

# **2023-24 BOBCAT PELT TAGGING REPORT**

## PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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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 2023, Kansas used yellow “KS BCAT” tags below number 85710. A total of 130 KDWP employees and offices were issued tags for the 2023-24 furharvesting season.

CITES tags were affixed to the pelts of 2185 bobcats taken in Kansas during the furharvesting season. This was a 15% decrease in harvest from last season (2569) and 13% below the 5-year average (2505). The number of bobcats pelt tagged annually can be found in **Figure 1**.

Bobcats were taken in 97 of 105 counties. The number of bobcats taken in each county is presented in **Figure 2**. The estimated number of bobcats taken each day of the season is presented in **Figure 3**. A significant drop in harvest occurred in late December corresponding with harsh weather conditions, which was probably largely responsible for the decline in harvest that occurred this season.

Bobcats may be taken using equipment authorized in K.A.R. 115-5-1 or salvaged during the harvest season. A total of 785 furharvesters took bobcats during the season. **Table 1** provides a breakdown of the methods furharvesters used to take bobcats and the primary species being pursued at the time the bobcat was taken. The total season bag of each furharvester is given in **Table 2**.

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 or retained by each tagger or returned to the Emporia office. Bobcats taken outside the furharvesting season (n=7) were not included in this analysis.

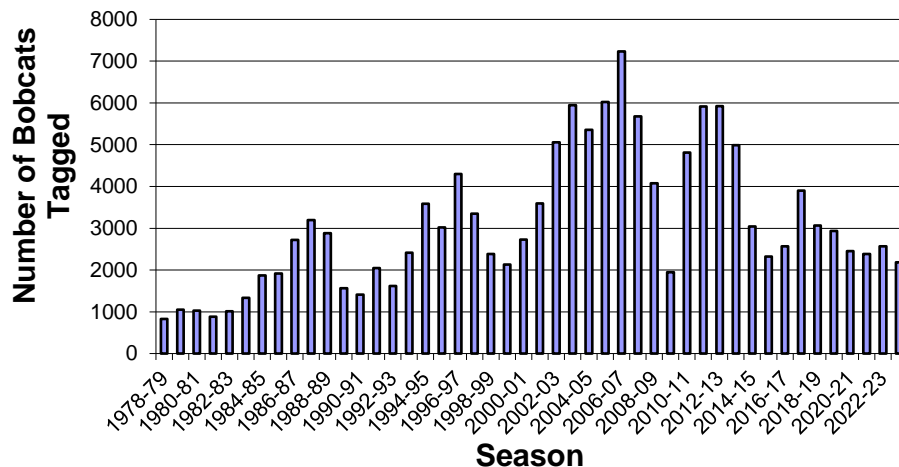


Figure 1. Number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since tagging began in 1978.

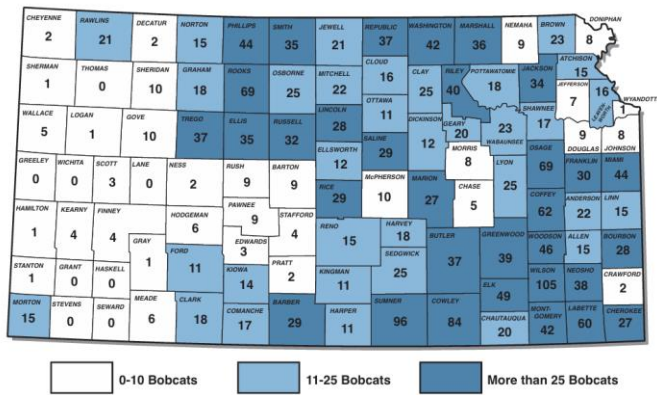


Table 2. Total season bag of bobcats per furharvester during the 2023-24 season.

