

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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Surveys and Inventories

FY2015 Statewide Report



FURBEARER

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEWIDE FURBEARER	1
ABSTRACT	1
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE	1
MANDATORY TRAPPER HARVEST REPORTS	1
CITES EXPORT TAGS	2
NON-TARGET CATCHES	3
STATEWIDE RESULTS	3
TRAPPING LICENSE SALES	3
MANDATORY TRAPPER HARVEST REPORTS	3
CATCH-PER-UNIT-EFFORT	4
MANDATORY BOBCAT CITES REPORTS	4
MANDATORY RIVER OTTER CITES REPORTS	4
NON-TARGET AND INCIDENTAL CATCHES TURNED IN FOR REWARD	5
FURBEARER DEPREDATION	5
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION	5
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	6
APPENDIX A	16

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Trapping license sales and usable harvest reports received from trappers, 2004 to present.	7
Table 2. Statewide furbearers trapped, harvested, and pelt value based on trappers who reported, 2013-2014.	8
Table 3. History of statewide rank by total dollar value for animals trapped 2004 to present.	9
Table 4. Distribution of furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers, 2013-2014.	10
Table 5. Catch-Per-Unit Effort data from trapper report cards, 2013-2014.	12
Table 6. Catch-Per-Unit Effort based on trappers reporting they trapped, 2004 to present.	13
^a Wolf trapping seasons began in 2011-2012.	13
Table 7. Bobcat pelts tagged with USFWS CITES export tags by IDFG, 2004 to present.	14

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Table 8. Bobcat harvest by method of take reported by Region, 2013-2014.14

Table 9. Otter pelts tagged with USFWS CITES export tags by IDFG during 2013-2014 season.....14

Table 10. Non-target otters caught by trappers and turned in for a reward, 2004 to present.15

Table 11. Non-target fisher reported caught by trappers turned in for a reward, 2004 to present.15

STATEWIDE REPORT SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Furbearer Surveys and Inventories

STUDY NAME: Furbearer Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

STATEWIDE FURBEARER

Abstract

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) sold 2,339 trapping licenses for the 2014-2015 season. Mandatory harvest reports for the 2014-2015 season were submitted by 1,807 (77%) of the 2,339 licensed trappers (Table 1). Trappers reported harvesting (trapping and hunting) 43,988 animals, down from 52,986 for 2013-2014. A total of 26,874 pelts were reported sold for a value estimated at \$363,837.17, down from 33,912 pelts sold for an estimated \$699,168.32 for 2013-2014. Statewide rank for the top 5 species by dollar value per species pelt was coyote, bobcat, muskrat, marten, and beaver respectively. Price per pelt for all harvested species ranged from an average of \$231.81 for bobcats to \$2.37 for weasels. The top 5 furbearers based upon total dollar value of pelts sold were coyote, muskrat, bobcat, marten, and red fox (Table 2). Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 865 animals, down from 1,423 animals the previous season (Table 7). The lynx season has remained closed since the 1995-1996 season. The Department affixed CITES tags to harvested bobcats and otters. A voluntary trapper education program is provided for new trappers.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Mandatory Trapper Harvest Reports

By Idaho law, licensed trappers are required to report to the Department the number of wild animals they catch and kill during the open season (Furbearer Rules, Appendix A) and the amount received for the sale of these pelts. The report must be submitted by 31 July, and the trapper cannot purchase a new license unless the report has been received. A self-addressed, postage-paid folding reporting card is sent to trappers each spring so they may conform to Idaho law. Additionally, trappers are 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. Beginning with the 2002-2003 trapping season, questions were added to include Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (CPUE). CPUE measures the harvest per unit of time and can be useful in identifying 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. This measure is especially valuable when trapper numbers are stable.

However, the result is less reliable when prices fluctuate and the number of new trappers increases or decreases. 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

Bobcats: 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. Mandatory reporting has been in effect since the 1981-1982 season.

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).

Otters: 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 first river otter trapping season since 1972 was authorized during the 2000-2001 trapping season. Based on Department research, quotas were set at 3% of the population estimate for the region. 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. Harvest quotas have fluctuated over the subsequent years and since the 2011-2012 season the statewide quota has been 155. Non target and other mortality accounted for an additional 1-2 dozen otter being harvested annually.

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 incidental 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

Commission rules (IDAPA 13.01.16.150.03a) defines non-target species as any species caught for which the season is closed. By Commission rule any trapper who captures and kills a non-target species 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 for each lynx, wolverine, fisher, and bobcat.

Additionally, guidelines to reduce injury and minimize non-target catches such as wolverine and lynx are printed in the rules brochure. Trappers are also instructed to contact the Department immediately upon catching a wolverine or lynx. 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

During the 2014-2015 season, 2,339 trapping licenses were sold, including 2,308 residents (1,999 adult and 309 junior residents under 18 years-of-age) and 31 non-residents. The number of licenses sold increased by 16% from the previous season (Table 1).

Mandatory Trapper Harvest Reports

Harvest reports were submitted by 1,807 (77%) of the 2,339 licensed trappers for the 2014-2015 season (Table 1). The fur harvest (trapping and hunting), based on 1,209 reporting trappers who harvested, was 43,998 animals, down from 52,986 the previous trapping season (Table 2). This number includes incidental catches, or those species captured that were not the intended target of the trap. Of this total, 26,874 pelts (61%) were sold for a value of \$363,837. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$13.54 each, down from \$20.62 the previous year. Trappers harvested an average of 37 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 22 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$13.54 and 22 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$297.88, down from \$494.88 the previous season (Table 2).

