

2015-16 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-22

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

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September 2016

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2015-16 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. Most years since 2001, 70% of the furharvester license holders from each of nine physiographic provinces in Kansas have been surveyed. This year and the last several years, given the high number of license sales, we surveyed 60% from each physiographic province. 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. Harvest questions were the same from 1983-2008. In 2009, changes in question structure of the trapping section were made in an attempt to collect more accurate catch-per-unit-effort data (see questions 8-12 in Appendix 1).

Also beginning in 2009, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) began using SurveyMonkey™ to conduct web-based surveys. Not everyone is adequately equipped for online surveys, so a traditional paper survey option of has also been made available.

There were 7980 furharvester licenses sold in 2015, including 7667 general resident licenses, 230 junior resident licenses, and 83 nonresident licenses. From these, a sample of 4790 license holders (60%) was selected. The online database contained e-mails for 1559 (33%) of these individuals, but 101 (6%) had opted out of SurveyMonkey™ surveys and 102 (7%) were invalid. An initial e-mail was sent to the remaining 1356 on April 18, 2016 containing a request for participation and a link to the survey. Reminder e-mails were sent to nonrespondents on April 15 and 22.

A single mailing consisting of a 2-page, 8.5"x11" paper survey (Appendix 1) was sent out on May 1, 2016 to e-mail nonrespondents and furharvesters without a deliverable e-mail on file (n=4248). The survey directed recipients online to a survey link, but could also be completed and returned in an enclosed postage paid envelope. 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. Respondents to the paper survey for whom we did not have an e-mail address were asked to provide an e-mail address for future surveys if they have one. Respondents provided 178 new and 4 updated e-mail addresses.

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 percent of respondents indicated they participated in furharvesting activities during the 2015-16 season (i.e. were active). This is down slightly from 64% 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 175,269 user days in pursuit of furbearers, including 99,446 days trapping, 59,737 days hunting, and 16,086 days running. These figures represent a 30% decrease in combined user days from the previous season. Average days afield by trappers, hunters, and runners declined from 40, 19 and 50 last season to 34, 18 and 38 this season, respectively. 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. Trappers account for the majority of harvest of most furbearer species. Coyotes are the main exception, but much of their harvest is by hunters without a furharvester license (coyotes are not a furbearer) and not estimated by this survey. The 2015 Small Game Hunter Activity Survey estimated harvest by these individuals at 50,686 coyotes. Combined with the harvest estimates from this survey, hunters accounted for about 74% of the total coyote harvest.

Historical furbearer harvest in Kansas based on the Furbearer Harvest Survey can be found in Table 6. This year's total harvest (147,874) was the lowest since the 2009-10 season and the second lowest harvest since 2002-03. This was a 10% decrease from last season and a 38% decrease from the 5-year average. Most notably, raccoon and bobcat (based on pelt tagging) harvest both dropped from last season by over 50%.

At the end of each survey, furharvesters are given the opportunity to provide comments on furharvesting in Kansas. These comments can be found in Appendix 2. All comments are read by the furbearer biologist, and an effort is made to respond to direct questions. At times, common themes from this questionnaire are addressed in some broadly distributed form such as the annual regulations summary (i.e. why are bobcats tagged, why these season dates, etc.). Opposing viewpoints are commonly expressed in this section by furharvesters, and it's certainly worth noting that there is opposition and support for nearly any regulatory change the Department could ever consider.

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	1559	203	542	40.0
Paper survey	4264 ^a	60	1047	24.9
Total	4790	60	1589	33.6

^aSent to those without e-mails and e-mail nonrespondents.