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	431	54.9%	54.9%	431	19.7%	19.7%
2	129	16.4%	71.3%	258	11.8%	31.5%
3	73	9.3%	80.6%	219	10.0%	41.6%
4	42	5.4%	86.0%	168	7.7%	49.2%
5	30	3.8%	89.8%	150	6.9%	56.1%
6	16	2.0%	91.8%	96	4.4%	60.5%
7	8	1.0%	92.9%	56	2.6%	63.1%
8	11	1.4%	94.3%	88	4.0%	67.1%
9	6	0.8%	95.0%	54	2.5%	69.6%
10	3	0.4%	95.4%	30	1.4%	70.9%
11	6	0.8%	96.2%	66	3.0%	74.0%
12	3	0.4%	96.6%	36	1.6%	75.6%
13	5	0.6%	97.2%	65	3.0%	78.6%
14	5	0.6%	97.8%	70	3.2%	81.8%
15	1	0.1%	98.0%	15	0.7%	82.5%
16	2	0.3%	98.2%	32	1.5%	83.9%
17	1	0.1%	98.3%	17	0.8%	84.7%
18	1	0.1%	98.5%	18	0.8%	85.5%
19	3	0.4%	98.9%	57	2.6%	88.1%
20	1	0.1%	99.0%	20	0.9%	89.1%
21	3	0.4%	99.4%	63	2.9%	91.9%
22	2	0.3%	99.6%	44	2.0%	94.0%
36	1	0.1%	99.7%	36	1.6%	95.6%
46	1	0.1%	99.9%	46	2.1%	97.7%
50	1	0.1%	100.0%	50	2.3%	100.0%
Total	785			2185		

Figure 2. Number of bobcats taken per county during the 2023-24 furharvesting season in Kansas (n = 2183).

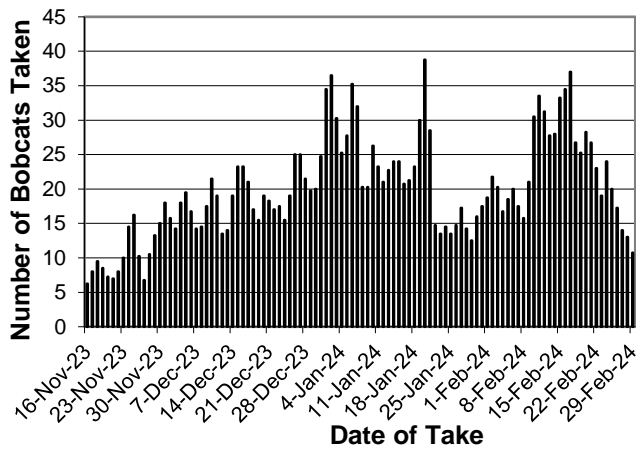


Figure 3. Estimated number of bobcats taken per day during the 2023-24 furharvesting season. (Data smoothed:  $y_{(i)} = .5y_{(i)} + .25y_{(i+1)} + .25y_{(i-1)}$ .)

Table 1. Method of harvest and the primary species being pursued when bobcats were taken during the 2023-24 furharvesting season in Kansas.

Method of Harvest	Target Species											Total Number	Total Percent		
	Bobcat	Coyote	Raccoon	Skunk	Red Fox	Otter	Deer	Upland Birds	Rabbit	Unspecified or Other	Salvage				
Trapping															
Foothold Trap	751	133	8		1									893	40.9
Bodygrip Trap	102	3	6			1								112	5.1
Cage Trap	255	4	13	1										273	12.5
Snare	104	21												125	5.7
SUBTOTAL	1212	161	27	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1403	64.2
Hunting															
Rifle	354	205	1				23		1					584	26.7
Shotgun	21	11						4						36	1.6
Archery	6	2					21							29	1.3
Hounds	5	1	1											7	0.3
Unspecified "calling"														0	0.0
SUBTOTAL	386	219	2	0	0	0	44	4	1	0	0			656	30.0
Other															
Salvage												56		56	2.6
Unspecified or Other											70			70	3.2
SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	56			126	5.8
Total Number	1598	380	29	1	1	1	44	4	1	70	56			2185	
Total Percent	73.1	17.4	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.2	0.0	3.2	2.6			100.0	

**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