Using an approximation of 77% reporting we can estimate harvest for all trappers, including those who did not submit a report, was 57,140 animals taken and 34,901 pelts sold. We estimate as high as \$472,516 in value for pelts sold. The estimated statewide value of pelts sold is \$925,503, down from \$1,504,300 in the previous season (Table 2).

Muskrat, coyote, beaver, raccoon, and marten respectively, were the most frequently harvested species. Price per pelt for all harvested species ranged from an average of \$231.81 for bobcats

(\$349.05 in 2013-2014) to \$2.37 for weasels (\$4.75 in 2013-2014). The top 5 furbearers based upon total dollar value of pelts sold were coyote, bobcat, muskrat, marten, and beaver (Table 3).

Species harvested within a county (Table 4) may be indicative of areas with higher furbearer populations. However, harvest distribution is also partly a function of where trappers live and trap.

Catch-Per-Unit-Effort

Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (CPUE) is the number of days the trap is set per number of animals caught as a percentage. It is considered a reflection of population levels because as the ease of capture increases or decreases, it often is an indication of the number of animals available to catch.

Trappers trapped more muskrat, beaver, and skunk per 100 trap-nights than other species (Table 5) during the 2014-2015 season. Statewide population trends based on CPUE, based upon animals trapped per 100 trap-nights have declined since implementing the CPUE method; however trends in the past 5 years have mostly stabilized despite increasing numbers of trappers. Statewide population trends based on CPUE over the last five years are stable to increasing for badger, beaver, coyote, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, weasel, striped skunk, and spotted skunk. Statewide CPUE over the last five years was stable to slightly decreasing for marten, and red fox. The 5-year trend in CPUE for bobcats is stable, but a decrease compared to the first 5-years of CPUE implementation (Table 6). Badger, skunks, and weasel are usually trapped incidentally to trapping for other species. Some trappers trap specifically for otter, but otters are also trapped incidentally 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 four 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 trends for any species due to the number of variables.

Mandatory Bobcat CITES Reports

Bobcat harvest based on the CITES tag database provides the data for this report and not the mandatory trapper harvest report. Trappers and hunters checked 860 bobcats for CITES tags, down from 1,421 in 2013-2014 (Table 7). The lynx season remained closed. More bobcats were harvested from the Clearwater Region (30%) than any other region (Table 8). Trapping accounted for 75% of the statewide bobcat harvest, followed by the use of hounds (21%).

Mandatory River Otter CITES Reports

Otter harvest based on the CITES tag database provides the data for this report and not the mandatory trapper harvest report. The Department affixed CITES tags to 148 legally harvested otters, including incidental captures, during the 2014-2015 trapping season. Sex ratio of legally harvested river otters were 55% male and 43% female with 2 unknown (Table 9). All regions with the exception of Magic Valley, Southeast and the Upper Snake met their quota prior to the end of the trapping season. In addition, the Department tagged 23 non-target, illegal, road killed,

and unknown cause of mortality otters outside of the season, for a total of 171 otters tagged from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Otters and Fisher Turned in For Reward

Non-target catches are any species caught for which the season is closed. Incidental catches include captures that were not the intended species. Road killed animals are often collected, tagged when appropriate, and either kept or turned in for a reward depending on species. Trappers were paid \$10.00 each for 14 otter (Table 10) and 15 fisher (Table 11) surrendered to the Department for reimbursement. Since the 2004-2005 trapping season, 76 fisher and 154 otter have been turned in for reimbursement. Many of these animals were used for research or 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 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 furbearer seasons was collected at regional offices and the state office via a survey on the Department's website. In January 2013, the Commission set furbearer harvest rules for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 seasons.

In April 2006, a questionnaire survey on trapper knowledge and use of trapping best management practices (BMPs) was mailed to all trappers ($n = 1,197$). Results of this survey can be found in previous IDFG annual reports.

Department personnel wrote newspaper articles on trapping and furbearers including letters to the editor by the Commission Chair. Personnel responded to information requests by phone, e-mail, or letter regarding interest in trapping and furbearer species.

The Department has developed 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.

Management Actions

1. The Commission decided to gather public input on changing rules to require mandatory trapper education. Negotiated Rule-Making was initiated in April, 2015 and a proposal to require education was submitted to the commission following public input.
2. The Upper Snake Region developed the Upper Snake Beaver Cooperative during 2015. This is a multi-partner endeavor to try and restore beaver populations across the landscape by using conflict beaver and relocating them to areas that have lost their beaver populations. Bailey and Hancock live traps were purchased to capture beaver.
3. The Panhandle Region set out hair traps and cameras to collect fisher, lynx, and wolverine data as part of the Multispecies Baseline Initiative (MBI) project. They also prepared a handling kit and collar for any incidental lynx or wolverine captures which did not occur.
4. The Clearwater Region, using a combination of PR and Wildlife Diversity Program Funds, deployed and recovered data from 2 GPS collared adult female fishers, resulting in ~1700 telemetry locations. They operated 2 run pole sets looking for wolverines, which detected 2 individuals.

Table 1. Trapping license sales and usable harvest reports received from trappers, 2005 to present.

Season	Licenses Sold			Total	Reports received	Reporting trappers who harvested ^a		Estimated active trappers ^b	
	Adult resident	Junior resident	Non-resident			%	%		
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
2009-2010	992	111	11	1,114	843	76	658	78	869
2010-2011	1,082	131	9	1,222	1,000	82	764	76	929
2011-2012	1,568	171	28	1,767	1,399	79	1,020	73	1,290
2012-2013	1,799	232	26	2,057	1,731	84	1,263	73	1,502
2013-2014	2,117	253	24	2,394	1,985	83	1,444	73	1,748
2014-2015	1,999	309	31	2,339	1,807	77	1,209	67	1,565

^a Reporting trappers who harvested includes trapping and hunting.

