

2006-07 BOBCAT PELT TAGGING REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORT
STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

A Contribution of Pittman-Robertson Funds
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Grant W-39-R-13

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Mike Hayden
Secretary

Prepared by

Matt Peek
Furbearer Biologist

Joe Kramer, Director
Fisheries and Wildlife
Division

Mike Mitchener, Wildlife
Section Chief



June 2007

PERMISSION TO QUOTE

This is an annual progress report that may contain information that is subject to future modification or revision. Persons wishing to quote from this report, for reproduction or reference, should first obtain permission from the Chief of the Wildlife Section, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 512 SE 25th Avenue, Pratt, KS 67124.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please write to:

**The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Diversity and Civil Rights Programs- External Programs
4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203**



2006-07 BOBCAT PELT TAGGING REPORT

Prepared by Matt Peek, Furbearer Biologist



An enumeration of bobcats taken in Kansas has been conducted annually since 1978. This project is accomplished with tags provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, under the CITES Export Tag Program. In 2006, Kansas was issued 7000 yellow "KS BCAT" tags. Also on hand were 487 yellow "KS BCAT" tags from the previous season and 700 white general replacement ("FWS REPL") tags from previous years. A total of 137 KDWP employees and offices were issued tags for the 2006-07 furharvesting season.

CITES tags were affixed to the pelts of 7234 bobcats that were taken in Kansas during the furharvesting season. This included 6 bobcats salvaged or confiscated by KDWP. This was the highest harvest on record, surpassing the previous highest harvest of 6021 bobcats tagged in 2005-06 (**Figure 1**) by 20%. The present harvest increase is the result of an increasing bobcat harvest from the previous season in four of the five KDWP administrative regions (**Figure 2**). Only KDWP region 4 saw a decline in pelt tagging activity.

Bobcats were taken in 100 of 105 counties. The number of bobcats taken in each county is presented in **Figure 3**. This figure also shows the percent change in harvest from last season. For the most part, no pattern is apparent when considering the location of counties with changing (either increasing or decreasing) harvests.

The estimated number of bobcats taken each day of the season is presented in **Figure 4**. This figure is noteworthy in that harvest remained strong late in the season until the last few days when furharvesters were likely pulling their traplines. This tends to indicate the current harvest level is not significantly impacting bobcat populations at the statewide level.

A total of 1794 furharvesters took bobcats during the season. Bobcats may be taken using equipment authorized in K.A.R. 115-5-1 or salvaged during the harvest season. **Table 1** provides a break down of the methods furharvesters used to take bobcats. **Table 2** indicates the primary species being pursued at the time the bobcat was taken. The number of furharvesters having various total season bags is given in **Table 3**.

After the initial tag allocation, tag accountability was maintained via reports from KDWP employees or offices issued tags. After the season, each was responsible for inventorying unused tags and accounting for all tags they were issued. Unused tags were then destroyed by each tagger or returned to the Emporia office. Bobcats taken outside the furharvesting season (n = 3) were not included in this analysis.

