

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Virgil Moore, Director**

**Surveys and Inventories**

**FY2018 Statewide Report**



**FURBEARER**

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

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2018

Boise, Idaho

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## **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, 2017 to June 30, 2018

### **STATEWIDE FURBEARER**

#### **Abstract**

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) sold 1,830 trapping licenses for the 2017-2018 season, up 4% from the previous year (1,759). Mandatory harvest reports for the 2017-2018 season were submitted by 1,243 (65%) of the 1,830 licensed trappers (Table 1). Trappers reported harvesting (trapping and hunting) 20,452 animals, up from 15,969 for 2016-2017. A total of 10,853 pelts were reported sold for a value estimated at \$372,572.26. Pelts sold and estimated value were up from the 7,545 pelts reported sold for a value estimated at \$195,250.77 during 2016-2017. Statewide rank by dollar value per species pelt was wolf, bobcat, coyote, otter, marten, red fox, beaver, badger, skunk, spotted skunk, raccoon, mink, weasel, and muskrat respectively. Price per pelt for all harvested species ranged from an average of \$299.35 for wolves to \$2.98 for muskrat. The top 5 furbearers based upon total dollar value of pelts sold were coyote, bobcat, marten, muskrat, and red fox (Table 2). Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 1,360 animals, up from 921 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. Completion of a trapper education course will be mandatory starting July 1, 2018 for anyone who purchased their first Idaho trapping license on or after July 1, 2011.

### **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 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 account 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, otter, or bobcat.

Additionally, guidelines to reduce injury and minimize non-target catches such as wolverine, fisher, 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 2017-2018 season, 1,830 trapping licenses were sold, including 1,796 residents (1,627 adult and 169 junior residents under 18 years-of-age) and 34 non-residents. The number of licenses sold increased slightly (4%) from the previous season (Table 1).

### **Mandatory Trapper Harvest Reports**

Harvest reports were submitted by 1,243 (68%) of the 1,830 licensed trappers for the 2017-2018 season (Table 1). The fur harvest (trapping and hunting), based on 804 reporting trappers who harvested, was 20,452 animals, up from 15,969 animals in 2016-2017 (Table 2). The largest increase was with coyote and muskrat. There were 4,628 trapped in 2017-2018, and 3,287 trapped in 2016-2017 for coyote and 8,923 in 2017-2018 and 7,681 in 2016-2017 for muskrat. These numbers include incidental catches, or those species captured that were not the intended target of the trap. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$34.33 each, up from \$25.88 the previous year. Based on reports received, trappers harvested an average of 25 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 14 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$34.33 and 14 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$480.62, up from \$284.68 the previous season (Table 2).

Using an approximation of 65% reporting we can estimate harvest for all trappers, including those who did not submit a report, was 31,465 animals taken and 16,697 pelts sold. We estimate as high as \$573,188 in value for pelts sold. The estimated statewide value of pelts sold is \$1,041,696, up from \$657,501 previous season (Table 2). Because of human nature and the law requiring a report in order to purchase the next year's license, those that harvested are more

likely to report than those that did not. Therefore, we believe these calculations may be slightly higher than reality.

Muskrat, coyote, beaver, skunk, and bobcat respectively, were the most frequently harvested species. Price per pelt for all harvested species ranged from an average of \$291.42 for bobcats (\$271.59 in 2016-2017) to \$2.98 for muskrats (\$3.89 in 2016-2017). The top 5 furbearers based upon total dollar value of pelts sold were coyote, bobcat, marten, muskrat, and red fox (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 otter per 100 trap-nights than other species (Table 5) during the 2017-2018 season. Statewide population trends based on CPUE, based upon animals trapped per 100 trap-nights have fluctuated 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, marten, mink, otter, raccoon, spotted skunk, stripped skunk, weasel, and wolf. Statewide CPUE over the last five years was slightly decreasing for muskrat, and this species has demonstrated a downward trend for the past 12 years. The 5-year trend in CPUE for bobcats show a marked increase, up from a low of 0.4 in 2014, and 2016 represented the highest reported CPUE in 12 years (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 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 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 1,360 bobcats for CITES tags in 2017-2018, up from 921 in 2016-2017 (Table 7). The lynx season remained closed. More bobcats were harvested from the panhandle Region (20%) than any other region (Table 8). Trapping accounted for 70% of the statewide bobcat harvest, followed by the use of hounds (23%).

## **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 125 legally harvested otters, including incidental captures, during the 2017-2018 trapping season. Sex ratios of legally harvested river otters were 65% male and 35% female with 4 unknown. Only the Panhandle region met their quota prior to the end of the trapping season. In addition, the Department tagged 11 non-target, illegal, road killed, and unknown cause of mortality otters outside of the season, for a total of 132 otters tagged from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 (Table 9).

## **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), 3 fisher, and one wolverine (Table 11) surrendered to the Department for reimbursement. Since the 2004-2005 trapping season, 69 fisher and 180 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.

