

2011-12 Furbearer Harvest Survey

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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

Grant W-39-R-18

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Robin Jennison
Secretary

Prepared by

Matt Peek
Furbearer Biologist

Joe Kramer, Director
Fisheries and Wildlife
Division

Mike Mitchener, Wildlife
Section Chief



September 2012

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**

2011-12 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Prepared by Matt Peek, Furbearer Biologist

The Furbearer Harvest Survey (FHS) is mailed to furharvesters at the end of the trapping season. Since 2001, 70% of the furharvester license holders from each of nine physiographic provinces in Kansas have been surveyed. Recipient names are randomly selected from an online database of all furharvester license buyers.

Survey questions are divided into 5 sections: general information, trapping activities, hunting activities, running activities, and a special section (Appendix 1). Questions were the same from 1983-2008. However, in 2009, a change in question structure in the trapping section was made in an attempt to collect more accurate catch-per-unit-effort data (see questions 8-11 in Appendix 1).

Also beginning in 2009, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) began using SurveyMonkey™ to facilitate web-based surveys. Online surveys are cheaper and more efficient than paper. They save on paper, printing, postage, and data entry fees, plus they reduce human error associated with bulk data entry. However, online surveys are not convenient for everyone, and more research is needed before an entirely online survey design is considered. Consequently, our survey design includes both online and paper options in an attempt to maximize response rate and minimize non-response bias. We also offered a grand prize drawing and 10 KDWP magazine subscriptions to respondents as an incentive for completing the survey in a timely manner (see Appendices 1 and 2). Drawing winners are provided in Appendix 3.

There were a total of 6877 furharvester licenses sold in 2011, including 6625 resident licenses, 193 junior residents, and 59 nonresidents. From these, a sample of 4810 license holders (70%) was selected. The online database contained e-mails for 1318 of these individuals. An initial e-mail was sent to these individuals on April 17, 2012 containing a request for participation and a link to the survey. A reminder e-mail was sent out on April 27, 2012.

An initial mailing consisting of a 4.25"x5.5" folded (4-sided) postcard (Appendix 2) was sent out on May 25, 2012 to furharvesters without a deliverable e-mail on file and to the nonrespondents of our e-mail request (n = 4292). The postcard directed recipients online to the survey link, but could also be returned postage paid to either request a paper survey or report no furharvesting activity during the 2011-12 season – which completed these individuals' response to the survey. A second postcard mailing was sent out on June 20, 2012 to 3345 nonrespondents, and paper surveys (Appendix 3) were mailed out as survey requests were received via postcard. A summary of the survey effort including response rates can be found in Table 1. The number of responses and the response rate of furharvesters within each physiographic province can be found in Figure 1.

E-mailing a survey request and a direct link to the survey has proven to be an efficient and economic way to conduct the survey. There is minimal expense in this technique, the response rate is higher than by paper, and the quality of data is generally better since some response requirements are incorporated into the online survey. The main issue with this technique is that most license holders do not have an e-mail associated with their contact information. Consequently, respondents are asked to provide an e-mail address for future surveys (287 new e-mails were received). It will still be necessary to offer paper surveys until questions about the

biases between furharvesters with and without e-mails can be answered, but the e-mail option represents an efficient alternative to be used in conjunction to paper for now.

Information provided by furharvesters is an estimate of their harvest and activities during the season. Results from bobcat and swift fox pelt tagging have always been lower than the harvest estimates derived from the FHS, suggesting an overestimate by the FHS. Consequently, harvest figures obtained from this survey should be considered representative of annual harvest indices rather than parameters.

Survey results were extrapolated to represent total harvest and activity. Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated they participated in furharvesting activities during the 2011-12 season (i.e. were active). This is down from 82% last season. Estimated furharvester distribution based on the county in which they conducted most of their furharvesting activities can be found in Figure 2.

Furharvesters spent an estimated 190,981 user days in pursuit of furbearers, including 112,041 days trapping, 60,813 days hunting, and 18,127 days running. These figures represent a 12% decrease in combined user days from the previous season. Average days afield by trappers, hunters, and runners were similar to last season (40, 20 and 41 last season versus 40, 20 and 39 this season, respectively) but fewer furharvesters reportedly afield led to the decline in total user days. Participation in various combinations of furharvesting activities is presented in Table 2.

Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trapping, hunting and running are presented in Tables 3-5, respectively. As is typically the case, trappers accounted for the majority of harvest of most furbearer species. Though far more coyotes are taken by hunters than trappers, most hunters who take coyotes by hunting do not have a furharvesting license, so take by these individuals isn't represented in this survey.

Historical furbearer harvest in Kansas based on the Furbearer Harvest Survey can be found in Table 6. Harvest relative to last year and relative to the five year average was highly variable between the species. Notably though, our three most important species (raccoon, bobcat and coyote) each saw gains of over 20% from the five year average.

Table 1. Sample size and response rate of survey methods used to conduct the Furbearer Harvest Survey.

	Number	Non-deliverables	Response Rate	
			Number	Percent
E-mail	1318	99	535	43.9
Postcard	4292 ^a	8	1243 ^b	20.5 ^c
Total	4810	8	1778	37.0

^aPostcards were sent to those without e-mails and e-mail nonrespondents.

^bIncluded 603 online responses, 218 paper surveys (of 265 requests – 82%), and 422 “did not furharvest” responses by postcard.

^cResponse rate excluding 679 e-mail non-respondents was 30% (1243 of 4123).

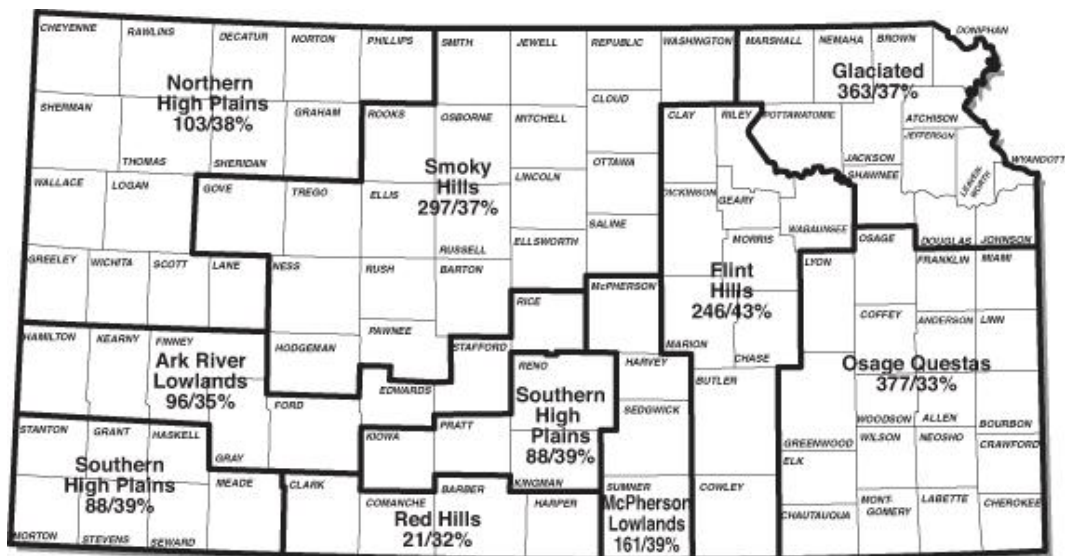


Figure 1. The number of survey respondents (number) and the response rate of furharvesters (percent) within each physiographic province in Kansas.