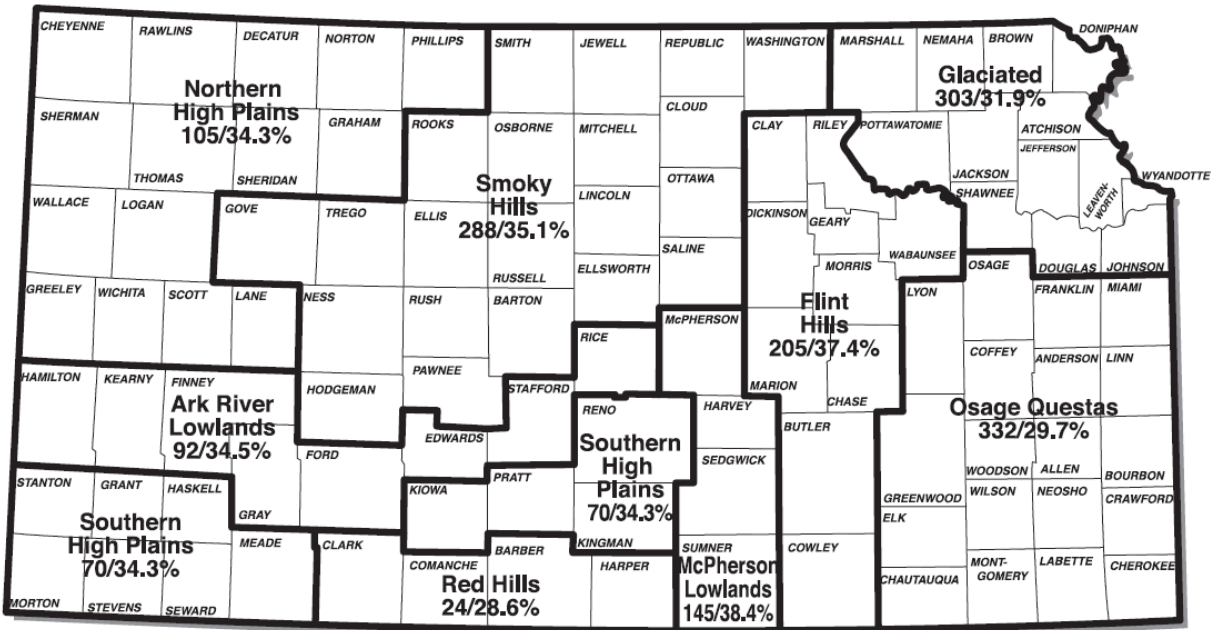


Figure 1. The number of survey respondents (number) and the response rate of furharvesters (percent) within each physiographic province in Kansas.

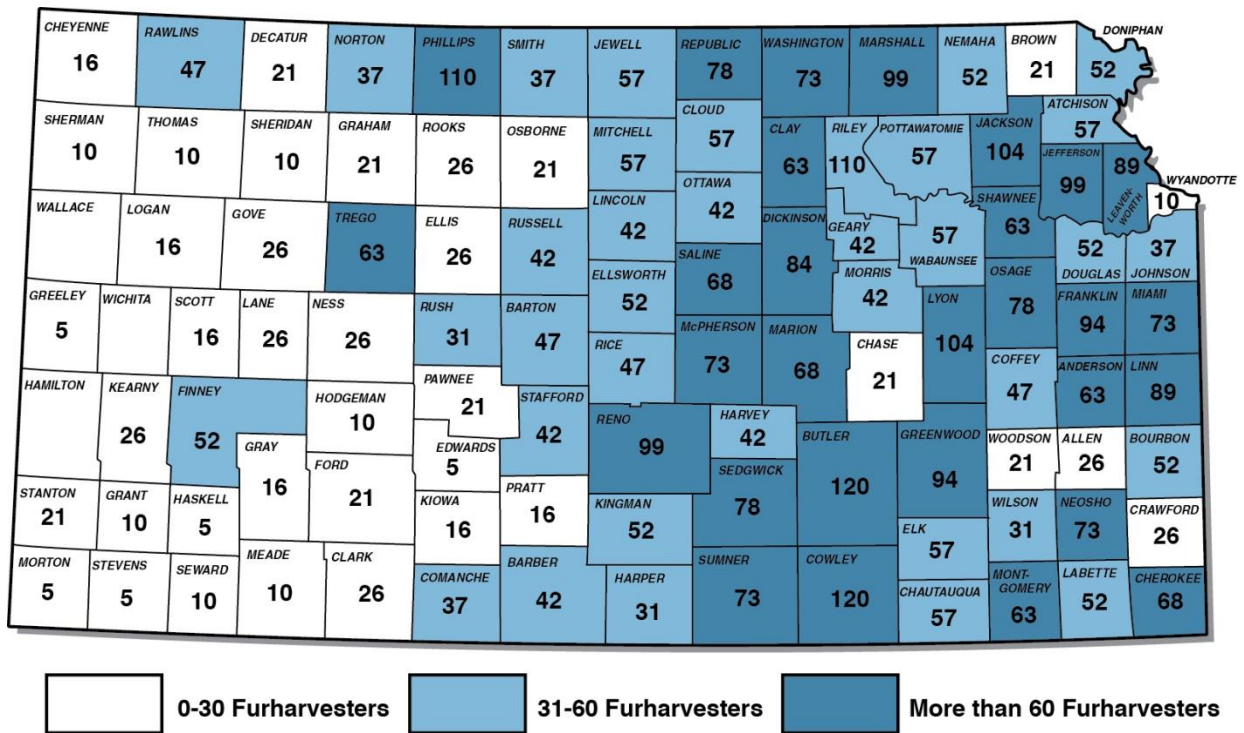


Figure 2. Estimated furharvester distribution in Kansas based on the county in which active survey respondents conducted most of their furharvesting activities.