Magic Valley region staff conducted a habitat suitability survey on Rock Creek to determine the feasibility of releasing beaver within that drainage. Department staff attended the annual meeting of the Wood River RC & D Beaver Committee. Though it is very much a U.S. Forest Service project, Department staff provided technical assistance with the relocation of 14 beaver captured in the Soldier Creek, Little Smoky Creek, and Malad River areas into northeastern portions of the South Hills (Wahlstrom Hollow, Terells Corral, Sawmill Creek, and East Fork Dry Creek). Ten beaver from the same trap locations were released in the Fairfield Ranger District in Willow Creek, Paradise Creek, and Buttercup Creek.

Upper Snake region Department employees and volunteers live trapped and relocated 13 beaver to relocation sites on Targhee Caribou National Forest. Department employees and volunteers also assisted the forest service in the installation of 12 Beaver Dam Analogues.

## **Administrative Activities and Coordination**

Public input on proposed 2016-2018 furbearer seasons was collected at regional offices and the state office via a survey on the Department's website. In January 2016, the Commission set furbearer harvest rules for the 2016-2018 seasons which were valid from February 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.

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 <sup>a</sup>		Estimated active trappers <sup>b</sup>	
	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
2015-2016	1,771	248	28	2,047	1,575	77	966	61	1,255
2016-2017	1,583	155	21	1,759	1,144	65	674	59	1,036
2017-2018	1,627	169	34	1,830	1,243	68	804	65	1,184

<sup>a</sup> Reporting trappers who harvested includes trapping and hunting.

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

Table 2. Statewide furbearers trapped, harvested, and pelt value based on trappers who reported, 2017-2018.

Species	Trappers reporting a harvest	Animals trapped	Pelts/trapper <sup>a</sup>	Animals hunted	Total Animals harvested (a)	Animals sold (b)	% Sold (b / a)	Money received (c)	Price/Pelt <sup>b</sup> (c / b = d)	Total Dollar value (a * d = e)	% of total value	Estimated statewide pelt value <sup>c</sup> (e / .65)
Badger	59	218	4	10	228	48	21%	\$747.55	\$15.57	\$3,550.86	0.52%	\$5,462.87
Beaver	304	1,647	5	0	1,647	434	26%	\$7,146.98	\$16.47	\$27,122.30	4.01%	\$41,726.61
Bobcat <sup>d</sup>	294	778	3	22	800	451	56%	\$131,428.56	\$291.42	\$233,132.70	34.43%	\$358,665.69
Coyote	459	3,832	8	796	4,628	3,006	65%	\$177,062.79	\$58.90	\$272,603.66	40.26%	\$419,390.24
Marten	95	843	9	0	843	590	70%	\$17,135.47	\$29.04	\$24,483.39	3.62%	\$37,666.76
Mink	114	476	4	0	476	306	64%	\$2,813.45	\$9.19	\$4,376.48	0.65%	\$6,733.04
Muskrat	260	8,923	34	0	8,923	5,220	59%	\$15,538.22	\$2.98	\$26,560.83	3.92%	\$40,862.82
Otter <sup>d</sup>	63	80	1	0	80	19	24%	\$891.50	\$46.92	\$3,753.68	0.55%	\$5,774.90
Raccoon	211	757	4	35	792	207	26%	\$2,250.10	\$10.87	\$8,609.08	1.27%	\$13,244.74
Red Fox	184	787	4	5	792	346	44%	\$8,273.84	\$23.91	\$18,938.96	2.80%	\$29,136.87
St Skunk	142	918	6	37	955	144	15%	\$2,095.80	\$14.55	\$13,899.23	2.05%	\$21,383.43
Sp Skunk	22	61	3	0	61	10	16%	\$135.00	\$13.50	\$823.50	0.12%	\$1,266.92
Weasel	25	97	4	0	97	49	51%	\$168.00	\$3.43	\$332.57	0.05%	\$511.65
Wolf	110	125	1	5	130	23	18%	\$6,885.00	\$299.35	\$38,915.22	5.75%	\$59,869.57
Actual Total (65%)		19,542	--	910	20,452	10,853	--	\$372,572.26	\$34.33	\$677,102.46		
Est. Total (100%) <sup>c</sup>		30,065		1,400	31,465	16,697		\$573,188.09		--	100.00%	\$1,041,696

<sup>a</sup> Pelts/trapper is determined by animals trapped only.

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

<sup>c</sup> Estimated totals and statewide pelt values were determined based on the assumption that the harvest reported by trappers represented 65% of actual harvest if all active trappers had submitted a harvest report.

<sup>d</sup> 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 <sup>a</sup>													
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel	Wolf <sup>b</sup>
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
2015-2016	11	4	2	1	6	12	5	10	9	7	13	8	14	3
2016-2017	11	6	2	1	4	7	3	12	9	5	13	10	14	8
2017-2018	8	7	2	3	5	12	14	4	11	6	10	9	13	1

<sup>a</sup> Non-target “other” species trapped are excluded from this ranking.

<sup>b</sup> Wolves were not trapped until 2011-2012..