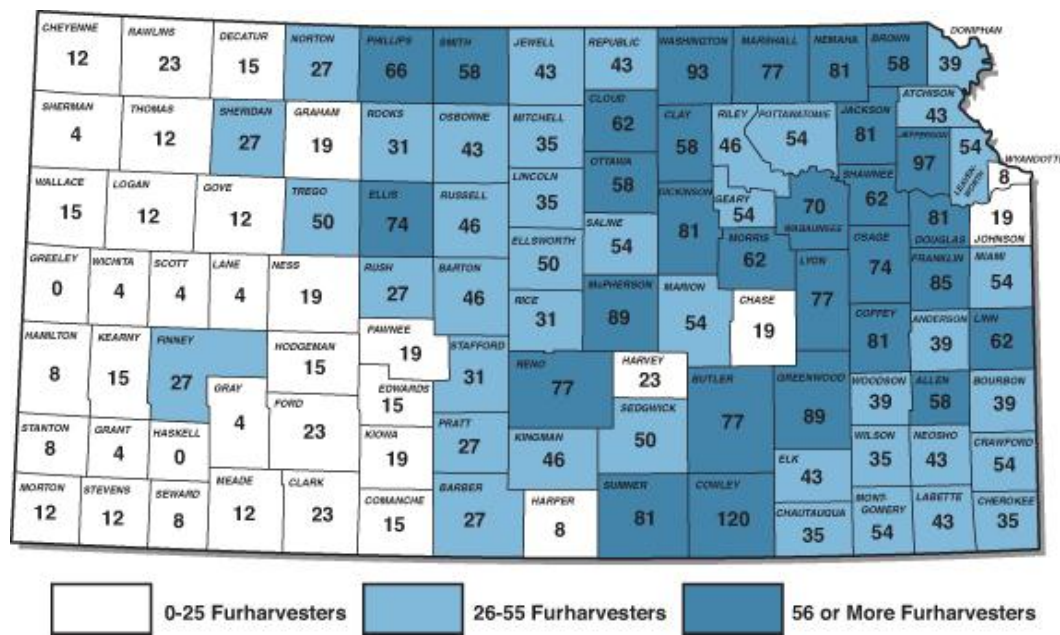


Figure 2. Estimated furharvester distribution in Kansas based on the county in which active survey respondents conducted most of their furharvesting activities.

Table 2. Estimated number and percent of furharvesters who participated in various furharvesting activities, and total estimated participation in trapping, hunting and running by furharvesters in 2011-12.

Activity	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters
Inactive	2561	37.2
Trap only	1191	17.3
Hunt only	1230	17.9
Run only	4	0.1
Trap and hunt	1423	20.7
Trap and run	8	0.1
Hunt and run	267	3.9
Trap, hunt and run	193	2.8
Total Participation		
Total trappers	2816	40.9
Total hunters	3114	45.3
Total runners	472	6.9

Table 3. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trappers in Kansas during the 2011-12 harvest season.

Species	Number of Trappers Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	Total Days Traps Set	Ave Traps/Day	Captures/100 Trap Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Trapper
Badger	196	1,355	5,373	11.4	5.6	27	1.8
Beaver	268	9,048	5,806	5.9	10.7	106	8.7
Bobcat	462	6,262	15,537	13.9	2.7	39	3.5
Coyote	456	18,255	14,860	12.5	4.9	343	10.3
Red Fox	99	608	1,799	7.0	4.0	9	1.6
Gray Fox	17	46	291	8.2	0.7	2	0.7
Swift Fox	10	313	113	24.4	3.9	25	8.1
Mink	61	201	1,430	7.0	4.2	4	0.9
Muskrat	185	8,282	2,892	8.5	16.7	220	11.6
Opossum	551	41,285	15,834	12.6	6.8	191	19.4
Otter	32	139	354	4.5	4.7	2	1.1
Raccoon	677	80,430	24,697	15.5	10.0	400	30.7
Skunk	398	13,305	11,312	13.0	4.1	119	8.6
Weasel	1	8	20	8.0	20.0	2	2

Table 4. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for hunters in Kansas during the 2011-12 harvest season.

Species	Number of Hunters Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	Harvest/100 Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Hunter
Badger	48	232	30.2	5	1.3
Bobcat	365	1,107	12.5	12	0.8
Coyote	678	18,193	50.4	120	6.9
Red Fox	55	124	10.3	5	0.6
Gray Fox	18	8	0.2	1	0.1
Swift Fox	15	12	-	1	0.2
Opossum	96	2,473	131.0	80	6.7
Raccoon	337	20,523	108.8	150	15.7
Skunk	50	739	65.7	28	3.8

Table 5. Treeing success, participation, and activity levels for furharvesters in Kansas during the 2011-12 running season.

Species	Number of Runners Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Take*	Take/100 Days*	Maximum Take*	Ave Take/Runner*
Bobcat	13	58	11.7	3	1.2
Red Fox	1	58	10.0	15	15.0
Gray Fox	1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Opossum	35	859	52.3	20	6.3
Raccoon	115	14,516	110.2	250	32.6

*Take refers to the number of animals "seen or treed" while running.

Table 6. Historical harvest of furbearers in Kansas based on furbearer harvest survey.

Seasons	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat Tagging *	Bobcat	Coyote	Gray Fox	Red Fox	Swift Fox Tagging *	Swift Fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Otter Tagging*	Otter	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Weasel
1969-70	311	8583		373	9758	81	193			2189	43773	10452			63004	2466	28
1970-71																	
1971-72																	
1972-73	305	5178		458	13385	102	508			1508	27828	11421			46101	3174	
1973-74																	
1974-75																	
1975-76	1202	6484		1454	30150	539	638			1875	51083	45994			102760	8703	
1976-77																	
1977-78	4054	5826		1705	35138	141	703			1764	38167	45625			74731	9824	
1978-79	4530	5315	825	1705	50195	193	533			2192	36639	51156			101450	15184	
1979-80	5882	19140	1050	1955	51380	245	888			3378	75962	56937			133311	23297	
1980-81	2501	14939	1027	1966	35238	274	645			3304	59063	49741			94754	16495	
1981-82	2673	5440	882	1730	32310	171	672			2342	30703	59916			93823	15917	
1982-83	3708	7653	1014	1686	36526	247	795		1000	3583	49528	58138			87425	11453	
1983-84	1754	8908	1334	2471	31466	93	1193		740	1600	21791	19347			67042	4985	
1984-85	1774	11814	1869	3212	33066	122	876		426	1937	24863	31142			108694	6806	
1985-86	1348	15543	1916	2837	34418	117	487		314	1507	15241	30955			96708	6909	
1986-87	3009	14732	2720	4522	40999	107	961		1161	2571	25561	59190			119488	10460	21
1987-88	2402	12474	3192	4805	41460	123	1113		650	2619	33814	54714			118878	8847	23
1988-89	1417	13989	2878	4492	25387	235	672		442	1545	22822	24117			72028	4233	5
1989-90	476	9607	1560	2482	15314	30	462		264	630	7114	9775			38274	2043	4
1990-91	442	5214	1409	1694	11968	34	242		76	423	4083	5493			27137	1258	0
1991-92	571	5429	2043	2453	15941	77	509		93	713	3043	12427			43977	3576	0
1992-93	687	3044	1618	2307	16076	59	328		64	252	2115	8101			33710	3125	2
1993-94	649	5288	2413	2900	16595	55	731		73	368	2571	12727			48203	2610	146
1994-95	781	12123	3590	5352	17022	204	1003	48	34	746	6215	19692			64951	4131	9
1995-96	522	8089	3020	3932	14009	99	753	33	45	291	3598	16120			58600	2877	2
1996-97	874	10653	4296	7041	19794	179	1232	33	144	473	5451	29980			93190	8065	40
1997-98	876	13337	3347	6233	14398	71	823	17	25	718	9679	49437			108727	9323	101
1998-99	958	8606	2385	3938	12125	152	490	7	15	419	7445	26512			71709	6375	107
1999-00	451	8845	2121	3578	11920	191	455	5	0	257	7252	13051			51307	3887	11
2000-01	1094	9388	2731	4018	15054	97	559	6	24	164	3964	14294			56143	5460	0
2001-02	434	9617	3597	5286	15329	35	584	32	0	180	3348	17080			72918	5559	0
2002-03	910	7716	5054	6521	18577	62	578	86	203	246	4596	32595			79538	10255	0
2003-04	1760	7250	5963	9654	25407	64	625	178	470	303	2823	42125			94506	10952	40
2004-05	1469	7737	5353	7062	23322	140	783	86	129	230	4845	43356			84132	10910	0
2005-06	1312	7186	6021	7458	21861	89	459	58	135	206	5733	38909			66458	12730	3
2006-07	1882	11028	7234	9998	32494	179	774	70	309	439	8150	46965			87241	15583	0
2007-08	2020	6658	5668	9381	29305	84	976	65	136	209	5120	51138			93687	17669	4
2008-09	1619	6855	4080	5944	27100	84	707	98	27	177	5767	46113			85061	16748	0
2009-10	1109	4572	1944	3210	21554	67	426	39	130	179	5681	18763			41355	7384	0
2010-11	1898	9774	4809	8098	39152	43	988	43	126	371	15193	48296			97858	12755	5
2011-12	1591	9191	5918	7412	36460	54	732	113	325	210	8282	43758	127	139	101924	14060	8
5 yr trend	-6.7%	18.2%	24.7%	1.2%	21.9%	-40.9%	-5.5%	79.4%	123.2%	-23.6%	3.8%	3.6%			25.8%	0.2%	344.4%

