

2012-13 BOBCAT PELT TAGGING REPORT

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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 2012, Kansas used yellow “KS BCAT” tags below number 55000. A total of 139 KDWPT employees and offices were issued tags for the 2012-13 furharvesting season.

CITES tags were affixed to the pelts of 5926 bobcats that were taken in Kansas during the furharvesting season. This included 9 bobcats confiscated by KDWPT. This was a .1% increase in harvest from last season (5918) and the fourth highest harvest on record. 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 1749 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 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 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 = 19) were not included in this analysis.

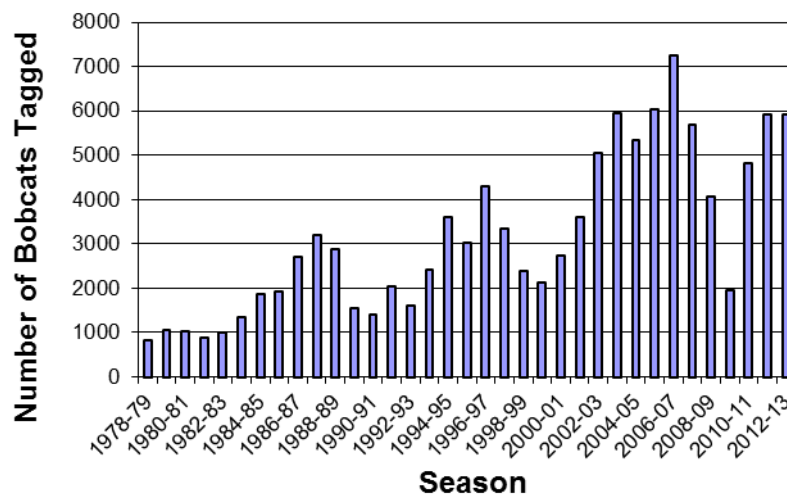


Figure 1. Number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since tagging began in 1978.

Figure 3. Number of bobcats taken per county during the 2012-13 furharvesting season in Kansas (n = 5918).

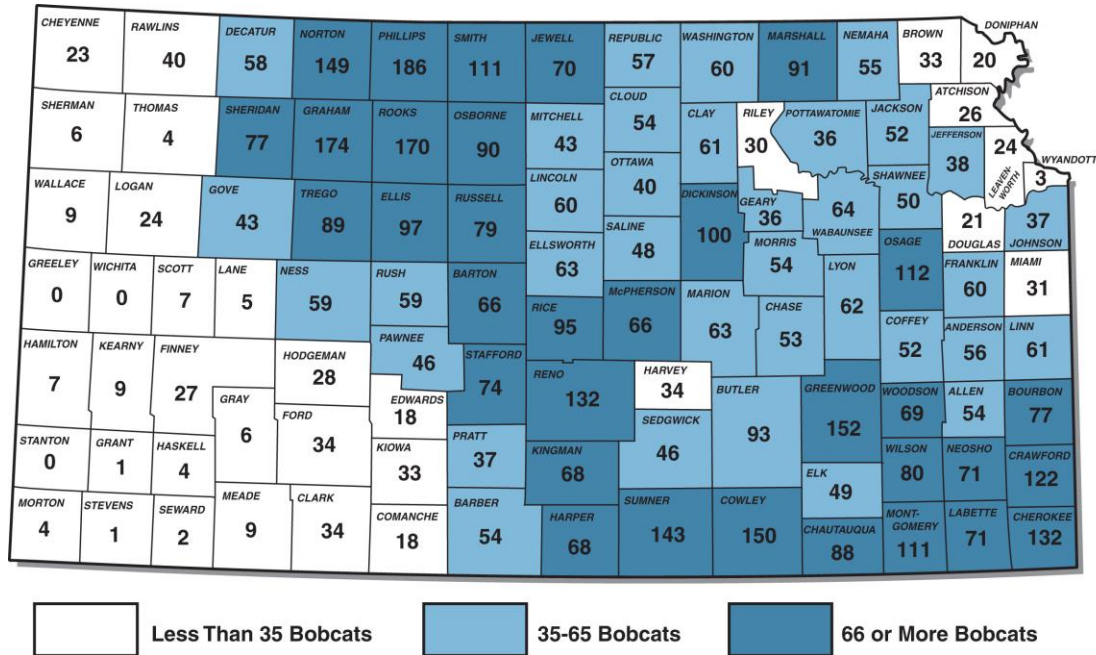


Figure 3. Estimated number of bobcats taken per day during the 2012-13 furharvesting season. (Data smoothed: $y_{(i)} = .5y_{(i)} + .25y_{(i+1)} + .25y_{(i-1)}$.)