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

Table 2. Statewide furbearers trapped, harvested, and pelt value based on trappers who reported, 2014-2015.

Species	Trappers reporting a harvest	Animals trapped	Pelts/trapper ^a	Animals hunted	Total Animals harvested (a)	Animals sold (b)	% Sold (b / a)	Money received (c)	Price/Pelt ^b (c / b = d)	Total Dollar value (a * d = e)	% of total value	Estimated statewide pelt value ^c (e / .77)
Badger	68	143	2	17	160	61	38%	\$1,230.27	\$20.17	\$3,226.94	0.45%	\$4,190.83
Beaver	471	2636	6	0	2,636	773	29%	\$12,192.93	\$15.77	\$41,579.00	5.83%	\$53,998.70
Bobcat ^d	364	616	2	29	645	322	50%	\$74,643.43	\$231.81	\$149,518.67	20.98%	\$194,180.09
Coyote	578	3528	6	540	4,068	2242	55%	\$123,946.61	\$55.28	\$224,895.10	31.56%	\$292,071.56
Marten	146	1488	10	0	1,488	675	45%	\$21,233.32	\$31.46	\$46,807.67	6.57%	\$60,789.19
Mink	213	784	4	0	784	378	48%	\$3,640.04	\$9.63	\$7,549.71	1.06%	\$9,804.82
Muskrat	529	30374	57	0	30,374	21203	70%	\$98,538.95	\$4.65	\$141,160.31	19.81%	\$183,325.08
Otter ^d	107	130	1	0	130	35	27%	\$1,900.51	\$54.30	\$7,059.04	0.99%	\$9,167.58
Raccoon	352	1564	4	60	1,624	607	37%	\$5,277.89	\$8.70	\$14,120.75	1.98%	\$18,338.63
Red Fox	215	931	4	17	948	416	44%	\$13,621.62	\$32.74	\$31,041.58	4.36%	\$40,313.74
St Skunk	171	844	5	16	860	111	13%	\$1,274.28	\$11.48	\$9,872.80	1.39%	\$12,821.82
Sp Skunk	20	53	3	0	53	8	15%	\$288.00	\$36.00	\$1,908.00	0.27%	\$2,477.92
Weasel	53	96	2	3	99	20	20%	\$47.32	\$2.37	\$234.23	0.03%	\$304.20
Wolf	143	118	1	11	129	23	18%	\$6,002.00	\$260.96	\$33,663.39	4.72%	\$43,718.69
Actual Total (77%)		43,305	--	693	43,998	26,874	--	\$363,837.17	\$13.54	\$712,637.19		
Est. Total (100%) ^c		56,240		900	57,140	34,901		\$ 472,515.81		--	100.00%	\$925,502.84

^a Pelts/trapper is determined by animals trapped only.

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

^c Estimated totals and statewide pelt values were determined based on the assumption that the harvest reported by trappers represented 77% of actual harvest if all active trappers had submitted a harvest report.

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

Table 3. History of statewide rank by total dollar value for animals trapped 2005 to present.

Season	Species ^a													
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel	Wolf ^b
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	
2008-2009	10	2	1	4	5	8	3	9	7	6	13	11	12	
2009-2010	10	4	1	3	5	8	2	9	7	6	13	11	12	
2010-2011	9	4	1	3	5	8	2	10	7	6	13	11	12	
2011-2012	11	5	1	3	4	7	2	10	8	6	14	12	13	9
2012-2013	12	5	1	4	3	9	2	10	8	6	13	11	14	7
2013-2014	12	5	1	3	4	9	2	10	8	6	14	11	13	7
2014-2015	12	5	2	1	4	10	3	11	8	7	13	9	14	6

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

^b Wolf was not trapped until 2011-2012..

Table 4. Distribution of furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers*, 2014-2015.

County	Species													
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Striped skunk	Spotted skunk	Weasel	Wolf
Ada	20	64	2	135		57	1,814	1	54	53	80			
Adams		19	8	121	31	13	177		10	34	0		1	
Bannock	2	67	13	103		47	559		33	7	75	2		
Bear Lake	8	120	6	18		57	1,168	4	96	6	12		6	
Benewah	1	31	18	41		8	360	2	50		2		5	2
Bingham	13	139	17	102		35	361	7	114	20	44			
Blaine	5	69	8	120	1	2	46	1	8	14	24			
Boise		96	14	43	51	3	24	5	13	72	7			
Bonner		145	27	58	100	30	838	7	59		12	2	14	14
Bonneville	5	108	7	97	60	22	706	4	77	59	17	2	6	
Boundary		55	17	48	176	2	400	11	5		23		15	11
Butte		33	33	15			6		5		1	1		1
Camas	17			90	20			1		23	50	2		
Canyon	6	137		62		83	2,964		87	64	81		1	
Caribou	1	78		11		74	1,202	1	53	1	15		2	
Cassia		11	34	135		9	139	1	35	18	14			
Clark			2	11					2	7				
Clearwater		54	43	26	130	48	128	4	65		15		8	1
Custer	1	159	36	141	105	7	832	5	7	37				5
Elmore	6	94	1	139	35	23	3,422	6	31	86	26	1		
Franklin		33		21		11	429		108	7	27			
Fremont	9	119		61	134	27	728	5	42	78	30		4	4
Gem	2	36	4	47		14	898	3	11	8	8	3	1	
Gooding	10	88	6	182		23	2,216	12	52	18	20	6		
Idaho		23	75	107	202	20	57	4	40	2	82	22	5	34
Jefferson	2	92	2	68		11	2,417	2	95	7	5			
Jerome		5		38			176		11	2	2			
Kootenai	1	123	19	116		17	1,569	10	31		22		7	1