* Bobcat, otter and swift fox "tagging" values are based on pelt tagging records

Special Section

The "Special Section" of the Furbearer Harvest Survey changes annually and is used to collect information and opinions from furharvesters on a diversity of topics that relate to furharvesting or furbearers. Past surveys have addressed subjects such as wildlife diseases, trap ownership and use, and regulatory preferences. Last year, support for several regulatory changes being considered by the Department was assessed. This year, no specific issue was presented, but the results of the general comments section are provided in Table 6 below.

Table 7. General comments submitted by furharvesters who completed the 2011-12 Furbearer Harvest Survey.

A bounty on coyotes needs to be in place. Live on 90 acre farm in Doniphan seeing coyotes in back yard. At night its all you hear.
A move should be made to educate more hunters and trappers on how to participate in NAFA fur business. May actually increase the sale of furharvesting permits if people knew how to go about getting more for their furs. The local furbuyers have and always will be a middleman that rips the Kansas furharvester. A little PR would help something that we don't want to see die.
A open otter season needs to happen in the state of Kanss
All of the hunting I did for furbearers was calling for them.
Allow the use of red lights at night to call coyotes only. I realize that the use of lights can be used to poach deer but I think the sporting community would police themselves and if a poacher is going to use spotlights they will use them whether it is legal or not.
Allow the use of spotlights to take coyotes at night, With small cal rifles, pistols, crosbows, compounds, and or a shotgun. Thank you.
Allow us to use either lights or nightvision to hunt coyotes at night.
Animal comfort is very important as a trapper. If all sets made for coyote, fox, and bobcat were offset and laminated I would like to see the 24 hour check law changed. As a trapper I would more effient on my line with a greater catch probabiliy with additional catch due to the other coyotes being drawn towards the previous caught coyote. Gas prices are through the roof and keeping a fur line going is very expensive. i have trapped coyotes in wyoming and checked the traps every third day and not only was my overall harvest increased but the animals feet was in great shape. Lamination is key. Double lamination is actually prefered for long check periods.
Ask wat kind of fire arm they used and what kind of traps they used on certain animals.
Best time to catch bobcats is after the season. The fur is not ready when they start the season. We need at least 15 days more to trap/hunt furbearer. better information on how to sell the fur.
Bobcat tagging should be required at the buyer level rather than the trapper level for "in-state" transactions. Buyer can make 1 trip for several tags where a trapper has to make several trips for few tags. Surveys completed during buyer/trapper transactions. The above suggestion is an "easy fix". Also rather than the necessity to drag dead/frozen cats into the lobby of KDWPT offices, game officials can make regular, weekly visits to buyers areas of operation. On these visits they can aquire teeth samples and surveys as well as regulating the legitimacy of the buyers' operation... a no-brainer!
Bobcats are late primers, and I would like to see the "cat" season extended to the last of March with the bever season.
bought a furbarer lisenec in case I called in a bobcat while calling coyotes. Not that many bobcat in finney county except on the river. Called in one bobcat 2 days after season ended, so none were harvested. Maybe next season.
bought furbearer license, just in case see bobcat during deer season
Bought the lic. the my position at work changed and I was away at a school all of Jan, Feb and Mar...we'll try again next season.
calling with a light at night would be nice at times
change bait laws for native species!!!! thanks thats all need changed...
change the date on furharvesting would be my thoughts..
Consider extending the muskrat season for up to two weeks.
could not hunt due to knee replacement
Crappy season Stop bugging me
(Name withheld) is one of the best game wardens we have had for a long time around these part real enjoy the man
Deer season is too long. Some landowners will let you trap only when deer season is over. With that antlerless season now well into Jan. lots of places don't get trapped. And I don't like trapping on land deer huners are hunting as I don't like big holes and shot up trapped animals. I think there needs to be a bounty on coyotes. Way too many!
Deer season overlaps other hunting seasons (re: coon season). We predator hunt & coon hunt & during rifle season for dder. It seems the season should be space out a little better so that we who aren't deer hunting, could have equal time to safely enjoy our sport.
Distemper was especially bad on our coon population this last year in our area
doing a grate job kdwpt
Don't release water from reservoirs during trapping season. Fluctuating river levels really causes havic setting traps.
Easier way to get bobcats tagged. The parks in the area do not keep a large enough supply in stock and sometimes a furharvesters has to go to two or more locations.
Enjoyed it again!
enjoyed the survey, should provide good information
Everything is going good. Despite the lack of rain the last year hopefully this year will be different and give me a better season.
everything runs smoothly i just didn't have time to trap this year.
Extend the season on furharvesting or shorten the Jan. deer season. It is hard to trap coyotes and cats when there are so many deer hunting. Its dangerous for the trappers and there is to much human sent left around.
extend bobcat season til the first of march

extend trap check frequency for body grip traps

For more accurate information send the survey out prior to season so hunters can keep track of nights hunted and take.

From what I understood from the reg's the end of the season ended at midnight of the 15th. I always thought that midnight was 12:00 am. so I wasn't sure and called KDWP to see if that meant it ended at 12:00am of the 15th or if we still had till 11:59 pm of the 15th. You may want to add some clarification on that.

Furbear season should run Dec 1- Feb28.

furbearer hunting license separate from trapping

Furharvesters with trail hounds are few and far between in my area. Hunting areas are plentiful and management (by self control) supports plentiful opportunities for good dog work. Coon harvest is minimal as healthy game is more fun to run again than kill. I have no comments about trapping as I am of the opinion that trappers harvest greater numbers than true hound sportsmen.

get land owners to let hunters in to call coyotes

Get rid of the extra rules on otter. Whatever data was being collected from them should be obtained by now.

glad to help

go back to 22 shorts for all trapline and dog hunting at night - don't take away the second week of season by opening up deer firearms season earlier

good as is

Good season fellas, can't wait till next year!

Had 14" of snow this area. Snow on ground in some areas for over 60 days. Just couldn't get around in my area. Few in this area were able to hunt deer late in Jan. season.

haven't been seeing the numbers of coyotes like I used to, a lot of them have been mangey.

Hunters RUN & KILL coon year around. Please reduce running season to July & Aug. or stop it all together.