Table 4. Distribution of furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers\*, 2017-2018.

County	Species													
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Striped skunk	Spotted skunk	Weasel	Wolf
Ada	69	70	2	153		69	520		56	26	90		1	
Adams		5	24	76	1	1	37		4	31		1		1
Bannock		27	3	47	13	10	59	1	33	6	5	2		
Bear Lake		99	1	25		30	797	1	39	5	4		2	
Benewah	1	4	11	27		11	57	6	11		6		3	6
Bingham	3	93	44	148		5	318	2	25	10	9	1		
Blaine	2	35	21	75	1					10	10			
Boise		37	5	11	37	1	10	1	44	46	33			
Bonner		90	37	59	15	8	500	6	21		4	3	64	7
Bonneville	2	64	17	87	47	5	137		22	7	28			
Boundary		68	14	58	59	11	259	3	9		21		2	29
Butte		6	34	37					3	7	1	1		
Camas	7	13	5	91	3	1	55	1		17	31	2		
Canyon	40	120	1	69		82	499	1	24	35	103			
Caribou		36		10	1	7	104		1	4				
Cassia	2	6	31	143		11	12		2	31	20			
Clark			8	41	9					21			5	
Clearwater		27	23	64	28	5	52	3	17		15			6
Custer	5	51	40	251	59	1	117	3	5	34	22	1	1	7
Elmore	5	69	45	127	11	9	647	2	17	52	64			
Franklin		8	1	6		1	246		21	5	5			
Fremont	34	87	1	89	183	9	430	2	29	42	28		3	2
Gem	1	60	2	19		7	121		9	10	10			
Gooding	2	48	17	121		12	468	8	33	53	68	11		
Idaho	2	46	63	113	54	60	20	3	9	11	78	3	2	29
Jefferson	1	7		48	1	2	199	4	16		5			
Jerome			15	93		4	30			2	9			
Kootenai		60	34	119		10	559	5	45	1	32		2	2
Latah		57	15	81		3	30	3	10		5			

Table 4 continued

County	Species													
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Striped skunk	Spotted skunk	Weasel	Wolf
Lemhi	3	48	15	235	99	20	839	3	27	171	29		2	4
Lewis	1			11					3		1		2	
Lincoln	5	3	25	159		1	77		5	15	15	2		
Madison		21		20	27	9	226	4	19	7	19		1	
Minidoka	1	4	10	99		6	406		6	16	2			
Nez Perce	1	17	17	141			9	2	55	2	12	26		
Oneida		8	22	56			88		23		36			
Owyhee	10	39	87	158		2	248	1	17	19	2	2		
Payette		39		34		9	189		28	3	3			
Power	1		10	57		7	41		16	1	11			
Shoshone		88	25	26	23	5	30	7		1			6	30
Teton	2	6		78	70		76		3	18	24			1
Twin Falls	17	13	39	374		19	275	3	24	16	18	4	1	
Valley		1	9	2	102	17				31				1
Washington	1	67	5	94		6	136	5	11	21	40	2		

\*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, 2017-2018.

Species	Number of animals trapped <sup>a</sup> (a)	Total number of nights trapped (b)	Average number of traps set/night (c)	CPUE $a/(b*c) * 100$
Badger	218	2,001	11	1.01
Beaver	1,647	6,293	5	5.04
Bobcat	778	9,216	13	0.64
Coyote	3,832	16,259	15	1.54
Marten	843	2,246	15	2.45
Mink	476	2,909	10	1.60
Muskrat	8,923	5,793	17	9.22
Otter	80	961	3	3.26
Raccoon	757	4,994	7	2.19
Red Fox	787	5,463	14	1.04
Striped skunk	918	3,811	8	2.97
Spotted skunk	61	633	11	0.84
Weasel	97	782	9	1.37
Wolf	125	5,956	20	0.11

<sup>a</sup> Reflects only animals trapped and does not include animals hunted.

Table 6. Catch-Per-Unit Effort based on trappers reporting they trapped, 2006 to present.

Year	CPUE by species													
	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Spotted skunk	Striped skunk	Weasel	Wolf <sup>a</sup>
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
2015-2016	1.12	5.77	0.62	1.90	2.02	1.50	9.11	2.47	2.28	1.34	3.02	0.62	1.46	0.14
2016-2017	2.00	5.97	0.88	1.61	2.36	1.59	8.83	2.39	3.39	1.32	3.86	1.52	1.77	0.10
2017-2018	1.01	5.04	0.64	1.54	2.45	1.60	9.22	3.26	2.19	1.04	2.97	0.84	1.37	0.11

<sup>a</sup> Wolf trapping seasons began in 2011-2012

Table 7. Bobcat pelts tagged with USFWS CITES export tags by IDFG, 2006 to present.

Year	Bobcat <sup>a</sup>
2006-2007	2,404
2007-2008	1,452
2008-2009	1,013
2009-2010	971
2010-2011	1,430
2011-2012	1676
2012-2013	1,563
2013-2014	1,421
2014-2015	865
2015-2016	907
2016-2017	921
2017-2018	1,360

<sup>a</sup> 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, 2017-2018.