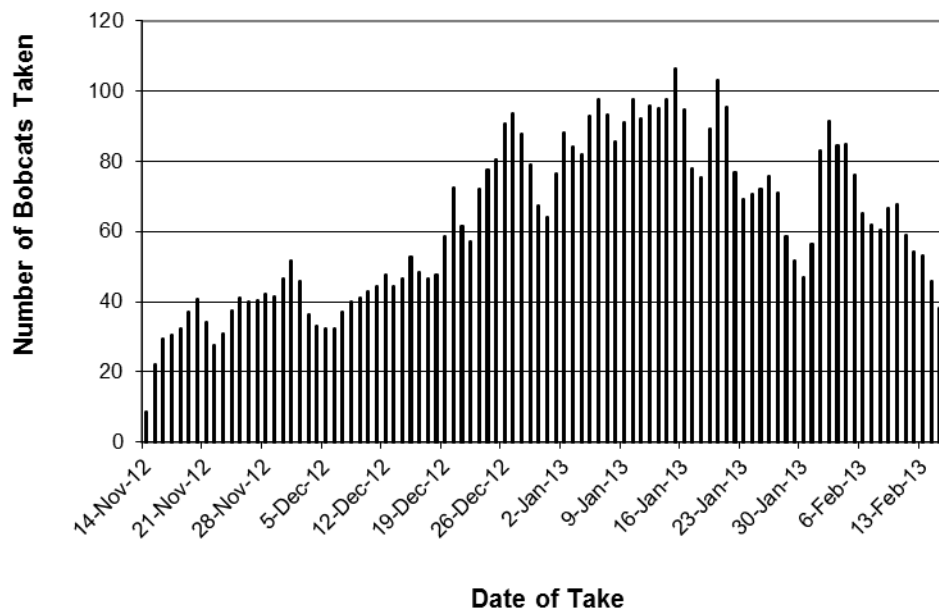


Table 1. Methods used to take bobcats during the 2012-13 furharvesting season in Kansas.

METHOD		Number of Furharvesters*	Number of Bobcats taken	Percent of Bobcats taken
TRAPPING				
	(1) Foothold Trap	779	2636	44.5%
	(2) Body Gripping Trap	184	400	6.7%
	(3) Cage Trap	393	1120	18.9%
	(4) Snare	231	606	10.2%
	SUB-TOTAL	1587	4762	80.4%
HUNTING				
	(5) Rifle	547	803	13.6%
	(6) Shotgun	76	106	1.8%
	(7) Archery	52	60	1.0%
	(8) Hounds	13	18	0.3%
	SUB-TOTAL	688	987	16.7%
OTHER				
	(9) Salvage	132	147	2.5%
	(10) Unspecified or other	19	30	0.5%
	SUB-TOTAL	151	177	3.0%
TOTAL		2426	5926	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 2012-13 furharvesting season in Kansas.

SPECIES		FREQUENCY	PERCENT
FURBEARERS	Bobcat	5109	86.2%
	Coyote	389	6.6%
	Raccoon	141	2.4%
	Other	8	0.1%
	SUB-TOTAL	5647	95.3%
BIG GAME	Deer	103	1.7%
SMALL GAME	Quail	2	0.0%
	Pheasant	11	0.2%
	Other	4	0.1%
	SUB-TOTAL	17	0.3%
OTHER	Unspecified or other	12	0.2%
	Salvage	147	2.5%
	SUB-TOTAL	159	2.7%
TOTAL		5926	100.0%

Table 3. Total season bag of bobcats per furharvester during the 2012-13 season.
Data includes 9 bobcats confiscated by KDWPT.

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	771	44.08%	44.08%	771	13.01%	13.01%
2	307	17.55%	61.64%	614	10.36%	23.37%
3	193	11.03%	72.67%	579	9.77%	33.14%
4	119	6.80%	79.47%	476	8.03%	41.17%
5	87	4.97%	84.45%	435	7.34%	48.52%
6	54	3.09%	87.54%	324	5.47%	53.98%
7	47	2.69%	90.22%	329	5.55%	59.53%
8	34	1.94%	92.17%	272	4.59%	64.12%
9	20	1.14%	93.31%	180	3.04%	67.16%
10	22	1.26%	94.57%	220	3.71%	70.87%
11	17	0.97%	95.54%	187	3.16%	74.03%
12	8	0.46%	96.00%	96	1.62%	75.65%
13	8	0.46%	96.46%	104	1.75%	77.40%
14	7	0.40%	96.86%	98	1.65%	79.06%
15	6	0.34%	97.20%	90	1.52%	80.58%
16	8	0.46%	97.66%	128	2.16%	82.74%
17	3	0.17%	97.83%	51	0.86%	83.60%
18	5	0.29%	98.11%	90	1.52%	85.12%
19	1	0.06%	98.17%	19	0.32%	85.44%
20	2	0.11%	98.28%	40	0.67%	86.11%
21	4	0.23%	98.51%	84	1.42%	87.53%
22	3	0.17%	98.68%	66	1.11%	88.64%
23	2	0.11%	98.80%	46	0.78%	89.42%
24	3	0.17%	98.97%	72	1.21%	90.63%
25	1	0.06%	99.03%	25	0.42%	91.06%
26	3	0.17%	99.20%	78	1.32%	92.37%
27	3	0.17%	99.37%	81	1.37%	93.74%
29	1	0.06%	99.43%	29	0.49%	94.23%
30	1	0.06%	99.49%	30	0.51%	94.74%
32	3	0.17%	99.66%	96	1.62%	96.36%
34	1	0.06%	99.71%	34	0.57%	96.93%
35	2	0.11%	99.83%	70	1.18%	98.11%
36	1	0.06%	99.89%	36	0.61%	98.72%
37	1	0.06%	99.94%	37	0.62%	99.34%
39	1	0.06%	100.00%	39	0.66%	100.00%
Total	1749			5926		