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 2015-16.

Activity	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters
Inactive	3179	39.8
Trap only	1379	17.3
Hunt only	1540	19.3
Run only	35	0.4
Trap and hunt	1439	18.0
Trap and run	15	0.2
Hunt and run	247	3.1
Trap, hunt and run	146	1.8
Total Participation		
Total trappers	2977	37.3
Total hunters	3369	42.2
Total runners	442	5.5

Table 3. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trappers in Kansas during the 2015-16 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	137	1,185	3,442	11.0	6	17	1.7
Beaver	162	6,262	3,036	5.3	13	127	7.7
Bobcat	299	2,903	9,495	11.5	2	29	1.9
Coyote	380	24,879	12,483	14.5	4	375	13.0
Red Fox	50	311	938	5.8	1	13	1.2
Gray Fox	9	55	265	7.6	3	6	1.2
Swift Fox	12	90	307	7.3	7	8	1.5
Mink	27	226	694	9.1	2	30	1.7
Muskrat	88	5,228	1,586	8.5	15	176	11.8
Opossum	355	22,253	8,722	12.6	10	200	12.5
Otter	24	186	336	3.9	26	6	1.5
Raccoon	495	37,203	13,242	13.7	9	183	15.0
Skunk	247	9,080	6,188	13.9	8	127	7.3
Weasel	1	0	25	0	6	0	0.0

Table 4. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for hunters in Kansas during the 2015-16 harvest season.

Species	Number of Hunters Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	Harvest/100 Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Hunter
Badger	45	392	33	12	1.7
Bobcat	278	939	7	20	0.7
Coyote	579	18,893	51	110	6.5
Red Fox	39	116	20	4	0.6
Gray Fox	7	0	0	0	0.0
Swift Fox	9	10	2	1	0.2
Opossum	56	2,079	79	40	7.4
Raccoon	219	13,750	91	220	12.5
Skunk	37	879	214	30	4.7

Table 5. Treering success, participation, and activity levels for furharvesters in Kansas during the 2015-16 running season.

Species	Number of Runners Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Take*	Take/100 Days*	Maximum Take*	Ave Take/Runner*
Bobcat	6	90	22	10	3.0
Red Fox	0	0	0	0	0.0
Gray Fox	0	0	0	0	0.0
Opossum	15	562	55	40	7.5
Raccoon	83	15,096	97	450	36.2

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

Table 5. 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
2012-13	2017	9535	5926	8164	52681	90	898	246	620	225	5396	43844	128	196	121514	17553	0
2013-14	1661	8063	4990	7431	41694	51	838	239	252	154	5590	46584	158	175	117069	16101	5
2014-15	1794	7146	3044	4353	48444	18	801	151	349	235	9129	43138	169	216	93437	13022	0
2015-16	1602	6262	2319	3882	44124	55	427	75	100	226	5228	24538	115	186	51250	9994	0

* 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 furharvester recruitment, trap ownership and use, and regulatory preferences. This year’s special section inquired about the presence and population trend of three furbearers of limited range or abundance in Kansas; the river otter, gray fox and spotted skunk.

Respondents indicated their belief about the presence of each species in the area of Kansas they furharvest in Figure 3. Twenty-three percent believed otter were present, 20% believed gray fox were present, and 11% believed spotted skunk were present. The percent of respondents from each physiographic who believe each species was present is provided in Figure 4.

Respondents were also asked whether they had seen each species or their sign in Kansas with in the past five years (Figure 5). Eighteen percent indicated they had seen otter or their sign, 14% indicated they had seen gray fox or their sign, and 6% indicated they had seen spotted skunk or their sign. Figure 6 shows the percent of respondents living within each physiographic province who indicated they had seen the species or their sign.

Respondents who indicated they had seen the species or their sign were asked to provide the county in which the observation occurred, and they could list up to three counties. Figures 7-9 indicate the counties and the number of furharvesters per county where observations were reported for otter, gray fox, and spotted skunk, respectively. Figure 10 shows the population trend of each species according to furharvesters who believed the species was present in the area they furharvest.