I am 60 and retired now, I had a ball, it brought back many good childhood memories. I took my grand son 4 days with me. I was able to set and trap totally out of my boat and 10 hp motor on marsh creek. Thanks (name withheld)

I am an avid trapper and hound runner and I would like to see Kansas do like Nebraska and any conibear bigger than a 110 would have to be set under water or at least 4 feet above ground. I have set many 220s and 330s above ground and have never caught a domestic animal but there are always going to be the irresponsible people that will. They are almost never identified and then the incident is pinned on all trappers. I understand you don't want to give to the tree huggers but I believe that it will help the trappers in the long run.

I believe that KDWP is doing a fine job and the rules are very liberal I have not had hardly any theft on my trap lines. It would be nice to see muskrat season continue through end of beaver season to help prevent the accidental catches going to waste. I travel to North Dakota in spring to trap rats and the hide's are good up till May so I think they would be fine here also. Just a suggestion sure would like to see red fox #'s on the rise again how about legalizing m-44's for coyotes thin 'em down a bit. concerned trapper (name withheld).

I believe the kill season on raccoon could be longer. Some neighboring states allow for the taking of one animal a night until an unlimited season starts. This would be a very good regulation for dog trainers in Kansas. I believe it is time that we quit tagging bobcats in Kansas. There is no shortage of bobcats, and there is always a delay in being able to get a bobcat tagged to sell. If an estimate just has to be had, fur buyers could provide an accurate estimate.

I buy furharvester permit just in case I should get a chance at a Bobcat while bowhunting deer.

I did not see a lot of otter sign till after season then I seen them everywhere.

I did not start trapping until the end of trapping season 2011-2012. I enjoyed the experience and plan on trapping the entire season this year. There seems to be an high number of animals to trap. I enjoy the Kansas hunting and trapping seasons. Thank you and keep up the good work

I did predator calling instead of trapping or using dogs.

I didn't actually hunt oppums, raccoons, or skunks. The ones I killed were nuisance kills from my homestead.

I didn't have many sets out or for a long period of time but I had a great time doing it! Thanks!

I didn't hit it as hard this year and there seemed to be plenty of good animals with quality fur out there. Hopefully I will be more active next season. It was interesting to see that the otter quota was met, it will be fun to get the opportunity to trap one of those one day. I may have some around but I am not educated in their habits but will be learning.

I didn't use no dogs. I used all steel traps thanks

I do not think hunters should be able to run coyotes or other furbearing animals with trucks. I am located in 10 miles east of hays and if you ever see a coyote during the day they are on a dead run because they know that trucks will chase them. The only thing the runners do for other hunters is give them a black eye to the rest of the society. All people look down on destroying pastures they own and that is all the coyote runners do. Thanks for your time.

I do not think that running coyotes with dogs and vehicles should be allowed any longer. The act is not sporting, does not allow much, if any, favor towards the animal and is down right dangerous. The danger that goes along with running coyotes is only amplified when you realized that alcohol is greatly involved with most of the runners in my area. Further, "runners" have little if no disregard for others or their property. I am an avid coyote caller, and work very hard to acquire the land that I call. However, I have had many hunts ruined in years past because of runners blazing through territory they have no permission being on. In 2007 I was almost run over while walking WIHA for pheasants by a group of coyote hunters, apparently they were color blind. I could probably go on, but I am sure whomever reads this reads enough complaints and is tired of hearing people bitchin'.

I don't see why we need a furbearer tag to shoot a bobcat and it would be nice if the season was longer on them, they can hunt them year round in Texas and they still have plenty of them.

I don't think 220 conibears should be legal in above ground sets only water sets. Too many dog enthusiasts have to pray that their hunting partners won't be killed on that particular night or day. This includes bird dogs, beagles, retrievers, coon dogs, squirrel dogs and pets

I don't understand the need to tag your traps, especially on private land.

I don't understand why it's against the law to use a laser sight while hunting coons at night. Seems it would be better to kill the coon with one well placed shot rather than a volley of shots with iron sights. I'm getting old, and my eye sight isn't what it use to be.:(

I don't understand why the state keeps on taking the otter carcasses from the trappers. I know for a fact that for several years now, that the state has taken otter carcasses. How much more information can you gather from them? I have even personally heard a game warden say that he doesn't know why the state keeps on taking the carcasses because they already have all the information they can possibly gather from the carcasses. Here is an idea, let us keep them. Take down our general information on how we trapped them and where, and leave it at that. Quit wasting our tax dollars on unnecessary things. I also have a big problem with horse trail riders when I am trapping. We all have equal reign on public ground, but those places that horse riders are able to get to easily that are public ground, I get harassed and traps/animals messed with or stolen. I don't have a problem with people wanting to ride their horses, but make them stick to the designated trails if they want to ride on public ground, that's what they are there for.

I feel the regulations we have now are working just fine.

I feel conibear traps set on land on Public ground should be done away with. As a trapper of more than 45 yrs, These people are going to get our trapping on public land taken away. Water sets for beaver are fine. I have never heard of a dog being caught in a beaver set. I dont agree with the new reg. of having the springs under the water. It is at times impossible to make a good beaver set that deep. People are lazy & dont know how to trap with anything but a conibear. Also as a furharvester instructor, I dont agree with the online furharvester course. Kids need a day or two in the field with an instructor. No one will come to a course anymore as they can have their parents do it on line for them. Whats the use of me being an instructor? I know the budget is tight, but some of this stuff needs to change so the future can have furharvesting . Thanks for letting me vent. You guys keep up the good work. (name withheld).

I had a great time this year and am looking for more opportunities to trap in Kansas in the future.

I had the license to accompany/help my older friend. He has completed the survey.

I had to stop trapping due to shoulder injury. My only suggestion would be to extend bobcat season because the pelts aren't really prime until the end of the regular season.

I have no problems with current regulations. I injured a knee and missed the season.

I have not trapped furbearers for many years, and never before with live traps. Prompted by a friend to do so, I thouroughly enjoyed this season and got in some needed exercise in the process. Opossums and coons were plentiful along the Cottonwood River north of Florence. And my cousin was pleased that I was able to take some of them off of his property.

I have trapped for the past 9 years in an area of approximately 6 miles. Totals are: Raccoons 265, Possums 448, Skunks 72, Coyotes 25, Bobcats 12. We use to have an abundance of quail and pheasants. Now we don't.

I just started trapping again after 20 years of not trapping, and the seasons, tagging regulations, etc. all make good sense to me. I am happy with your management.

I like to see furbearer season start a week later so that the fur can prime better. we could also probably trap fur a week later that Feb. 15 and still have prime fur, especially cats and badger. I was sick a lot this year, but plan to trap heavily next year.

I liked have to not put my name and address on my traps this year.

I only had active sets for Bobcat and Coyote. All Skunk, Raccoon and Badgers were incidentals in the Cat/Coyote sets.

I planned on it and purchased a fur harvesters license but the winter was so mild that we never got started.

I primarily trap in kansas for bobcats beautiful country and can't wait to get back

I really enjoyed trapping last season and it was one of the most successful seasons my kids and I have had since we started a few years ago.

I SET TRAPS JUST TO TEACH GRANDSON HOW

I specifically enjoy BEAVER trapping. I would like to know if my name could be put on a list to trap nuisance beaver, but only during beaver trapping season. Thank You

I think coyote hunting should be included with the furharvesting license. Having to buy a hunting license to hunt them seems inconsistent with the rest of the furbearers.

I think KS furbearer management is pretty solid as is. I would love to see predator hunters allowed to hunt at night, as in other states. Unfortunately, thanks to job demands, I did not have time to trap last year. Maybe this year! COL (Ret.) (name withheld)

I think non resident trapping should be reciprical. Any restrictions on Kansans should apply here to the residents of states who restrict Kansans.

I think that it should be legal to hunt Coyotes at night with lights. Since in some areas they are getting over populated and usually only come out at night, making them hard to hunt in legal shooting hours.