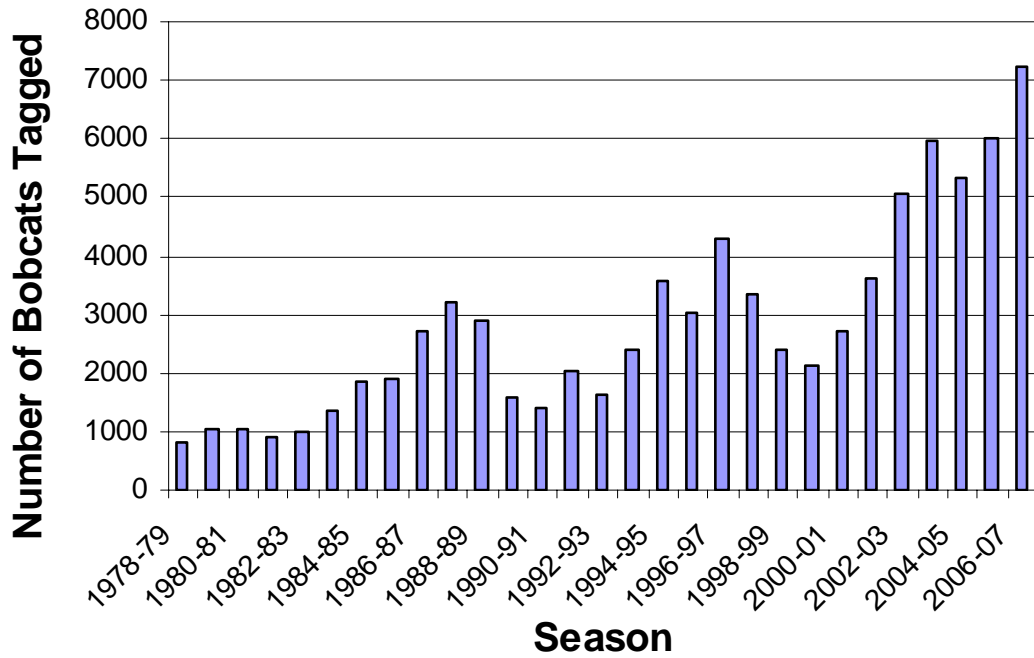


Figure 1. Number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since tagging began in 1978.

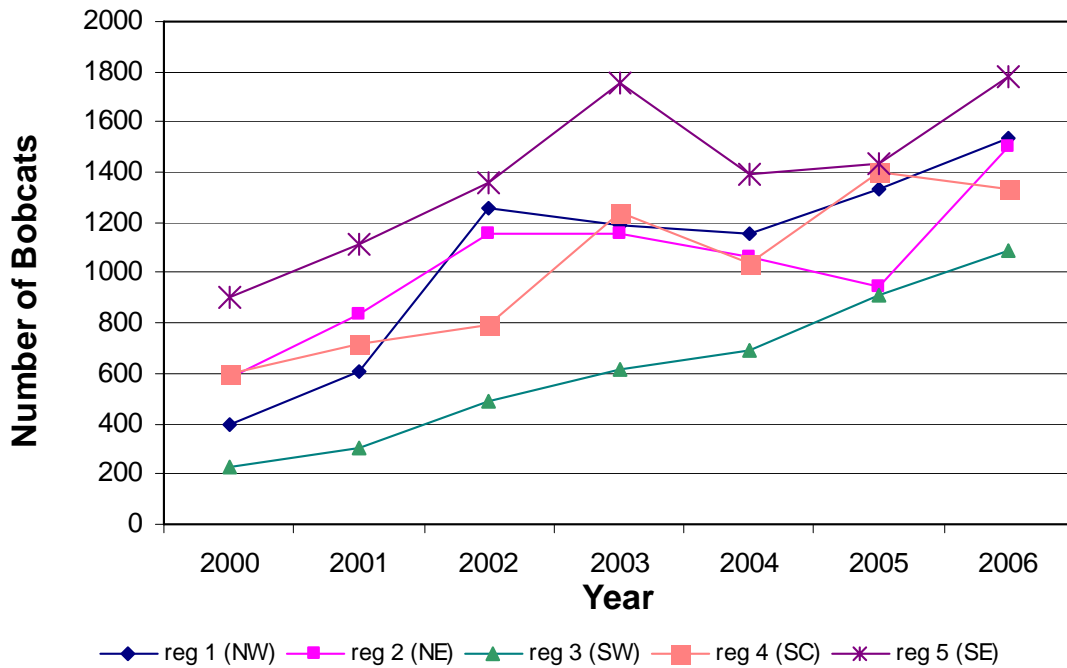


Figure 2. Number of bobcats harvested annually since 2000 in each of KDWP's 5 administrative regions.

