 ^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.

Submitted by:

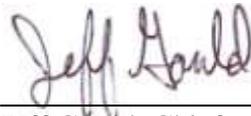
Summer Crea
Technical Records Specialist

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



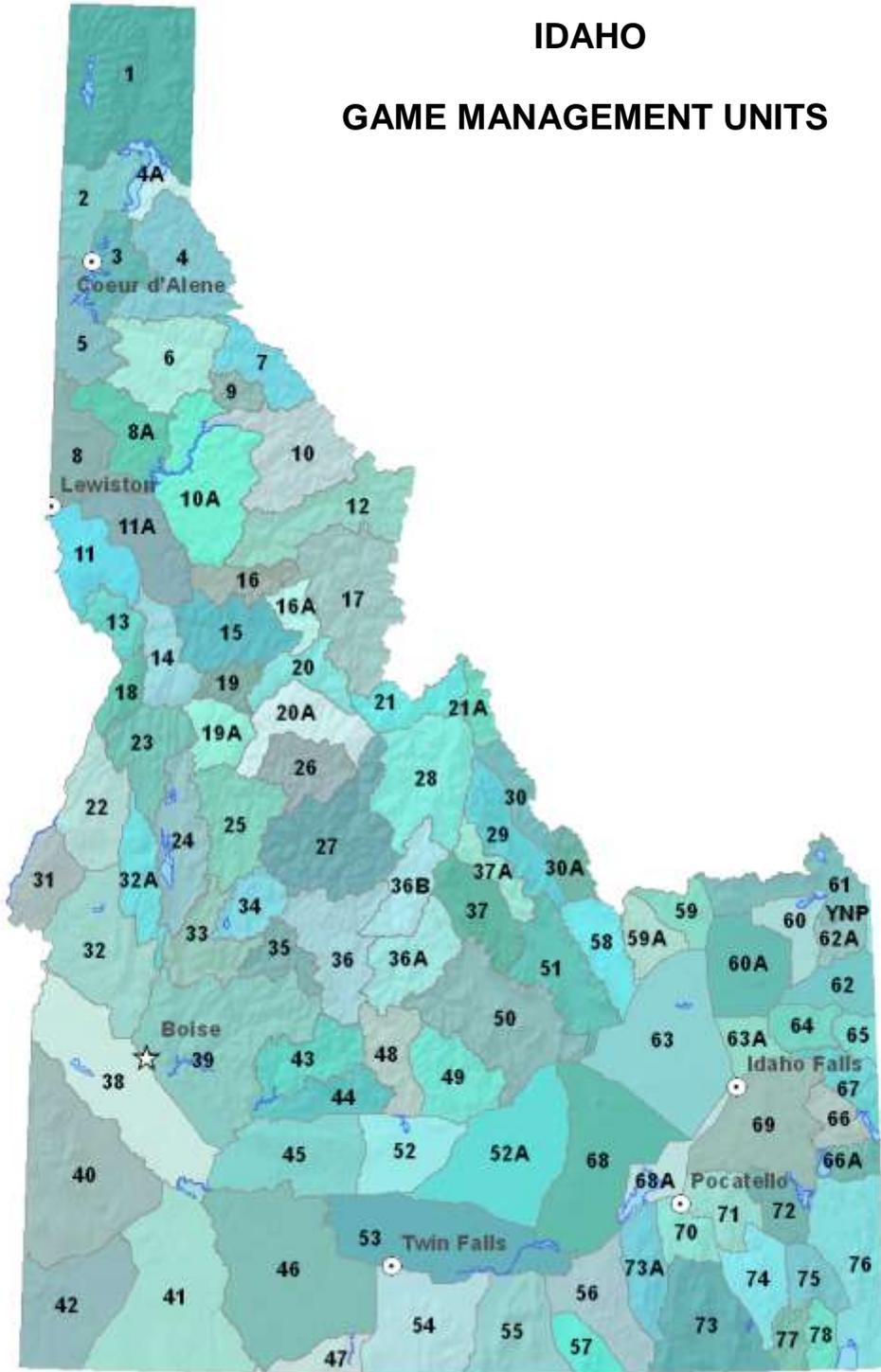
Bradley Compton
Assistant Chief, Bureau of Wildlife
Federal Aid Coordinator



Jeff Gould, 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.