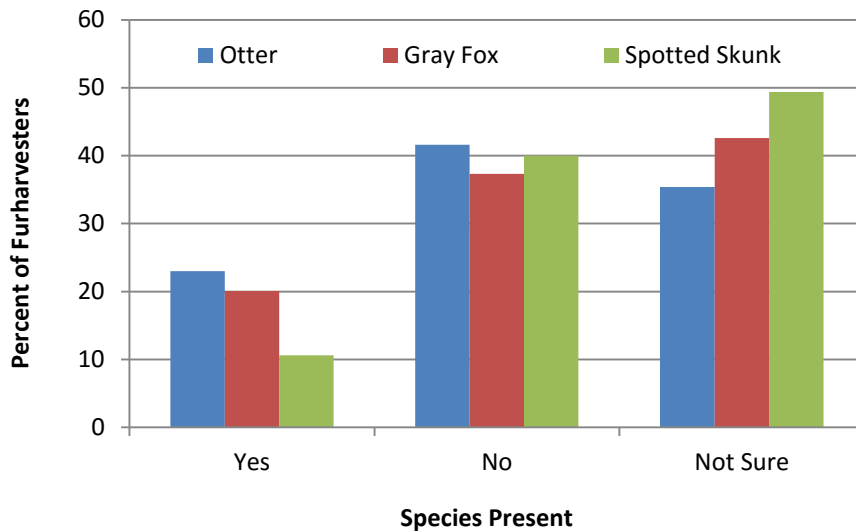


Figure 3. Percent of furharvesters indicating their belief about the presence of otter (n=1491), gray fox (n=1496) and spotted skunk (n=1481) in the area of Kansas they furharvest.

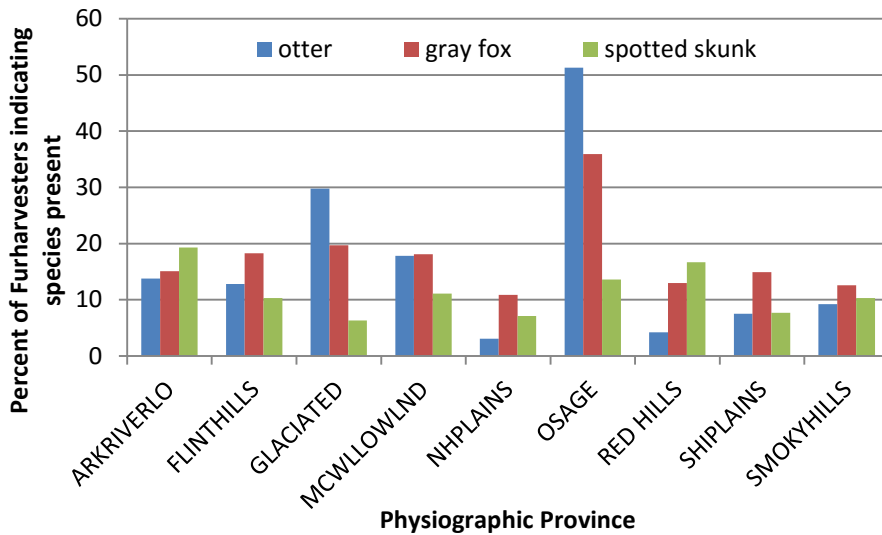


Figure 4. Percent of furharvesters by physiographic province who indicated they believed otter (n=1491), gray fox (n=1496) or spotted skunk (n=1481) were present in the areas they furharvest.