County	Species													
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Striped skunk	Spotted skunk	Weasel	Wolf
Latah	1	80	18	112		1	157	7	27		5		1	
Lemhi	2	48	22	100	82	11	1,433	5	25	61	13		2	6
Lewis	2		1	37					7		12			
Lincoln	3	48	4	176			43		4	10	3			
Madison		40		46	22	20	1,182		19	25	6			
Minidoka		4	7	106		14	578		13		11			
Nez Perce		2	11	59	12		2	2	28		10	1		
Oneida	3	13	22	86		2	114		12	1	22			
Owyhee	7	111	63	221		19	2,110	4	19	12	34	8		
Payette	5	72	1	4		6	303	2	4		9			
Power			6	56		1	16	2	15					
Shoshone	1	120	34	49	6	27	215	7	9				16	39
Teton		14		43	85	4	101		3	4	1		2	
Twin Falls	1	15	11	102		23	265	4	17	18	16	3		
Valley		28	6	33	236	10	59	1	1	128	2			
Washington	9	43	18	142		3	160		167	49	6			

*Harvest reported by trappers for bobcat and otter are different than harvest recorded with CITES tags which include all harvest.

Table 5. Catch-Per-Unit Effort data from trapper report cards, 2014-2015.

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	143	1,274	8.40	1.34
Beaver	2,636	9,981	5.36	4.93
Bobcat	616	10,743	14.23	0.40
Coyote	3,528	17,355	13.47	1.51
Marten	1,488	3,299	18.56	2.43
Mink	784	5,738	9.62	1.42
Muskrat	30,374	14,519	21.04	9.94
Otter	130	2,029	4.07	1.58
Raccoon	1,564	8,542	7.75	2.36
Red Fox	926	6,162	10.56	1.42
Striped skunk	844	4,555	7.44	2.49
Spotted skunk	53	499	12.80	0.83
Weasel	96	993	6.17	1.57
Wolf	118	6,731	17.46	0.10

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

Table 6. Catch-Per-Unit Effort based on trappers reporting they trapped, 2005 to present.

Year	CPUE by species													
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel	Wolf ^a
2005-2006	0.85	8.39	0.70	2.10	4.09	1.96	15.42	2.17	2.78	3.05	0.98	3.69	2.71	
2006-2007	1.12	8.00	0.85	2.23	4.07	2.23	11.70	2.13	3.24	2.26	0.51	2.69	2.24	
2007-2008	1.10	7.04	0.58	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	0.42	2.18	2.74	1.62	13.11	1.71	2.35	1.93	0.93	2.75	0.78	
2009-2010	0.83	5.28	0.47	1.76	3.04	1.30	11.97	0.60	1.78	1.87	0.36	1.89	1.55	
2010-2011	1.01	6.72	0.70	1.71	2.88	1.94	12.48	3.37	2.90	1.65	0.69	1.85	1.52	
2011-2012	1.13	5.15	0.46	1.74	2.47	1.54	12.27	2.84	2.72	1.91	0.78	3.28	1.31	0.14
2012-2013	1.75	5.26	0.42	1.37	2.51	1.43	10.56	2.63	2.82	1.64	0.82	2.44	1.90	0.08
2013-2014	0.87	5.59	0.42	1.40	2.17	1.38	9.68	1.23	2.74	1.20	0.55	2.14	1.56	0.08
2014-2015	1.34	4.93	0.40	1.51	2.43	1.42	9.94	1.58	2.36	1.42	0.83	2.49	1.57	0.10

^a Wolf trapping seasons began in 2011-2012

Table 7. Bobcat pelts tagged with USFWS CITES export tags by IDFG, 2005 to present.

Year	Bobcat ^a
2005-2006	1,721
2006-2007	2,404
2007-2008	1,452
2008-2009	1,013
2009-2010	971
2010-2011	1,430
2011-2012	1,676
2012-2013	1,563
2013-2014	1,421
2014-2015	865

^a Pelts confiscated by IDFG are included in the bobcat totals for 2004-2005 (2), 2005-2006 (1), 2007-2008 (2), and 2008-2009 (9).

Table 8. Bobcat harvest (CITES tagged) by method of take reported by Region, 2014-2015.

Region	Total harvest	Method of Take ^a								
		%	Trapping	%	Calling	%	With hounds	%	Incidental hunting	%
Panhandle	200	23	131	20	2	17	66	38	1	4
Clearwater	257	30	173	27	2	17	76	43	6	23
Southwest	133	15	107	17	3	25	17	10	6	23
Magic Valley	95	11	88	14	4	33		0	3	12
Southeast	85	10	68	11		0	15	9	2	8
Upper Snake	43	5	40	6		0	1	1	2	8
Salmon	47	5	39	6	1	8	1	1	6	23
Total	860	100	646	100	12	100	176	100	26	100

^a Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table 9. Otter pelts (CITES tagged) by Region during 2014-2015 season.

River otter quota, sex, and harvest by region						
Region	Harvest quota	Date quota reached	Male	Female	Unk	Total ^a Harvested
Panhandle	30	1/25/15	22	17		39
Clearwater	20	2/26/15	14	9	1	24
Southwest	30	12/14/14	12	6	1	19
Magic Valley	30	3/15/15	2	3		5
Southeast	15	3/15/15	21	15		36
Upper Snake	15	3/15/15	7	10		17
Salmon	15		10	4		14
Total	155		88	64	2	154

^a Total harvest may exceed harvest quota. The otter trapping 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 10. Otters caught by trappers and turned in for a reward^a, 2005 to present.