I think that the bobcat population are being over trapped and hunted. I myself have trying to let there numbers rise. distemper lukemia and people with doller signs in there eyes are hurting them, I also think think the season should not start untill january. There is a furbuyer who buys fur every thursday night during the season so I see every sold here, and about 50% of the bobcats are not prime and handeld wrong. raccoon are also about 50% handeld wrong, and none of about 60 people that

I think they should close season on jackrabbits.

I think we need to have a program for coons. All there are is small coons where I hunt. Thanks

I think you are doing a great job, but maybe let the muskrat season stay open a little longer so you can trap through the mating season

i think you should run trapping season until the end of february

I trapped a armadillo this year. A big one. I have had skunks and coons come in and get my chicken's but never a armadillo. I just trap on my place to keep my chicken's safe.

I trapped Furbearers strictly for predator control on my own property.

I very much appreciate the changes made to the Fur regulations. It has made it easier not to make an honest mistake. One additional change that I think should be considered is a 2 day check on Beaver, muskrat, and maybe drown sets for raccoon trapping. Trapping where kill type traps are used associated with water. The places I have to beaver trap are very long driving distances and usually need to be run by boat. Running each day is very difficult and expensive so I don't do it. Could be I am getting older also:-) I might go after the old flat tail more if we had a 48 hour check on them. The Muskrat and Raccoon part of this is just that when floating the river it would be hard to pass up these species just due to the need to check every 48 hours rather than the 24 hour check now in place. Thanks for all the work you do for us. (name withheld)

I was a new trapper this year. I really didnt know what i was doing but learned a TON throughout the year. It is very very exciting and now my son is starting to do it with me. I think that the season is long enough and just right!

I was busy with work last season, and i look forward to trapping in 12-13 season

I was deployed to Afghanistan during the 2011- 12 furharvester season is the reason I wasn't able to hunt or trap last season.

I was glad to see the otter back. I really think the limit could be bumped up to 200 instead of 100. We found quite a bit of sign, scat & sightings of otter.

I was unable to log on to take the survey when I received the first notification. I forgot to get back to it until I received the second notice. I tried the number again and it worked. Sorry!

I wish Kansas would change the laws concerning hunting predators at night with lights. I do a lot of damage control for cattle operations in my area and it would sure allow me more time to hunt. Maybe some sort of special permit or something could be issued.

I wish our running season didn't close 2 weeks prior to kill season and then be closed again for two weeks after kill season.

I would be greatly interested in how many bobcats and coyotes were killed in kansas. and possibly broke down into county's. Is there such a study out there such as this? thank you! (name withheld)

I would like a longer otter season.

I would like to be able to get a permit to have a live coon to use in water races and field trials for UKC events. The coon will be released unharmed at the end of the event.

I would like to be able to hunt yotes at night with a light and or a lazer

I would like to help youth in trapping in douglas county area if there are oppertunities

I would like to keep recieving these postcards in the mail for future surveys, or any other events.

I would like to see a 2 day check on underwater beaver traps (bodygrip types). I feel that checking beaver traps everyday could possibly cause too much disturbance for them to go about everyday behaviours, especially in the event you have to break ice to check traps. Would have trapped (in KS) this past season except that work took me to the Gulf Oil Spill for much of the winter.

I would like to see conibear limits on public lands be #160 in exchange to allow private land go to #280.

I would like to see Kansas allow the use of artificial light at night for CALLING furbears.

i would like to see more information on otter in the state of kansas. populations, detail ed geographic regions and habbits. anyone that knows this has been very tight lipped about where to find them. i live next to hillsdale lake watershed and worked very hard to find even oone set of otter tracks all season. i might have travelled to another watershed if i had found the information i had wanted. but i guess i understand that if you give a map to every otter out there, they might bbe wiped out. i would have like to at least been able to enjoy viewing them and how they live.

I would like to see night hunting with light or night vision for coyotes.

I would like to see some kind of night hunting with artifiacl light for calling coyotes.

I would like to see spotlighting with a .22 caliber firearm made legal for coyotes all year and a 20 to 30 day spotlighting season for other furbearers.

I would like to see the Fur Harvesting License purchased last the entire season. Example: Buy end of 2011, and last through the end of season beginning 2012!!!!

I would like to see the law requiring you to tag your traps changed to only require your name and kwpd #. I feel that it is unsafe to tell the person you dont know that is looking at your traps to know where you live. Law enfocrement has computer data base to look up your id # if they feel the need to contact you.

I would like to see this survey used with everyone who purchases a furharvesting license so that we do not over-harvest some species...and/or closely monitor how many pelts of each kind the fur buyers take to auction.

I would love to have a hands on 'how to' class. I am learning from reading books, magazine articles, and online. I do not have someone to teach me all the field tested tips and tricks. It would help my field confidence greatly. And then I could pass it on to my 3 sons. Thank you.

I would say 85% of the coyotes I caught this season had mange! Have not seen it this bad in several years.

I'd like to see a change on the rule that a snare has to be 50 ft off the traveled portion of the road.

if i could make a suggestion on the bobcats the season is not long enough let it go to the end of feb.even if you have to start it later like dec. 1 thats fine the furs are a lot better in feb. i dont even try to catch cats until feb. the feb. cats just bring more money and are really prime at this time its. in my mind its the best time for cats please consider this if you would talk to any fur buyer they will say the same. thanks

In future years it would be nice to get a log book or some sort before the season. I try to keep one myself but it may help others who are being surveyed.

In the past have not pursued furbearers but purchased permit in case....weather was to warm for me to get in the field though certainly have abundance of animals in NE Kansas...maybe this yr.

issue license from fall to spring one time purchase

it might help if the average price for fur prices would be listed for the year, and for the species that is the most nuisance for that year for each county. this information may or may not be of any use... sorry if it isnt.

It was a short season for me, I injured my back.

It was a very successful trapping and hunting season! I was glad to see fur prices up in the 2011-2012 season!

It was another bad year for me. It seems that there aren't many coyotes around here any more.

It would be better to run Raccoon later into the spring.

It would be helpfull to have furharvester workshops around different parts of the state. I live in east central Kansas and without trapping background could use the help learning about trapping

it would be nice if the liscense covered both fall of 2012 and winter of 2013

It would be nice it parks were open for trapping (at least water sets). I'm near Scott Lake State Park and would love to do water sets for muskrat and raccoon.

It would be nice to be able to hunt coyotes with artifical light at night. It would make hunting coyotes much more successful.

It's my opinion that our ILLUSTRIOUS RAPTORS are taking more than their fair share of our AQUATIC furbearers!! But it's the NEW ERA of protuctionism of our FAVORITES. Anywho, keep-up the good work protecting our rights to trap; I've been at the glorious pastime for 58 YEARS. I'm prod of Good ol' Kansas.

I've been hunting coyotes for several years in Kansas and had the worst season ever this past season.

just didnt have time last year

just set a hand full for a few days set off for deer season and never had time to reset. It was so warm had to work no time for play. But at least I can say I Trapped. Thanks for all your work -. (name withheld)

Kansas fur bearers magazine maybe with reports new regulations, estimate prices etc

Kansas furbearer management is doing an awesome job. Thanks so much

KDWP link is not user friendly Snares and killer traps should be outlawed. At least mark properly killer trpas (set here)!

keep doing good

Keep the laws on snares and conibers the way they are now. they are too vauable to lose our rights to use them. put instructions on how too release a dog if caught in one in the hunting pamphlets, and put in the regs that they may encounter them while hunting.

keep up the good work

Keep up the good work.

Keep up the good work. I would like to see no more tagging of bobcats. Just hard for me to get them tagged when i have a full time job. Thanks.

KS has a good set of rules and seasons and i would like to see that continue.

lack of ground to trap do to people leasing for hunting

Last Fall, 2011, drove from Chetopa, KS to St. Paul, KS and back 10pm to 3am, saw 19 coon on the gravel road, most were singles. We just need more WHA areas.

leave everything just as it is. you are diong a good job

let the trappers have more time to trap without interference from hunters

Let us take 1 raccoon/night during running season, its legal to sell the meat. (Additional comment withheld)

Lets have a spring muskrat season.