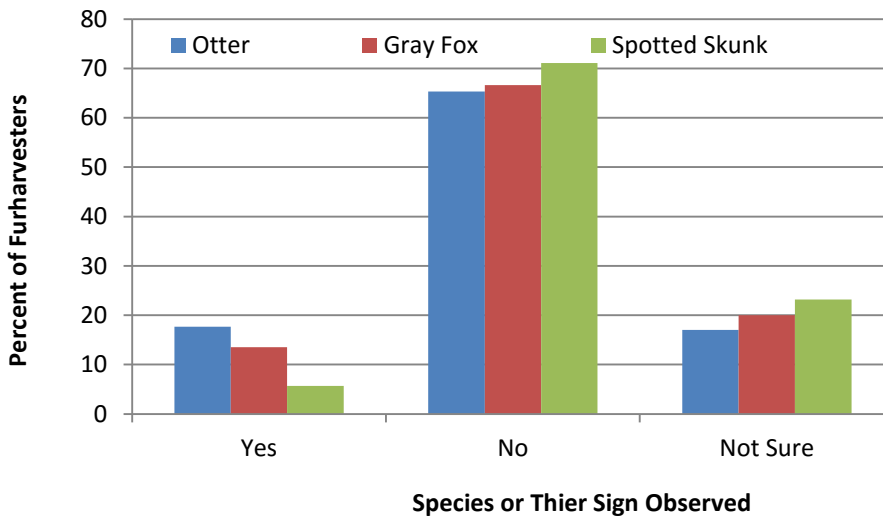


Figure 5. Percent of furharvesters indicating whether they had seen otter (n=1486), gray fox (n=1489), spotted skunk (n=1470), or their sign in Kansas in the last 5 years.

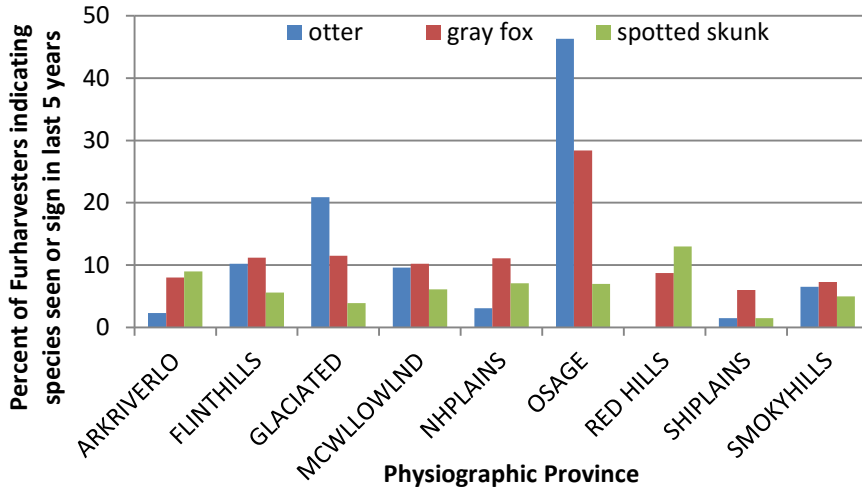


Figure 6. Percent of furharvesters by physiographic province who indicated they had seen otter (n=263), gray fox (n=281), spotted skunk (n=84), or their sign in Kansas in the last 5 years.

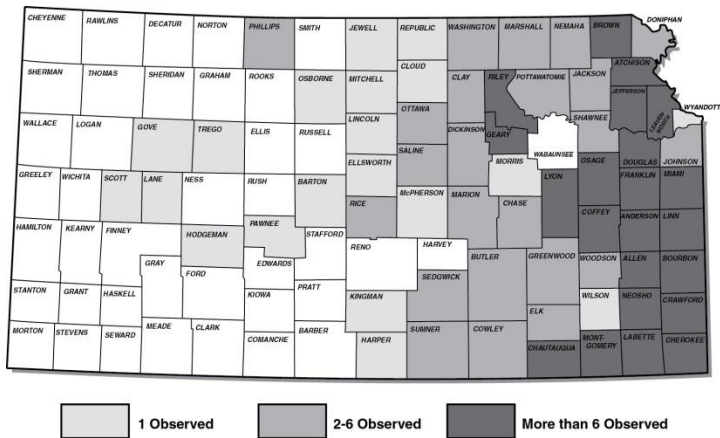


Figure 7. Counties where furharvesters reported to have seen an otter or their sign within the last 5 years (253 furharvesters identified counties 350 times).

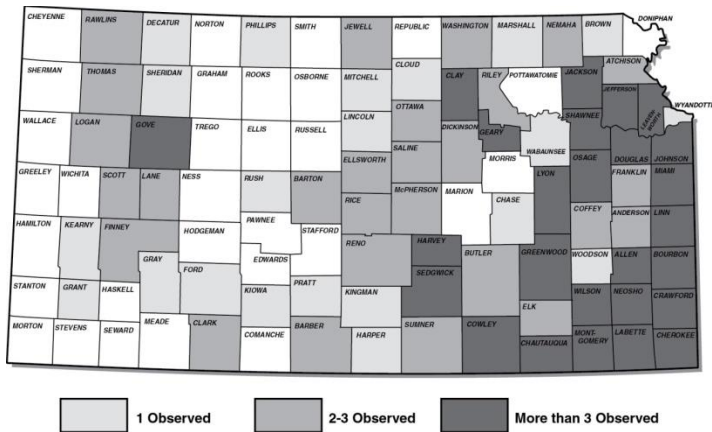


Figure 8. Counties where furharvesters reported to have seen a gray fox or their sign within the last 5 years (184 furharvesters identified counties 238 times).