Species Season	Region ^b where otters were trapped ^c								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unk.	
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
2009-2010	1	3	0	4	1	0	0	0	9
2010-2011	4	4	1	4	0	0	2	0	15
2011-2012	6	7	1	0	0	2	0	0	16
2012-2013	6	3	3	5	1	0	2	0	20
2013-2014	1	1	11	2	2	4	3	0	24
2014-2015	6	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	14
Total	27	26	29	33	8	15	16	2	156

^a Rewards are offered (\$10) for non-target or accidentally captured otters.

^b Regional numbers correlate from 1 to 7 for Panhandle, Clearwater, Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon Regions respectively.

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

Table 11. Non-target fisher reported caught by trappers turned in for a reward, 2005 to present.

Season	Region ^a where fisher were trapped ^b							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2005-2006	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
2006-2007	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
2007-2008	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
2008-2009	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2009-2010	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	8
2010-2011	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
2011-2012	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	16
2012-2013	5	10	0	0	1	0	0	16
2013-2014	4	12	1	0	0	0	0	17
2014-2015	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	15
Total	20	67	2	0	1	0	0	90

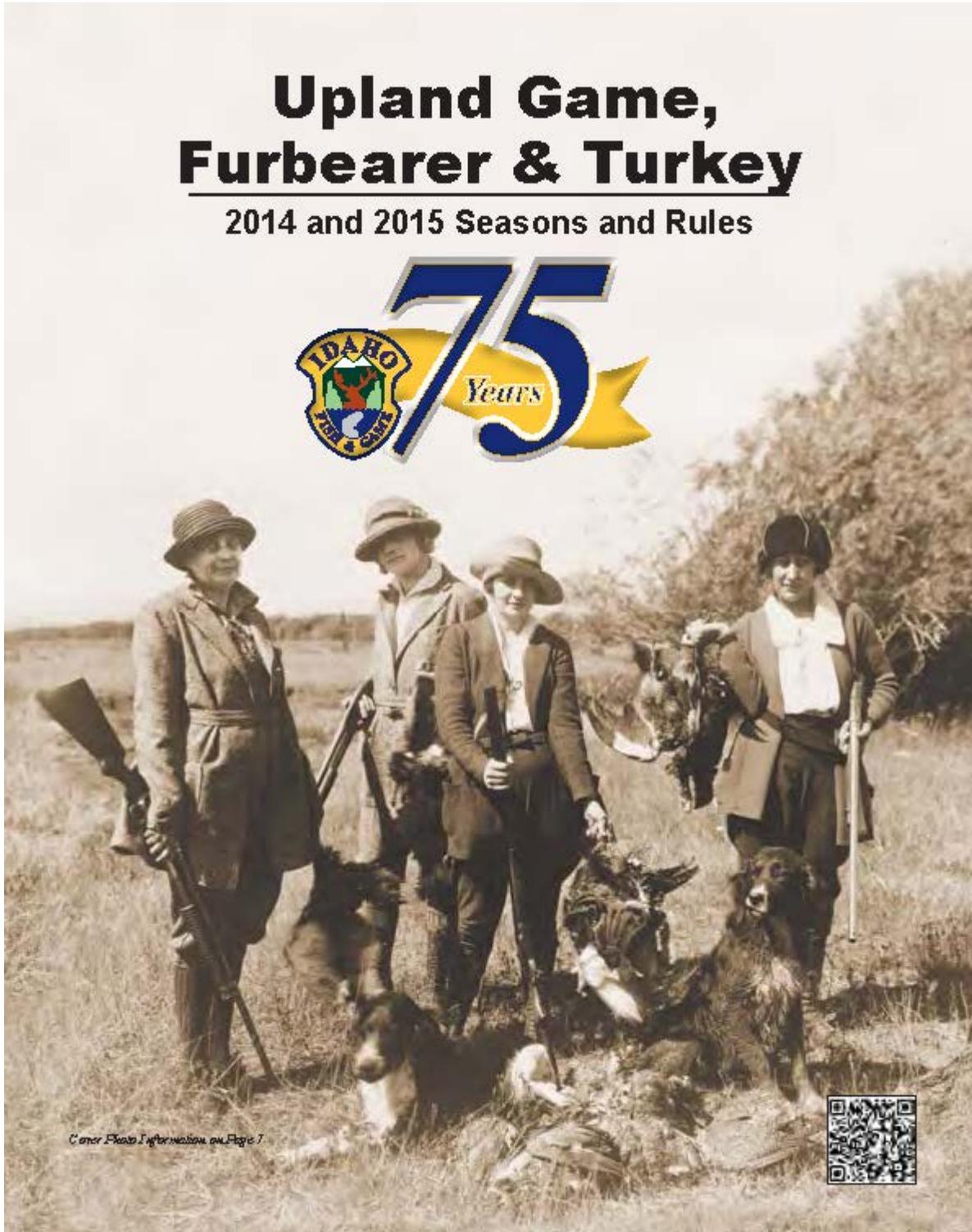
^a Regional numbers correlate from 1 to 7 for Panhandle, Clearwater, Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon Regions respectively.

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

APPENDIX A
IDAHO
2014-2015 SEASON
TRAPPING RULES

Upland Game, Furbearer & Turkey

2014 and 2015 Seasons and Rules



Center Photo Information on Page 7



Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Seasons by Region

The trapping brochure is no longer in print. These rules apply.