Licenses that begin and expire at more convenient times for the season. For example a 2012-13 license that covers Nov 1, 2012 to Oct 31, 2013. This way one license covers one season instead of having to buy a new one for january halfway through the season.

Make coyotes a game animal

Make starting date for trapping season a set date, say Nov 15 or the first Monday after opening weekend of bird season, instead of the third Wednesday of November. With the current situation, starting date could be as late as Nov 20. With a later starting date, the chances of harvest being negatively affected by winter weather is increased.

Make the bobcat season start later than every thing else it could start a month later and run longer our cats prime up late ----also the muskrat season should run with the beaver season

Mild winter and I didn't put much effort in my hunting.

Muskrat, otter and beaver should be in the same trapping dates together even if you would open the season on them later. Example: muskrat, beaver and otter season opens Dec 1 2012 through March 31 2013. These 3 furs do not prime up till then and catching them in mid Nov. is a waste to the fur plus a low value to the trapper. I know some trappers would not like this but it would help in the value of there furs later. I also believe you should go back to the carry over permit at the end of season. Your game officers have no control without it.

My confidence in the KDWP is slipping some of our officers are not to smart. After a conversation with a KDWP last Veterans Day my opinion was at an all time low. The officer told me and a table full of Vietnam vets that deer don't eat crops! Whatever! I thought the farmers in the group were going to lynch him! Also the trapping seasons have been out of synch with our weather patterns and seasons. The regulations for duck/geese too tight!

My furbearer activity was and is combined with Bow hunting deer. Mainly, want to tag a Bobcat with a bow.

My only complaint deals with the WIHA program. Many of the locations enrolled in the program and labeled "Furbearer" are misrepresented. It appears many of the spots were enrolled by phone and not researched. Thank you.

My only suggestion would be to extend bobcat season to end of February while the fur is prime. Seems like guys are catching cats too early, with females and small kittens. Their fur is not prime and we do see some late litters of kittens. Some of the best fur we see on cats is the cats caught in february.

My opinion - tagging cats is no Inoger needed.

Need information on fur buyers

need some help on what to do and what to use.

Need to have muskrat season run with beaver season.

Need to improve the bounty on hides, the population is getting to high.

Need to run Bob Cat season till end of Feb. Need to go to 2 day check on water sets or at least go to a 2 day check on beaver after other seasons close night hunting coyotes and bob cats

No muskrats??? I'm guessing the great horn owls are part to blame I realize all the raptors are protected so my question is when do we have enough?? They have no predators that keep their numbers in check so?? Let's say 50 owls and or hawks per square mile is ok?? Well yes it is. We keep the deer numbers in check so how do you regulate the raptors numbers. Answer you don't No limit the more the better...that's wrong. Also what are you doin about too many fish eaters like herons and commrants?? Same answer the more the better that's crap what a worthless bunch of birds eating game fish by the ton and providing NOTHING for the sportsman. Am I missing something here? Please enlighten me on why you do nothing to control their populations!!!! (contact info withheld)

No running of coyote during deer season, they pretend to be coyote hunting, chase deer with pickups.

No suggestions - I think furbearer management in Kansas is in good hands.

No, Maybee allow season to extend to to end of Feduary

None, very mild season, did not get out to hunt as much as I would have liked.

Notes on my seasons trapping. I trapped 3 Opossum out of a backyard in wamego with a cage trap, all 3 were released on farm ground also caught 1 coon in the same set and had to harvest to get it out of the trap. I also set 3 foot holds on the milford wet lands for 1 night with no results.

Our coon have really died off in this area. I think its distemper.

Our coyote population has exploded. We are consistantly watching them take down full grown deer, bucks and does. They are hunting in small groups now. It is almost as bad as our coon population. Never in my life have I ever seen so many predators. We have got to get this problem under control!! I am in the outfitting business and I am trying to manage a lot of acres of Kansas land in Saline, Ottawa, and Cloud counties and I know what I'm talking about.

Outlaw hunting coyote from a vehicle during deer firearm season. As a furharvester and deer hunter I'm tired of the poachers shooting deer from vehicles and then claiming they were coyote hunting. Lets make a wardens jobs easier not harder!

Over all trapping season was fine, the weather was not very good for trapping, however the raccoons stayed prime much longer and were in much better shape than normal late in the season. Out of 26 raccoons, 24 of mine were Males. Did find one coon with distemper.

please do not put me in the drawing, I do not need any of these items. thank you

Please extend the bobcat traping season 30 days as there fur is not prime till late in the season

Please have running season without breaks at the beginning of November and the end of Fed. The first week of November would be a nice time to be out chasing coons. Thanks

Please open a year round season on Raccoon, weither its trapping or shooting. The kill my deer feeders/corn feeders! Allow spot light for coyote hunting after sunset! Maybe shotgun only!

plenty of animals

Put a bounty on coyotes, they are over populated

running season open all year

Saw a lot of skunk and opossum during the hunting season.

SEASON DATES ARE ABOUT RIGHT.

Seems like in my area, mange has had a devastating impact on coyote population. With low numbers and very few uninfected animals. Other furbearers seem plentiful enough, but due to being a single parent with very small children, I am limited to my furharvesting. I look forward to introducing them to this fine sport.

Shorten bow season on deer a lot of places to trap have too many coon coyotes and beaver. But trapper can't trap until deer season is over. Most bow hunters are not hunting late. But the land owners don't know. They go by dates. If we just had 10 days in the late time.

Something needs to be done to improve and promote coyote hunting. There are more of them spotted and herd out there than in any of my near 40 plus years in the field. Turkey and deer are in smaller numbers throughout the state and very much in particular in the southeastern part. ANYONE who says otherwise is either lying or does not have a clue on how to count the animals. I have watched the coyotes chase and catch deer and almost got one destroying a turkey nest for the eggs.

stop letting cyote hunters use dogs or hounds to hunt,they cause more trouble than they are worth. they have no respect for anyone or anything, at lease the ones around here don't. (circleville cyote hunters ASS.) so they call them selves. get out of the truck and hunt. at least shut them down durring archery season PLEASE.

sure would be nice to hunt coyotes a few nights each year after all other seasons are closed.only coyotes.i beleve bobcat and fox population are low in cowley county.

tagging cats and swifts needs to stop or be made easier so we don't have to take off work and run down the people who have the tags it is a major pain and the fish & game employees here in Fl. county all trap and they use all the imput for their benefit not ours

Thank you for all you do. L.R.

Thank you for opening otter season! I wish the limit was higher, but I understand that population is hard to determine. I think border counties can withstand a higher set limit. It took me no time to catch my limit & I am patiently waiting for Taxidermist to finish so I can show him off!

Thank you for walk in hunting!

Thanks for choosing me for this survey and others I have been asked to do.

Thanks for continuing allowing NR trappers in KS providing us with the opportunity to participate in predator control for Ranchers. I was only able to check traps for 3 days and had to head back home due to work issues. A special thanks to (the) CO, who has always been very helpful to me when I'm needing Cats tagged so I can head back home. I'm looking forward to coming again this season. Thanks to everyone in KS who makes this possible. (name withheld)

Thanks for opening otters season. made my year. THANKS.

Thanks for the opportunity to trap. I would like to see the State pursue legislation to make it the people's RIGHT to hunt, fish, and trap in Kansas. I also wouldn't be opposed to the ever so slightest tax to support KDWP. I would also like to see legislation to make it the people's RIGHT to conduct prescribed burning (habitat mgt, prairie and forest mgt.).

that two week grace period between kill season and running season should be eliminated

The 24 hr check law is ridiculous. A raccoon in a 220 or on a slide wire is dead, as well as a coyote or bobcat in a snare! It is proven irrefutable fact that a coyote or cat in a modified trap has no appreciable additional stress in a 48 hr check.