Region	Total harvest	%	Method of Take <sup>a</sup>							
			Trapping		Calling		With hounds		Incidental hunting	
				%		%		%		%
Panhandle	266	20	143	15	15	42	103	33	3	6
Clearwater	248	18	130	14	3	8	101	32	12	23
Southwest	237	17	162	17	6	17	57	18	12	23
Magic Valley	258	19	229	24	6	17	4	1	16	30
Southeast	127	9	89	9	2	6	30	10	5	9
Upper Snake	143	11	133	14	4	11	4	1	0	0
Salmon	81	6	60	6	0	0	16	5	5	9
Total	1,360	100	946	100	36	100	315	100	53	100

<sup>a</sup> Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table 9. Otter pelts (CITES tagged) by Region during 2017-2018 season.

River otter quota, sex, and harvest by region						
Region	Harvest quota	Date quota reached	Male	Female	Unk	Total <sup>a,b</sup> Harvested
Panhandle	40	3/23	27	15	6	48
Clearwater	20		11	6		17
Southwest	20		14	6	1	21
Magic Valley	30		8	6	3	17
Southeast	15		4	2		6
Upper Snake	15		10	5		15
Salmon	15		5	3		8
Total	155		79	43	10	132

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> Total includes non-target, road kill, illegal, and unknown mortality otters

Table 10. Otters caught by trappers and turned in for a reward<sup>a</sup>, 2006 to present.

Season	Region <sup>b</sup> where otters were trapped <sup>c</sup>								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unk.	
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
2015-2016	5	3	5	1	0	0	1	0	15
2016-2017	0	2	5	0	0	2	1	0	10
2017-2018	9	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	14
Total	41	33	41	26	8	14	15	2	180

<sup>a</sup> Rewards are offered (\$10) for non-target or accidentally captured otters.

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

<sup>b</sup> 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, 2006 to present.

Season	Region where fisher were trapped <sup>b</sup>							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2006-2007	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
2007-2008	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
2008-2009	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2009-2010	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	7
2010-2011	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
2011-2012	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	6
2012-2013	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	7
2013-2014	6	13	1	0	0	0	0	20
2014-2015	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
2015-2016	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
2016-2017	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
2017-2018	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	18	49	2	0	0	0	0	69

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

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

**APPENDIX A**  
**IDAHO**  
**2017-2018 SEASON**  
**TRAPPING RULES**

# Idaho Upland Game, Furbearer & Turkey

2016 & 2017 Seasons and Rules



*Photo Pudelpointer and Chukar, courtesy Carl Stiefel*

*Effective February 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018*

*See Migratory Bird Seasons and Rules for Crow, Doves and Sandhill Crane*

**idfg.idaho.gov**

## 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 <sup>^</sup>	November 1 - March 31

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 <sup>^</sup>	November 1 - March 15

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 <sup>^</sup>	November 1 - March 15

Furbearer Seasons

### 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.

### 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, **Hunter 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 River:** 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 River:** From Lucky Peak Dam to the confluence with the Snake River - **CLOSED**.

**Snake River:** From Grandview to Farewell Bend - **CLOSED**.

\* Indicates species can also be hunted.

<sup>^</sup> 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, Hunter 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.

**To see interactive maps of furbearer hunting and trapping exceptions, please visit the IDFG website: [idfg.idaho.gov/trap](http://idfg.idaho.gov/trap).**

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

**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., and public lands (Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management properties) within the Willow Creek drainage. - **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**.

Birch Creek Drainage above the Forest Service boundary - **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.	5
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
204	October 22 - April 15 Logan River drainage, including Beaver Creek and Whites Creek Drainage	5

To apply for controlled beaver trapping permits see page 31.

Furbearer Seasons

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 <sup>^</sup>	October 22 - March 15

**Exceptions: Beaver**

**Bonneville County:** All public lands (Idaho Fish and Game Tex Creek WMA, Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management properties) within the Willow Creek drainage - **CLOSED**.

**Clark County:** All public lands 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 <sup>^</sup>	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**.

\* Indicates species can also be hunted.  
<sup>^</sup> All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.

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:

- Andrus
- Billingsley Creek
- Blackfoot River
- Boise River
- Boundary Creek
- C.J. Strike
- Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh
- Carey Lake
- Cartier Slough
- Coeur d'Alene River
- Cottonwood
- Craig Mountain
- Deer Park
- Farragut
- Fort Boise
- Georgetown Summit
- Hagerman
- Market Lake
- McArthur Lake
- Montpelier
- Montour
- Mud Lake
- Niagara Springs
- Payette
- Pend Oreille
- Portneuf
- Red River
- St. Maries
- Sand Creek
- Snow Peak
- Sterling
- Tex Creek

Furbearer Seasons

## Beaver, Bobcat, River Otter Permits and Reporting

### 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.

### Mandatory Furtaker Harvest Report

All trappers are required to fill out the mandatory furtaker harvest report form provided by Fish and Game. The completed mandatory report must be returned to Fish and Game, Wildlife Bureau, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, by July 31. Any trapper failing to send in a report by July 31 shall be refused a license to trap animals for the ensuing year. (It would be helpful to Fish and Game personnel to receive the report forms as soon as trappers are able to submit them. This will assist us in getting the departmental progress reports done in a timely manner.)

