

2017-18 BOBCAT PELT TAGGING REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Robin Jennison
Secretary

Prepared by

Matt Peek
Furbearer Biologist

Jake George
Wildlife Division Director

Rich Schultheis
Wildlife Research Supervisor



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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 2017, Kansas used yellow “KS BCAT” tags below number 66821 and white “FWS REPL” tags between numbers 110001 and 110462. A total of 134 KDWPT employees and offices were issued tags for the 2017-18 furharvesting season.

CITES tags were affixed to the pelts of 3900 bobcats taken in Kansas during the furharvesting season. This included 1 bobcat confiscated by KDWPT. This was a 52% increase in harvest from last season (2563) and surpassed the 5-year average by 3.5%. The number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since 1978 can be found in **Figure 1**.

Bobcats were taken in 102 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**.

Bobcats may be taken using equipment authorized in K.A.R. 115-5-1 or salvaged during the harvest season. A total of 1281 furharvesters took bobcats during the 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 total season bag of each furharvester is given in **Table 3**.

After the initial tag allocation, tag accountability was maintained via reports from KDWPT 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 this furharvesting season ($n = 2$) were not included in this analysis.

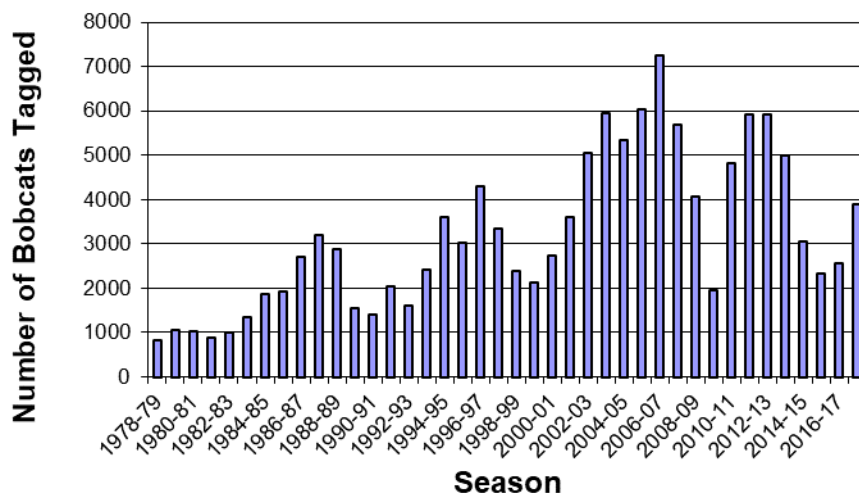


Figure 1. Number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since tagging began in 1978.

Table 1. Methods used to take bobcats during the 2017-18 furharvesting season in Kansas.

METHOD	Number of Furharvesters*	Number of Bobcats taken	Percent of Bobcats taken
TRAPPING			
(1) Foothold Trap	560	1970	50.5%
(2) Body Gripping Trap	48	116	3.0%
(3) Cage Trap	195	496	12.7%
(4) Snare	151	375	9.6%
SUB-TOTAL	954	2957	75.8%
HUNTING			
(5) Rifle	428	628	16.1%
(6) Shotgun	69	89	2.3%
(7) Archery	63	65	1.7%
(8) Hounds	8	10	0.3%
unspecified "predator call"	2	14	0.4%
SUB-TOTAL	570	806	20.7%
OTHER			
(9) Salvage	109	127	3.3%
(10) Unspecified or other	6	10	0.3%
SUB-TOTAL	115	137	3.5%
TOTAL	1639	3900	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 2017-18 furharvesting season in Kansas.

SPECIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
FURBEARERS		
Bobcat	2798	71.7%
Coyote	790	20.3%
Raccoon	52	1.3%
Badger	1	0.0%
Fox	2	0.1%
Unspecified "furbearer"	15	0.4%
Unspecified "predator"	10	0.3%
SUB-TOTAL	3668	94.1%
BIG GAME		
Deer	80	2.1%
SMALL GAME		
Quail	4	0.1%
Pheasant	13	0.3%
squirrel	1	0.0%
SUB-TOTAL	18	0.5%
OTHER		
Armadillo	1	0.0%
Unspecified	5	0.1%
Salvage	128	3.3%
SUB-TOTAL	134	3.4%
TOTAL	3900	100.0%

Table 3. Total season bag of bobcats per furharvester during the 2017-18 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	603	47.1%	47.1%	603	15.5%	15.5%
2	235	18.3%	65.4%	470	12.1%	27.5%
3	125	9.8%	75.2%	375	9.6%	37.1%
4	80	6.2%	81.4%	320	8.2%	45.3%
5	63	4.9%	86.3%	315	8.1%	53.4%
6	47	3.7%	90.0%	282	7.2%	60.6%
7	25	2.0%	92.0%	175	4.5%	65.1%
8	19	1.5%	93.4%	152	3.9%	69.0%
9	16	1.2%	94.7%	144	3.7%	72.7%
10	11	0.9%	95.6%	110	2.8%	75.5%
11	14	1.1%	96.6%	154	3.9%	79.5%
12	5	0.4%	97.0%	60	1.5%	81.0%
13	3	0.2%	97.3%	39	1.0%	82.0%
14	4	0.3%	97.6%	56	1.4%	83.5%
15	5	0.4%	98.0%	75	1.9%	85.4%
16	4	0.3%	98.3%	64	1.6%	87.0%
17	6	0.5%	98.8%	102	2.6%	89.6%
18	2	0.2%	98.9%	36	0.9%	90.6%
19	1	0.1%	99.0%	19	0.5%	91.1%
20	3	0.2%	99.2%	60	1.5%	92.6%
21	1	0.1%	99.3%	21	0.5%	93.1%
22	1	0.1%	99.4%	22	0.6%	93.7%
23	1	0.1%	99.5%	23	0.6%	94.3%
26	1	0.1%	99.5%	26	0.7%	94.9%
27	2	0.2%	99.7%	54	1.4%	96.3%
28	1	0.1%	99.8%	28	0.7%	97.1%
33	1	0.1%	99.8%	33	0.8%	97.9%
40	1	0.1%	99.9%	40	1.0%	98.9%
42	1	0.1%	100.0%	42	1.1%	100.0%

Total 1281

3900

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 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
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