The first season for otter was such a success, I think it is bogus to have kept the 100 quota in place. I am in the outdoors more than anyone else I know, and I am seeing tons of otter sign in places that I was told by YOUR biologist that there were no breeding populations there. I honestly don't think you have any idea of how many are out there in eastern Kansas. I am seeing heavy evidence of them being in numerous ponds and are currently wiping out the fish pops in them, in Johnson County. The otters are all along Coffee Creek of the Blue River, and all in the Blue River around the State line. The amount of activity in these areas is unreal. We are heading for many nuisance calls, and I think much of this could be avoided if you all would open up the limits a bit. The 100 quota was taken so easily and ahead of schedule, because their is so many of them. By the time the Beavers are prime, the otter season is already done because of the short limit, and beaver trapping is going to account for many otters. Why WASTE the otters the way we have been doing now for years? Up the limit of otter, so they can be utilized when taken in beaver traps incidentally. There are always those who will want to trap an otter, and they will trap them even before they are prime just to make sure they beat the quota. It sure would be nice to be able to have nice USABLE otters, instead of having to match the rush and take them when they are not even prime. I don't think this is a wise decision or a responsible action for Kansas, and things like this cannot be condoned. You have taught in the Furharvesters Ed course, to only take prime fur, but this otter quota promotes the taking of unprime furs, both as a result of nuisance animals, and willingly by exited trappers. Not to mention the wasting of otters taken in beaver traps when beavers are prime late in the year and the otter quota has already been meet. You have studied otter carcasses for years now,,,,, HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU THINK YOU CAN LEARN FROM TAKING THEM CARCASSES?????? The other thing, is the wide spread implementation of horse riding trails all over prime wildlife habitat. Tons of ground out there being shoveled over to the equine business, that hunters and trappers would otherwise be using. We cannot ethically take a chance on letting some wondering horse riders stumble across a "poor innocent animal" in a trap so they can raise hell with the media. No, once again, the trappers takes second seat in this. Does this even matter to Kansas Wildlife? Why is the State allowing the rental of State lakes ground for use of certain citizen's that flash the dollar? All other Kansas residents have paid taxes on this ground and it has always been public ground. Why then are we now being shut out so someone with money can have a wedding or party or whatever else. Douglas County STATE lake has kept me from using a PUBLIC boat ramp now numerous times because they had a "rental" for that portion of the lake, that never even has been posted as open to rentals. Why do they include the public dock in the rented section along with the only main gate area on the east side? To make matters worse, there is NO warning of this in an area where someone pulling a boat can turn around. Just a hilly narrow gravel road all the way to a closed gate that says suddenly "rented to so and so",,,, no where to even turn around at all. I and others have been having to un-hook the boat and move it around by hand, just to be able to leave. This is an outrage!!!!!! Do something about it PLEASE?

The harvest & running seasons are pretty much fair to hound hunters and trappers alike. I see no need to change any. Limits on numbers harvested could be the only improvements. Limited tags for trappers and hound hunters may help.

the kill season needs to extend longer the coons are rutting when the season ends. that is the funnest time to run the dogs. at least let us run them the only reason I bought a fur license, was to get a bobcat stuffed. Most of furbearers I hunt are varmit's around the farm.

The permits should last for the entire season so that you do not need to purchase a new permit after the 1st of January.

The Racoon running season needs to run thru the closed season in November

The tagging/check/call-in for otters should be done away with. You could get your info from furdealers or these surveys.

There are very few coyotes left in southern Russell county due to death from mange. I see and trap drastically lower numbers every year and have found some froze to death with no fur.

there is a drug that can be put out for distemper in coons. we were hit extra hard with distemper in almost all of morris county. our coon count in many areas i think is at an all time low.and i have hunted coons with dogs 39 years.

They need to pay more for raccoons and opossums because they are getting overpopulated and since they dont give barely anything for them nobody is killing them. It's hardly worth the time or money for what they gave last year. Thank you.

THIS IS A JOKE. DO YOU SEND THIS SURVEY TO DUCK/QUAIL HUNTERS OR FISHERMEN?

This was my 4th year trapping. I am looking forward to the fifth I learned a lot this year. Keep up the good work guys.

This was my first year trapping. I met alot of great people who were more than willing to help. I certainly learned that I know very little. 2012-13 I intend to expand my sets and try again.

time on opening and closing day change to 8am on opening day -8pm on closing day extend season to end of feb cats out here are prime about this time

Trapping and predator calling is a great activity for me to enjoy with my younger brothers. I'm very pleased with the way fur harvesting is managed in Kansas. If I had to suggest a change, I'm most interested in legalizing predator calling using artificial light at night.

Trapping season to start later

Traps that can kill dogs should be outlawed. Traps set need to have signs alerting that they are set. Quivera needs to be opened up for hunting coons. very hard to find a close fur buyer I live in Johnson county

We have an over abundance of bobcats. Two years ago, caught 21 bobcats. Haven't seen as many raccoons this year.

we have way to many otters

We need to find a way to make coon hunting more enjoyable, coon hunters don't any more places to hunt or to scared to hunt because of the deer outfitters in this area, and if the outfitters do let you coon hunt after the deer season which is in january, its almost impossible to tree a coon when the trappers has the coons thinned out and the weather is usually to cold by then to hunt, We need to find a solution to keep the coon hunting tradition alive, it has almost vanished due to purple paint and the outfitters that has everything leased up. I know there are good ideas out their to benifit the coon hunters and wildlife and parks. I know the deer hunters breing in more revenue for the wildlife & parks but we need to find ways for the coon hunters to breing in some more revenue for the wildlife&parks, like selling permits , that lets you to shoot one coon out a week in the late summer or early fall for training purpose only, or get the outfitters to agree to let coon hunters run coon hounds before and after deer season with a permit that lets you retrieve your dog on purple paint property that the outfitters lease, thats just a few ideas but if we can some how to come up with a solution to get the coon hunting back and also keep the deer hunters happy, Thank you and god bless

we need to harvest more coyotes

when selecting instructors for the fur harvesters sessions, they MUST BE INSTRUCTED to stress the importance of obtaining permission to use the land for those purposes-- it seems that there are some that do not do this themselves!

why do we have so many opossums?

Why would anyone put out otter and why would there be a limit on them? You could save money by not tagging them.

Will there be another otter season?

wish the season would last for 2 more weeks,,,,,coyotes are still on the move when the season closes.....thanks - your doing us all good!!!!!!

Would like to hunt predators at night and use lights. I am insulted that your department assumes I can't be trusted with a gun and light in the vicinity of deer.

Would like to see more acreage being bought without houses close by like at Hillsdale. There needs to be a buffer between the hunting land and the private housing.

would like to see night calling for predators especially coons bobcats and coyotes legal with aid of a gun mounted light

Would like to see no hunting or trapping allowed during firearms for deer season, and if not make all trappers wear orange during this time.

would like to see the muskrat season run with beaver season, so the rats caught in beaver conibears are not wanton waste!

Yes, needed more water ponds were low, creeks and rivers ok. No really. Alls good would like to see muskrats with beaver till the end of beaver season.

Keep the wind in your face and powder dry! Thanks

You guys are doing a fine job...very pleased.

Appendix 1.

2011-12 Paper Version of the
Furbearer Harvest Survey

2011-12 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Dear Kansas Furharvester:

You have been selected to participate in the Kansas Furbearer Harvest Survey. Your name was randomly chosen from the list of furharvesters who purchased a license in 2011. This survey provides our best estimate of furharvester activity, and is used to guide furbearer management decisions in Kansas.