All permittees shall return their controlled trapping unit permits and controlled trapping reports to the office from which they obtained their controlled trapping unit permits within 10 days of the close of the season for the controlled trapping unit.

The mandatory furtaker harvest report form is available on the Fish and Game website at [idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov).

## Attention Marten Trappers!

- Trappers are encouraged to set marten traps at least 2 feet above the ground or snow level to reduce the harvest of female martens.
- Use cubby boxes, with a closed front and 2 1/2 inch entrance hole, to avoid catching fishers.



*Photo by United States Fish and Wildlife Service*

## To Avoid Catching Dogs:

- It is recommended trappers use body-gripping or Conibear traps only under water.
- Set traps at least 4 feet above ground when used on land.
- Use only small Conibears (160 or smaller), set 7 inches back inside a long hard box that is no larger than 7 inches in width, preferably with a lid extending beyond the opening. (See photo).
- Always look for places without human or dog activity when setting Conibears, and post signs indicating lethal traps are in use.



## Furbearer - Methods of Take and Rules

### Attention Trappers

Pending rules concerning mandatory trapper education are being reviewed by the 2016 Legislature. If approved, beginning on July 1, 2017, every trapper who purchased their first trapping license after June 30, 2010 will be required to attend and pass a mandatory trapper education course before they can purchase an Idaho Trapping license. Equivalent certification from another state or country qualifies. The Idaho Wolf Trapper Education course does not qualify. All trappers will be notified of related rule and law changes by mail, as well as information will be posted on Fish and Game's website and through statewide media.

### It is Unlawful

- To trap without a valid trapper's license; see page 45 for exceptions.
- To destroy or damage a muskrat or beaver house.
- To trap in or on a muskrat house.
- To destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.
- To use any part of a domestic or wild origin game bird, big game, upland game, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife for bait in trapping furbearing animals, unprotected wildlife, or predatory wildlife.
- To set, place or stake any trap or snare during the closed season.
- To possess a live furbearer taken from the wild.
- To hunt any animal or bird by aid of a spotlight, flashlight or artificial light of any kind; except unprotected or predatory animals on private land after obtaining written permission and on public lands after obtaining the required permit from an Idaho Fish and Game regional office. It is lawful to hunt raccoons on public lands without a permit if such taking is not in violation of state, county, or city laws, ordinances, or regulations.
- To buy furs without a valid fur buyers license.

### Definitions

**Bait** is defined as any animal parts; except bleached bones or liquid scent is not considered bait.

**Drainage** is defined as the geographic region or area that provides water to a specific stream, river, pond, lake, or reservoir. It includes the specific body of water and all its tributaries.

**Furbearing animals** are defined as the following species: marten, fisher, mink, otter, beaver, muskrat, bobcat, lynx, red fox (includes all color phases found in Idaho), and badger.

**Ground set** is defined as any foothold trap, body-gripping trap, or snare originally set in or on the land (soil, rock, etc.). This includes any traps elevated up to a maximum of 36 inches above the natural ground level.

**Non-target species** are defined as any species caught for which the season is closed.

**Other set** is defined as any set not defined as a ground or water set, including without limitation, elevated sets originally set 36 inches or more above natural ground level.

**Predatory wildlife** is defined as the following species: coyote, raccoon, jackrabbit, skunk and weasel.

**Public highway** is defined as the traveled portion of, and the shoulders on each side of, any road maintained by any governmental entity for public travel, and includes all bridges, culverts, overpasses, fills, and other structures within the limits of the right-of-way of any such road. See page 34.

**Public trail** is defined as any trail designated by any city, county, state, or federal transportation or land management agency on the most current official map of the agency.

**Trapping** shall mean taking, killing, and capturing wildlife by the use of any trap, snare, deadfall, or other device commonly used to capture wildlife, and the shooting or killing of wildlife lawfully trapped, and includes all lesser acts such as placing, setting, or staking such traps, snares, deadfalls, and other devices, whether or not such acts result in the taking of wildlife, and every attempt to take and every act of assistance of any other person in taking or attempting to take wildlife with traps, snares, deadfalls or other devices.

**Water set** is defined as any trap or snare originally set in or on any body of water. This shall include traps on floats in the water and those that are set with a minimum of one-third of the trap submerged. The term water set applies to traps set on beaver dams, in bank holes and in the water at bank slides.

### Methods of Take—Trapping

**Furbearing Animals:** No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, or otter by any method other than trapping. In Valley County and portions of Adams County, red fox may be taken only by trapping.