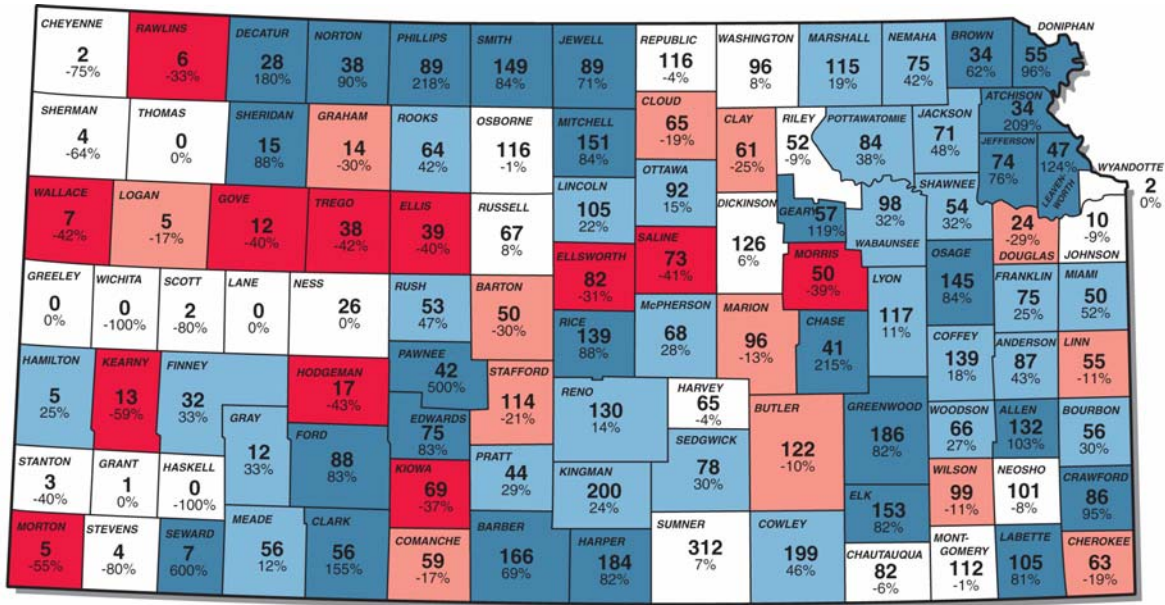


Figure 3. Number of bobcats taken per county during the 2006-07 furharvesting season in Kansas (n = 7227).

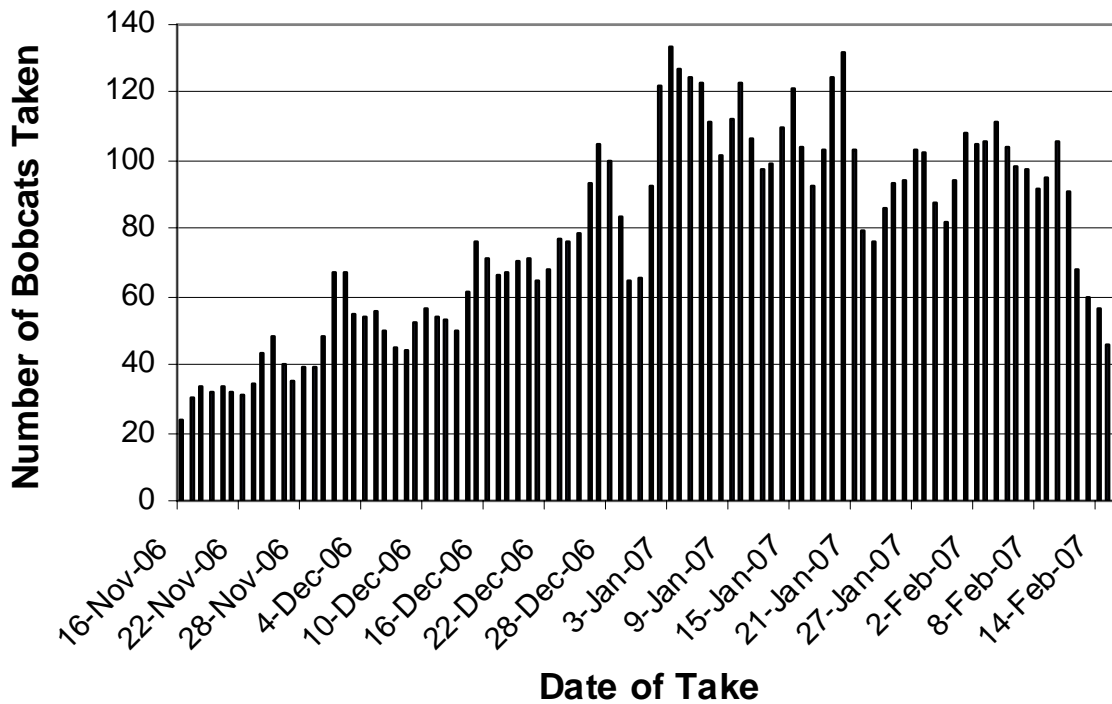


Figure 4. Estimated number of bobcats taken per day during the 2006-07 furharvesting season. (Data smoothed: $y_{(i)} = .5y_{(i)} + .25y_{(i+1)} + .25y_{(i-1)}$.)

Table 1. Methods used to take bobcats during the 2006-07 furharvesting season in Kansas.