Panhandle Region: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Koontai, and Shoshone counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	October 15 - January 31
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 31

Clearwater Region: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and NezPerce counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	October 15 - January 31
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

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.**

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

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.

Southwest Region: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

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 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.**

Exceptions: Otter

Payette R.: From the confluence of the Middle Fork and South Fork Payette R. downstream to Banks; North Fork of the Payette R. from Cabarton Bridge downstream to Banks; and from Banks downstream to the confluence with the Snake River; **CLOSED.**

Boise R.: From Lucky Peak Dam to the confluence with the Snake River; **CLOSED.**

Snake R.: From Grandview to Farewell Bend; **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	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

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., Little Smoky Cr. (**except** Basalt Cr. is open), and Willow Cr.; **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 all lands within the Boise River WMA; **CLOSED**.

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

Exceptions: Mink

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

Exceptions: Muskrat

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

Southeast Region: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties

Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter^	October 22 - March 15

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**

Controlled Beaver Trapping Units

Unit	Season Dates	No. of Beaver
201	October 22 - April 15 That portion of Mink Creek drainage in Bannock County, except the East Fork Mink Cr. and West Fork Mink Cr.	10
202	October 22 - April 15 Pebble Creek drainage and Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County.	10
203	October 22 - April 15 Pearl Creek in Bear Lake County	5

See page 41 for applying for controlled beaver trapping permits.

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

Upper Snake Region: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter^	October 22 - March 15

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	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter^	October 22 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Custer County: Marsh Cr. drainage; **CLOSED**

Lemhi County: Dahlenega Cr.; **CLOSED**

Exceptions: Otter

Main Salmon R. downstream from North Fork, ID.; **CLOSED.**

River Otter Trapping Quota	
Region	Harvest Quota
Panhandle	40
Clearwater	20
Southwest	20
Magic Valley	30
Southeast	15
Upper Snake	15
Salmon	15
Statewide Total	155

Trapping on Game Preserves and Wildlife Management Areas

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
- 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.

Bobcat Mandatory Check and Report

Any person taking bobcat whether by hunting or trapping must comply with the mandatory check and report and pelt tag requirements by:

- Presenting the pelts of all bobcat taken to a regional office, the McCall office or official check point to obtain the appropriate pelt tag and complete a harvest report.

To have a pelt tagged, the pelt must be legally taken in Idaho and must be presented during normal working hours - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Pelts must be thawed before they can be checked.**

A fee of \$2 will be charged for each pelt tag. An additional \$1.75 vendor fee will be charged to each license holder when pelts are brought in for tagging.

No person, who does not possess a furbearer or taxidermist license and/or appropriate import documentation, shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 10 days after the close of the season, any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's).

No person, who does not possess a furbearer or taxidermist license and/or appropriate import documentation, shall sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat which does not have an official state export tag attached.

River Otter Reporting Requirements

- Pelts must be tagged by Fish and Game 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 Fish and Game personnel within 72 hours are subject to confiscation.
- River otter carcasses do not have to be turned in to Fish and Game, except for otters harvested after the season has closed, or otters in excess of the trappers' personal quota of two. Check with the Fish and Game 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 two otters is allowed for any one trapper, provided the harvest quota for that region is not exceeded.

Otter Quota/Season Closure:

- The otter season will close in each region 72 hours after the harvest quota for that region is reached. Trappers will be allowed to keep otters within this 72-hour period provided their personal quota of two has not been

reached. Otters 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 Fish and Game regional office during normal business hours or by calling 1-800-323-4334, 24 hours a day.
- All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. Additional closures have been identified to reduce potential conflicts between user groups.

Beaver Controlled Trapping Permits

No person may trap in a controlled trapping unit for the designated species without having a valid permit in possession for that controlled trapping unit.

In the event that a permit is issued based on erroneous information, the permit will be invalidated and may **not** be used. Fish and Game will notify the permittee of the invalidation of the permit.

Eligibility: Any person possessing a valid Idaho trapping license is eligible to apply for a controlled trapping unit permit.

Applications: Applications for controlled trapping permits shall be made on a form available at all Fish and Game offices and must be received at the Wildlife Bureau of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, or postmarked no later than September 15 of each year.

Any application which is unreadable, has incomplete or incorrect trapping license numbers, or which lacks the required information or fee will be declared void and will not be entered in the drawing. All applications will be considered final. They may not be resubmitted after correction.

Applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- No person may submit more than one application for a controlled beaver trapping permit.
- No group applications will be accepted.

Controlled Trapping Permit Drawing: Applications that are not drawn for the first choice unit will automatically be entered into a second choice drawing, provided the second choice applied for has not been filled.

Any permits left unfilled after the second choice drawing may be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Successful Applicants: Successful applicants will be notified by mail and must contact the person listed on the notice by October 14 to obtain the permit. The permittee, upon agreeing to follow trapping instructions for the unit, will be issued a permit.

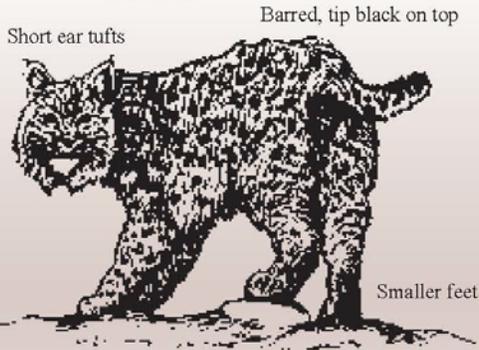
Revocation of Permits: Any permittee who does not comply with trapping laws, rules, proclamations, or the instructions for the trapping unit may have his or her permit revoked.