**Trapping:** No person trapping furbearing animals or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- Use for bait, any part of a domestic or wild origin game bird, big game, upland game, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife.
- Use live animals as bait or an attractant.
- Use any set within 30 feet of any visible bait.
- Use a dirt hole set with bait unless the person ensures that the bait remains covered at all times to protect raptors and other meat-eating birds from being caught accidentally.
- Place any ground, water, or other sets on, across, or within 5 feet of center line of any maintained public trail.
- Place any ground set on, across, or within any public highway, except ground sets may be placed underneath bridges and within and at culverts that are part of a public highway right-of-way.

### Methods of Take—Hunting

**Furbearing Animals:** No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat or otter by any method other than trapping. In addition to predatory or unprotected wildlife, the following furbearers may be hunted: badger, bobcat and red fox. In Valley County and portions of Adams County, red fox may be taken only by trapping.

**Hunting:** No person hunting permissible furbearing animals (badger, bobcat and red fox) or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- Hunt with any weapon the possession of which is prohibited by state or federal law.

No person hunting raccoon at night shall:

- Hunt from a motorized vehicle.
- Use any light attached to any motor vehicle.
- Hunt on private land without obtaining written permission from the landowner or lessee.

Also see General Hunting Rules, pages 41-45.

### Hound Hunting Rules

Dogs may be used to pursue black bears, mountain lions, bobcat, raccoon, or fox in either an open take season where use of dogs is allowed, or during a dog training season. During a dog training season, bobcat may be pursued and treed, but may not be captured, killed, or possessed.

Dogs may not be used to take or pursue any other big game species. Any dog found running at large and actively tracking, pursuing, harassing, attacking or killing any big game animal, **except** black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon or fox may be destroyed without criminal or civil liability by the Director of Fish and Game, any peace officer, or other persons authorized to enforce Idaho wildlife laws.

#### Hound Hunter Permit

The following persons must have a valid hound hunter permit in possession when dogs are being used to hunt:

- Anyone who owns pursuit dogs.
- Anyone having control of dogs owned by another person.
- Anyone that harvests a black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon, or fox with the use of dogs, except clients of licensed outfitters are not required to have a hound hunter permit.

### Closed Areas

Hunting, trapping, killing or molesting of furbearing animals, predatory and unprotected wildlife is prohibited in the following areas except as provided in Idaho Code Section 36-1107:

- Craters of the Moon National Monument, see page 42 for a full description.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County.

- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho and Nez Perce counties.
- That portion of Ada County:
  - Within Veterans Memorial Park.
  - Within one quarter mile of the Boise River from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Glenwood Bridge.
  - Between State Highway 21 and the New York Canal from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Boise City limits.
- Stanley Creek Wildlife Interpretive Area in Custer County.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
- On any of those portions of State game preserves, State wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges and bird sanctuaries for which trapping closures have been declared by legislative or Commission action.
- All or portions of national wildlife refuges, **except** as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.

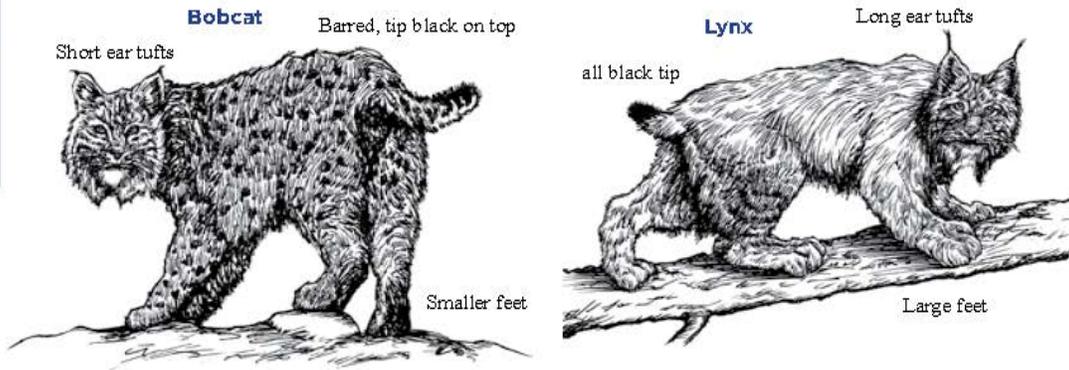
### Common Season Boundaries

Whenever a stream or river forms a boundary between two different trapping areas for the same furbearer, the stream or river channel proper shall open for trapping on the earliest opening date and close on the latest closing date of the two seasons involved.

## Bobcat and Lynx Identifying Characteristics

*Be sure of what you shoot.*

The lynx is a threatened species which may be mistaken for a bobcat.