METHOD	Number of Furharvesters*	Number of Bobcats taken	Percent of Bobcats taken
TRAPPING			
(1) Foothold Trap	643	2907	40.2%
(2) Conibear Trap	215	532	7.4%
(3) Cage Trap	335	1184	16.4%
(4) Snare	285	958	13.2%
SUB-TOTAL	1478	5581	77.1%
HUNTING			
(5) Rifle	661	1141	15.8%
(6) Shotgun	112	156	2.2%
(7) Archery	75	80	1.1%
(8) Hounds	25	42	0.6%
Unspec. Hunt	7	10	0.1%
SUB-TOTAL	880	1429	19.8%
OTHER			
(9) Salvage	176	198	2.7%
(10) Unspecified	7	26	0.4%
SUB-TOTAL	183	224	3.1%
TOTAL	2541	7234	100.0%

* Furharvesters who took bobcats by more than one method are represented multiple times.

Table 2. Primary species being pursued when bobcats were taken during the 2006-07 furharvesting season in Kansas.

SPECIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
FURBEARERS		
Bobcat	6359	87.9%
Coyote	336	4.6%
Raccoon	143	2.0%
Fox	7	0.1%
Other	3	0.0%
SUB-TOTAL	6848	94.7%
BIG GAME		
Deer	124	1.7%
SMALL GAME		
Quail	5	0.1%
Pheasant	35	0.5%
Rabbit	8	0.1%
Other	7	0.1%
SUB-TOTAL	55	0.8%
OTHERS		
Unspecified	9	0.1%
Salvage	198	2.7%
SUB-TOTAL	207	2.9%
TOTAL	7234	100.0%

Table 3. Total season bag of bobcats per furharvester during the 2006-07 season.
Data includes 6 bobcats taken by KDWP.

Total Season Bag	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters	Cumulative Percent of Furharvesters	Total number of Bobcats Taken	Percent of Bobcats Taken	Cumulative Percent of Bobcats Taken
1	713	39.74%	39.74%	713	9.86%	9.86%
2	300	16.72%	56.47%	600	8.29%	18.15%
3	208	11.59%	68.06%	624	8.63%	26.78%
4	137	7.64%	75.70%	548	7.58%	34.35%
5	77	4.29%	79.99%	385	5.32%	39.67%
6	76	4.24%	84.23%	456	6.30%	45.98%
7	52	2.90%	87.12%	364	5.03%	51.01%
8	37	2.06%	89.19%	296	4.09%	55.10%
9	25	1.39%	90.58%	225	3.11%	58.21%
10	19	1.06%	91.64%	190	2.63%	60.84%
11	20	1.11%	92.75%	220	3.04%	63.88%
12	21	1.17%	93.92%	252	3.48%	67.36%
13	10	0.56%	94.48%	130	1.80%	69.16%
14	13	0.72%	95.21%	182	2.52%	71.68%
15	10	0.56%	95.76%	150	2.07%	73.75%
16	10	0.56%	96.32%	160	2.21%	75.96%
17	7	0.39%	96.71%	119	1.65%	77.61%
18	7	0.39%	97.10%	126	1.74%	79.35%
19	1	0.06%	97.16%	19	0.26%	79.61%
20	3	0.17%	97.32%	60	0.83%	80.44%
21	4	0.22%	97.55%	84	1.16%	81.60%
22	3	0.17%	97.71%	66	0.91%	82.51%
23	5	0.28%	97.99%	115	1.59%	84.10%
24	4	0.22%	98.22%	96	1.33%	85.43%
25	1	0.06%	98.27%	25	0.35%	85.78%
26	5	0.28%	98.55%	130	1.80%	87.57%
27	3	0.17%	98.72%	81	1.12%	88.69%
28	2	0.11%	98.83%	56	0.77%	89.47%
29	3	0.17%	99.00%	87	1.20%	90.67%
30	3	0.17%	99.16%	90	1.24%	91.91%
31	1	0.06%	99.22%	31	0.43%	92.34%
32	3	0.17%	99.39%	96	1.33%	93.67%
34	1	0.06%	99.44%	34	0.47%	94.14%
36	2	0.11%	99.55%	72	1.00%	95.13%
37	2	0.11%	99.67%	74	1.02%	96.16%
40	1	0.06%	99.72%	40	0.55%	96.71%
41	1	0.06%	99.78%	41	0.57%	97.28%
42	1	0.06%	99.83%	42	0.58%	97.86%
46	1	0.06%	99.89%	46	0.64%	98.49%
52	1	0.06%	99.94%	52	0.72%	99.21%
57	1	0.06%	100.00%	57	0.79%	100.00%
Total	1794			7234		