Alternate Permittee: Any revoked permit may be issued to an alternate, selected at the time of the drawing. If there is no alternate, or the alternate fails to comply with the "Successful Applicants" section above, the permit may be issued to the first eligible trapper answering a notification of vacant trapping unit as approved by the Regional Supervisor.

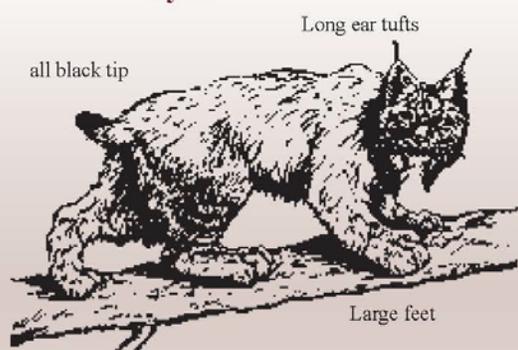
Bobcat and Lynx Identifying Characteristics

Be sure of what you shoot. The lynx is a threatened species which may be mistaken for a bobcat. The following comparisons are provided to help you distinguish between the two species.

Bobcat



Lynx

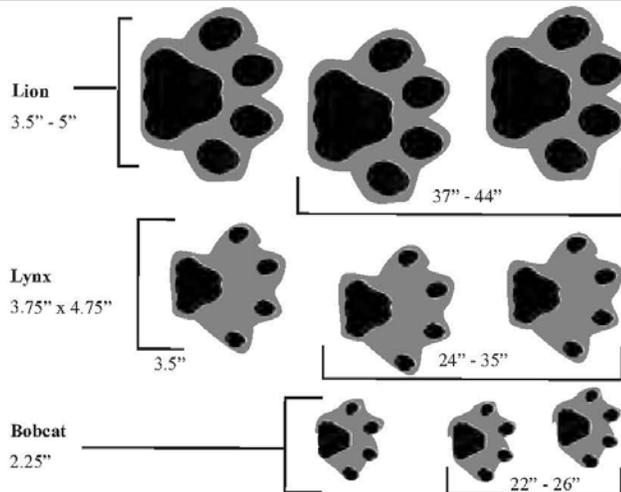


Note: The tail characteristics are most reliable for making positive identification.

<p>Tail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Underside of tail is white to the tip. 2. Usually some barring on upper side of tail with wide band at end. <p>Color: Brownish with clouding or spots over much of the upper body - usually distinct black spots on belly.</p> <p>Face:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ear tufts, if present, usually under one inch long. 2. Lacks prominent cheek tufts. <p>Feet: Appear small, lack hair development between pads - bare like those of domestic cat.</p> <p>Size: Appears smaller in overall size (length: 25-37 inches) (weight: 15-35 pounds).</p>	<p>Tail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has black tip which completely encircles the end. 2. No barring on upper side of tail between base and tip. <p>Color: Generally pale grey without distinct spotting.</p> <p>Face:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dark colored ear tufts, conspicuous, 1.5 inches long. 2. Cheek tufts prominent. <p>Feet: Appear large, pads covered with woolly hair.</p> <p>Size: Appears larger in overall size (length: 32-37 inches) (weight: 15-30 pounds). Longer hind legs give the lynx a stooped posture.</p>
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Tracks in Snow and Stride Length Comparison for Mountain Lion, Lynx and Bobcat

- Mountain lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat foot is much smaller.
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.
- Note track size and stride length (distance between first and last foot) differences between species.



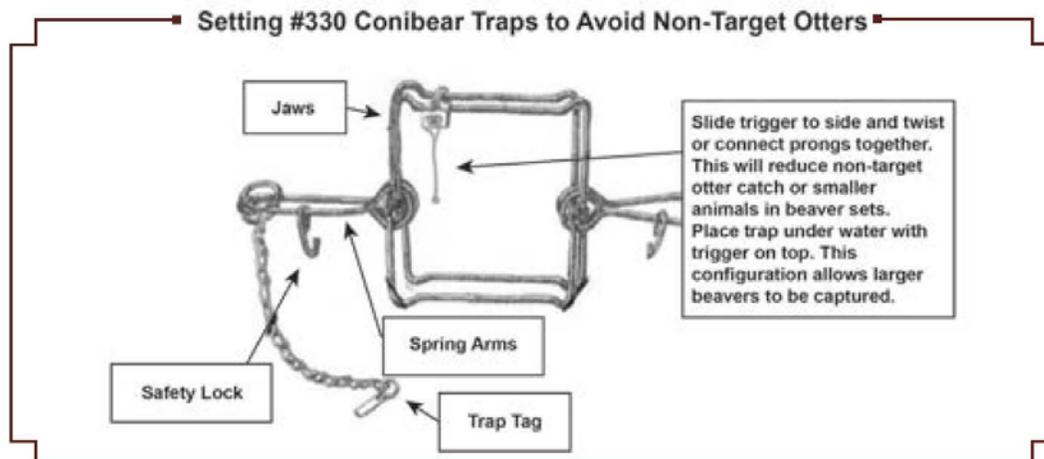
Guidelines to Reduce Injury & Minimize Non-Target Catches Such as Wolverines and Lynx