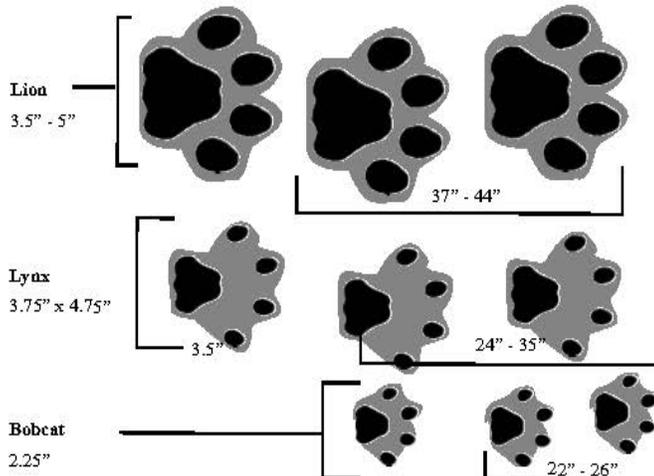


**Note: The tail characteristics are most reliable for making positive identification.**

	Bobcat	Lynx
<b>Tail</b>	Underside of tail is white to the tip. Usually some barring on upper side of tail with wide band at end.	Has black tip on tail which completely encircles the end. No barring on upper side of tail between base and tip.
<b>Color</b>	Brownish with clouding or spots over much of the upper body—usually distinct black spots on belly.	Generally pale grey without distinct spotting.
<b>Face</b>	Ear tufts, if present, usually under one inch long. Lacks prominent cheek tufts.	Dark colored ear tufts, conspicuous, 1.5 inches long. Cheek tufts prominent.
<b>Feet</b>	Appear small, lack hair development between pads—bare like those of domestic cat.	Appear large, pads covered with woolly hair.
<b>Size</b>	Appears smaller in overall size (length: 25-37 inches) (weight: 15-35 pounds).	Appears larger in overall size (length: 32-37 inches) (weight: 15-30 pounds). Longer hind legs give the lynx a stooped posture.

### 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

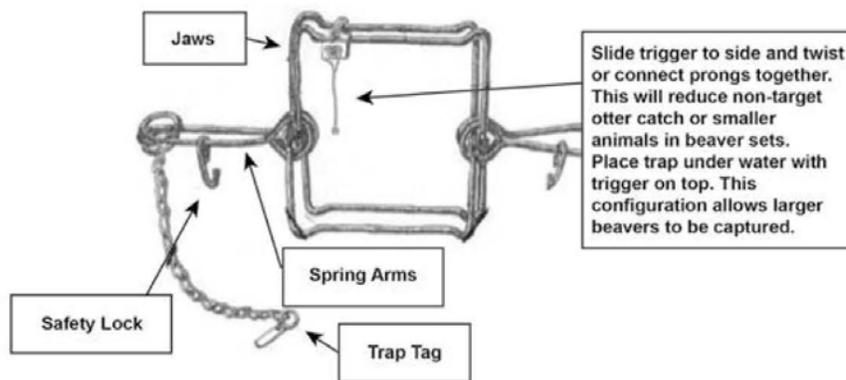
- Set pan tension for wolf traps to at least 8 pounds of pressure to prevent a wolverine or lynx from firing a trap set for wolf.
- Make marten sets on leaning poles no larger than 4" in diameter and set at a 45 (or greater) degree angle with trap and bait placed at least 4 feet above the ground or snow 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 to 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.

### IF YOU CATCH A LYNX OR WOLVERINE

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

Guidelines to Minimize Non-target Catch

## How to Avoid Non-Target Otters Setting #330 Conibear Traps



## Trapper Responsibilities

### Ethics and Responsibility

Demonstrating ethics and responsibility while trapping sends many positive messages that nontrappers understand and appreciate more than any explanation. These ethics relay the message that we are proud to be trappers, we care about our activities, and we care about the resource we're using.

#### Key ingredients for trappers:

- **Maintain good landowner relations**
- **Respect other outdoor enthusiasts**
- **Avoid using traps near heavily used recreational trails. Trail users may have dogs which could be attracted to traps**
- **Keep familiar with improvements in trapping equipment and techniques**
- **Appreciate perceptions of nontrappers**
- **Respect the resource**

#### Some Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Humanness

- Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.
- Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to hold more animals and reduce the chance of injuries.
- Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.
- Use short trap chains for most land sets, especially those targeted for fox and coyote.
- Use "stop-loss" traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.
- Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.
- Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species – pad catches are desirable for fox, coyote, raccoon and many other animals because they cause fewer injuries.
- Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.
- Use cage, box or species-specific traps near barns, outbuildings and other locations where domestic animals may be present.
- Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.
- Use secure methods of attaching traps – tailor methods to hold the largest species you may catch.
- Use traps with padded or laminated jaws where the risk of non-target catches is high.
- Use caution when setting body-gripping traps or snares.
- Do not set more traps than you can check in 72 hours even in bad weather.

### Three Key Messages to Use When Educating the Public About Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management

- Furbearing animals are a sustainable, renewable resource. Some people have the notion that furbearing animals are rare or endangered. We need to reassure them that legally trapped animals are numerous and their populations secure.
- Trapping is controlled through strict regulations that are enforced by conservation officers.  
  
People may fear that trapping is a "free-for-all," with no sort of control or regulation. To overcome this fear, we must reinforce the message that trapping is a highly regulated activity in Idaho and nationwide.
- Trapping provides a wide range of benefits to society.  
  