By completing the survey within 2 weeks, your name will be entered into a prize drawing. The grand prize winner will win choice of the three items shown below. An additional 10 respondents will receive a one-year subscription to the KDWPT magazine. If the winners already receive the magazine, they will be able to extend their subscription by one year or give the magazine to someone else as a gift. Thank you for your participation in this important survey.

All Call predator
decoy



Nite Lite coon
hunters vest



2 Sterling MJ600
traps



1. Did you hunt or trap furbearers during the 2011-12 season, or did you pursue furbearers with dogs during the running season in 2011?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 21.)

2. In which county did you do most of your furharvesting in 2011-12? _____

3. Did you TRAP for furbearers in Kansas during the 2011-12 season?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 13.)

4. How many of each did you harvest by TRAPPING in Kansas during the 2011-12 season? (Enter "0" if none were harvested.)

Badger: _____	Gray Fox: _____	Beaver: _____	Opossum: _____
Bobcat: _____	Red Fox: _____	Muskrat: _____	Raccoon: _____
Coyote: _____	Swift Fox: _____	Mink: _____	Striped Skunk: _____
		Otter: _____	Weasel: _____

5. How many total calendar days did you TRAP furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2011-12 season? *The trapping season was 92 days (Nov 16-Feb 15) for all furbearers except beaver, which was 136 days (Nov 17-Mar 31).*

Total days: _____

6. How many calendar DAYS did you trap for each species? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were intended or likely to catch that species. For example, if you caught opossums in your raccoon sets, record your raccoon trapping days for opossum also.*

Badger: _____ days	Opossum: _____ days
Bobcat: _____ days	Raccoon: _____ days
Coyote: _____ days	Striped Skunk: _____ days

7. During the time you trapped each species, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average? *Count any trap that was intended or likely to catch that species. For example, if you caught opossums in your raccoon sets, record your raccoon trap numbers for opossum also.*

Badger: _____ traps	Opossum: _____ traps
Bobcat: _____ traps	Raccoon: _____ traps
Coyote: _____ traps	Striped Skunk: _____ traps

8. Did you set traps specifically for BEAVER?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 9.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for BEAVER? _____ days

b. During this time, how many BEAVER TRAPS did you have set per day on average? _____ traps

9. Did you set traps specifically for OTTER?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 10.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for OTTER? _____ days

b. During this time, how many OTTER TRAPS did you have set per day on average? _____ traps

10. Did you set traps specifically for RED FOX, GRAY FOX, or SWIFT FOX?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 11.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for each FOX species? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were intended or likely to catch that species.*

Red fox: _____ days
Gray fox: _____ days
Swift fox: _____ days

b. During the time you trapped each species, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average? *Count any trap that was intended or likely to catch that species.*

Red fox: ____ traps
Gray fox: ____ traps
Swift fox: ____ traps

11. Did you set traps specifically for MUSKRAT or MINK?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 12.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for MUSKRAT or MINK? (Enter "0" if none.) *Count any day you had sets out that were intended or likely to catch that species.*

Muskrat: ____ days
Mink: ____ days

b. During the time you trapped MUSKRAT or MINK, how many TRAPS did you have set per day on average? *Count any trap that was intended or likely to catch that species.*

Muskrat: ____ traps
Mink: ____ traps

12. Did you set traps specifically for WEASEL?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 13.)

a. How many DAYS did you trap for WEASEL? ____ days

b. During this time, how many WEASEL TRAPS did you have set per day on average? ____ traps

13. Did you HUNT for furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2011-12 season?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 17.)

14. How many of each did you harvest by HUNTING in Kansas during the 2011-12 season? (Enter "0" if none were harvested.)

Badger: ____ Gray Fox: ____ Opossum: ____
Bobcat: ____ Red Fox: ____ Raccoon: ____
Coyote: ____ Swift Fox: ____ Striped Skunk: ____

15. How many total calendar days did you HUNT furbearers or coyotes in Kansas during the 2011-12 season? *The furbearer hunting season was 92 days (Nov 1-Feb 15).*

Total days: _____

16. How many calendar DAYS did you HUNT for each species? (Enter "0" if none.)

Badger: ____ days Gray Fox: ____ days Opossum: ____ days
Bobcat: ____ days Red Fox: ____ days Raccoon: ____ days
Coyote: ____ days Swift Fox: ____ days Striped Skunk: ____ days

17. Did you RUN furbearers in Kansas during the 2011 running season (Mar1-Nov1, 2011)?

Yes No (If no, skip to question 21.)

18. How many of each did you "tree" during the 2011 running season in Kansas? (Enter "0" if none were treed.)

Bobcat: ____ Red Fox: ____ Raccoon: ____
Gray Fox: ____ Opossum: ____

19. How many total calendar days did you RUN furbearers in Kansas during the 2011 season? *The furbearer running season was 246 days (Mar1-Nov1).*

Total days: _____

20. How many calendar DAYS did you RUN each species? (Enter "0" if none.)

Bobcat: ____ days Red Fox: ____ days Raccoon: ____ days
Gray Fox: ____ days Opossum: ____ days

21. If you have an e-mail address and would prefer to receive a direct link to surveys such as this in the future, should your name be selected, please include it here:

22. If you have any comments or suggestions on furbearer management in Kansas, please provide them here:

The results of this survey will be posted on the KDWP website once the report has been completed. Last year's Furbearer Harvest Survey report and several other furbearer-related reports are currently posted on the site. From the "Furharvesting" page, just click on the "Furbearer Reports" link. Thank you for your time.

Appendix 2.

Postcard Request for Participation in the
2011-12 Furbearer Harvest Survey
(excludes outgoing and return address portions)

Dear Furharvester:

You have been selected to participate in the 2011-12 Kansas Furbearer Harvest Survey. Your answers are confidential and will be used to guide furbearer management decisions in Kansas. To complete the survey, please log on to <http://surveykansas.org> and enter the ID number printed above your name on the other side of this postcard.

If you do not have internet access, or if you did not participate in any furharvesting activities during the 2011-12 season, please check the appropriate box below, fold this postage-paid card to show our address, tape or staple, and drop it in the mail.

- Please send me a paper survey by mail.
- I did not hunt or trap furbearers during the 2011-12 season, or run furbearers in 2011.

If you have trouble logging onto the survey site, contact us at 620-672-0797. **The survey must be completed within 2 weeks to be entered into the drawing.**

Research and Survey Section
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

By completing this survey by May 31, your name will be entered into a prize drawing. The grand prize winner will win choice of the three items shown below. An additional 10 respondents will receive a one-year subscription to the KDWP magazine. If the winners already receive the magazine, they will be able to extend their subscription by one year or give the magazine to someone else as a gift.

All Call predator decoy

Nite Lite coon hunters vest

2 Sterling MJ600 traps



We are offering this drawing as an incentive to increase the response rate to our survey. This survey is used to guide furbearer management decisions in Kansas. Your participation is important to us, and we thank you in advance.

Appendix 3.

2011-12 Furbearer Harvest Survey
Drawing Contest Winners

Contest Winners

NAME	CITY	STATE	AWARD
WYATT PEVERLEY	WAMEGO	KS	Grand prize winner – 2 Sterlings
DAVID JACOBSON	NORTONVILLE	KS	magazine subscription winner
ROGER POLLMAN	YATES CENTER	KS	magazine subscription winner
JOHNIE BERRY	URBANA	MO	magazine subscription winner
LARRY MORGAN	JUNCTION CITY	KS	magazine subscription winner
HARRY MITCHELL	WEIR	KS	magazine subscription winner
MICHAEL HASKETT	LEBO	KS	magazine subscription winner
NOAH T NEEL	EUREKA	KS	magazine subscription winner
DANIEL LAHODNY	BELLEVILLE	KS	magazine subscription winner
KIRK JONES	BURDEN	KS	magazine subscription winner
JOSEPH COLSON	WAMEGO	KS	magazine subscription winner