- Set pan tension for wolf traps to at least 8 pounds of pressure to prevent a wolverine or lynx from firing a trap set for wolf.
- Make marten sets on leaning poles no larger than 4" in diameter and set at a 45 (or greater) degree angle with trap and bait placed at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level.
- Do not use large bodygrip traps if wolverines or lynx tracks are observed in the vicinity of a set.
- When using baits larger than 5 pounds, traps should be set at least 30 feet from the bait - farther is better.
- To avoid wolverines in snares set for wolves, place the bottom of the snare loop just below knee cap level (18- 21" above the ground or packed snow surface).
- Use #2 or smaller foothold trap for furbearers or consider a rubber-padded foothold trap if a #3 size or larger is used.
- If using drags, use at least 8-feet of sturdy chain.
- If a larger trap is preferred use padded-jaw or laminated offset jaws, such as padded #3 coil-springs, to minimize injury.
- Anchor all traps solidly, including small bodygrip traps. A wolverine may be able to pull out or bend or break a small trap if it is anchored securely.
- Select habitat less likely to have lynx or wolverines (open fields or semi-open country near rocks, ridges, and trees).
- Avoid using rabbit parts as bait.
- If you observe wolverine or lynx tracks - it is best not make a set in the area.
- If using a staked set, stake the trap so that a wolverine cannot get entangled around a solid object after being captured. Trap chains should be sturdy and equipped with at least two swivels. J-hooks should be spot-welded closed.
- Carry a catchpole to release non-target animals alive.

Guidelines to Minimize Non-Target Catch

IF YOU CATCH A WOLVERINE OR LYNX

Immediately contact Fish and Game or your local sheriff's office to assist with the safe release of the animal.



<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>

43

Submitted by:

David Smith

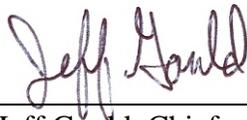
Technical Records Specialist

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



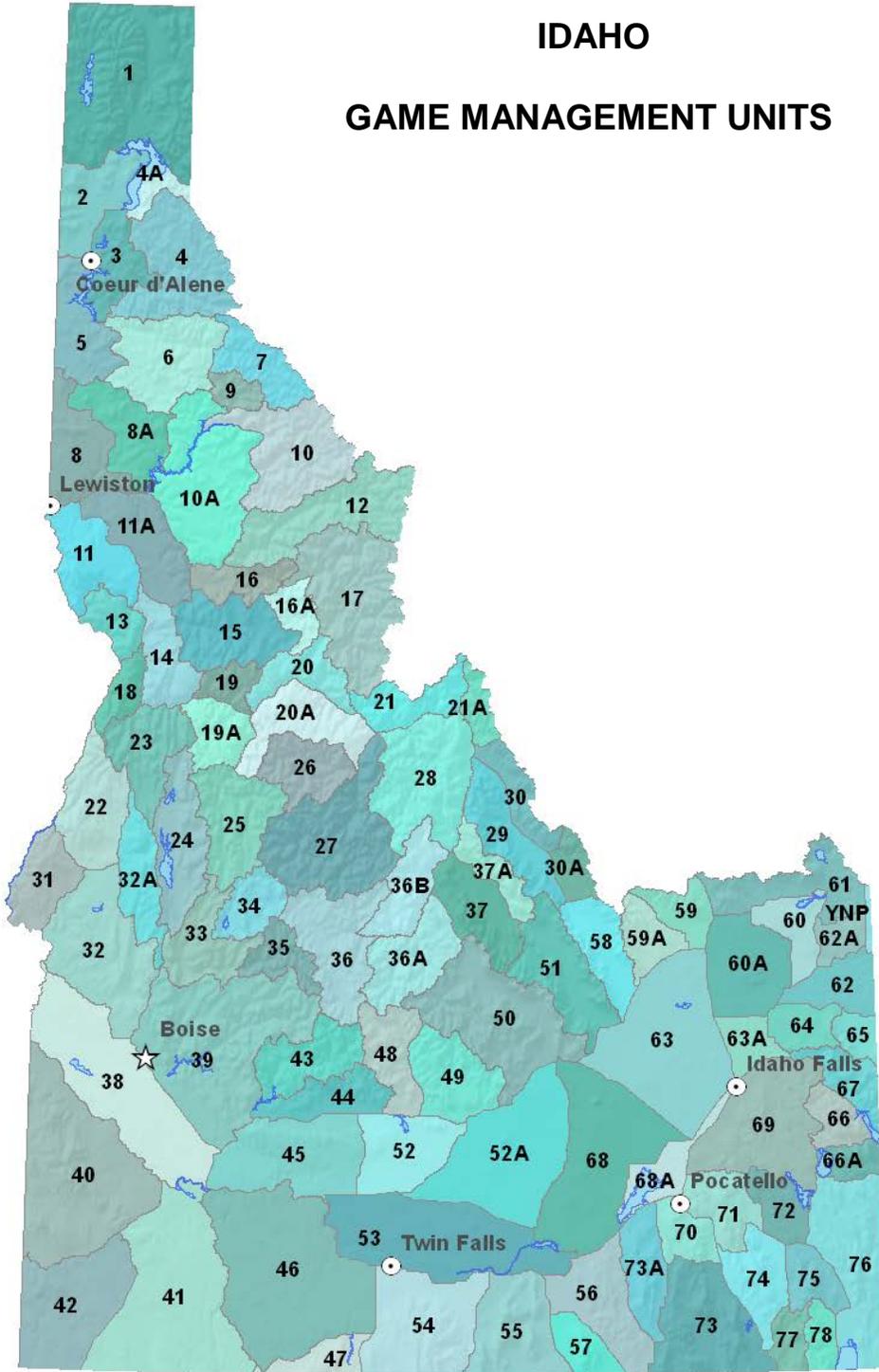
Bradley Compton
Assistant Chief, Bureau of Wildlife
Federal Aid Coordinator



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.