People often ask, "Is trapping really necessary?" We need to tell them about the wildlife management, economic (to the trapper and for damage control), and lifestyle benefits of trapping.

***Be a proud trapper  
by being a good  
representative of  
trapping.***

**T**rappers are encouraged to use warning signs to inform recreational users that traps or snares are in the area. Trappers may print off copies of the signs from [idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov) and post them near their trap lines. Using warning signs is voluntary.



*The sign is a courtesy of Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with the Idaho Trapper's Association.*

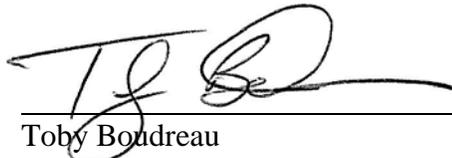
Submitted by:

David Smith

Grants/Contracts Specialist

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



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Toby Boudreau  
Assistant Chief, Bureau of Wildlife  
Federal Aid Coordinator

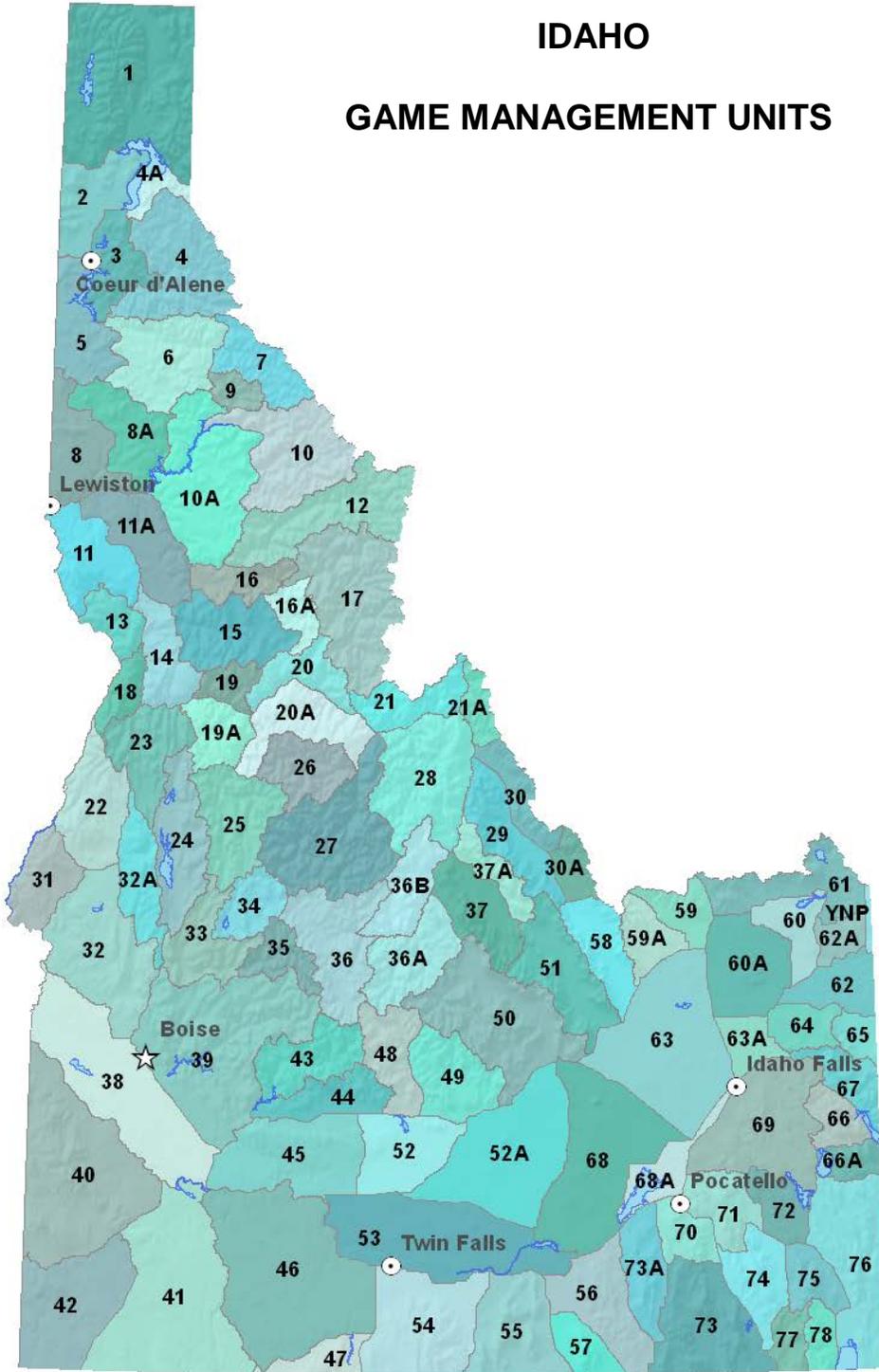


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Scott Reinecker, Chief  
Bureau of Wildlife

# 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.