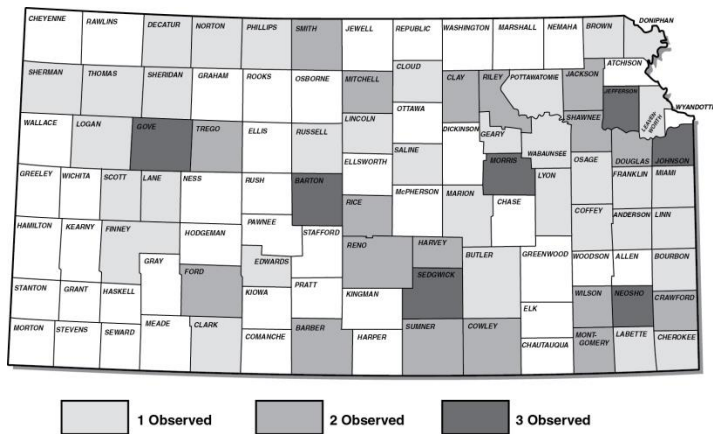


Figure 9. Counties where furharvesters reported to have seen a spotted skunk or their sign within the last 5 years (70 furharvesters identified counties 91 times).



Figure 10. Population trend of otter (n=334), gray fox (n=284), and spotted skunk (n=149) as indicated by furharvesters who believed the species was present in the area they furharvest.

Appendix 1.

Paper Version of the
2015-16 Furbearer Harvest Survey

2015-16 Furbearer Harvest Survey

Your ID: «TXNL_CUST_ID»

Dear «CUST_NAME»

«CUST_STREET»

«CUST_CITY», «CUST_ST_CNTRY» «CUST_POSTAL_CODE»

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 2015 or 2016. This survey provides our best estimate of furharvester activity, and is used to guide furbearer management decisions in Kansas.

Please complete the survey within 7 days and return in the postage paid envelope. Or if you have internet access, we would prefer you completed this survey online at: <https://www.research.net/r/Fur15>.

Please complete the survey even if you did not furharvest this year. Thank you for your participation!

Matt Peek, KDWPT furbearer biologist

Instructions:

- Estimate your harvest activities even if you can't remember the exact numbers.
- Include your harvest information only. Do not include a hunting/trapping partner's catch.

1. Did you hunt or trap furbearers during the 2015-16 season, or did you run furbearers with dogs during the running season in 2015?

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

2. In which county did you do most of your furharvesting in 2015-16? _____

3. Did you TRAP for furbearers in Kansas during the 2015-16 season?

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

4. How many of each did you harvest by TRAPPING in Kansas during the 2015-16 season? (Enter "0" for those you trapped for but didn't harvest.)

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 2015-16 season? The trapping season was 90 days (Nov 18-Feb 15) for all furbearers except beaver and otter, which were 134 days (Nov 18-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 2015-16 season?

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

14. How many of each did you harvest by HUNTING in Kansas during the 2015-16 season? (Enter "0" for those you hunted but didn't harvest.)

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 2015-16 season? *The furbearer hunting season was 90 days (Nov 18-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 2015 running season (Mar 1-Nov 8, 2015)?

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

18. How many of each did you "tree" during the 2015 running season in Kansas? (Enter "0" for those you hunted but didn't tree.)

Bobcat: _____ Red Fox: _____ Raccoon: _____

Gray Fox: _____ Opossum: _____

19. How many total calendar days did you RUN furbearers in Kansas during the 2015 season? *The furbearer running season was 253 days (Mar 1-Nov 8).*

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

Special Section – Furharvesting participation

21. Do you think these furbearer species exist in the area of Kansas you furharvest?

River otter	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
Gray fox	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
Spotted skunk	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Don't know

22. Have you seen these furbearers or their sign in Kansas in the past 5 years?

River otter	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
Gray fox	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
Spotted skunk	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Don't know

23. If you have seen these furbearers or their sign in Kansas in the past 5 years, in which counties were your observation(s)? If you've seen them in more than 3 counties, list the 3 in which you think they are most common.

	County 1	County 2	County 3
River otter	_____	_____	_____
Gray fox	_____	_____	_____
Spotted skunk	_____	_____	_____

24. Do you think the number of these furbearers in your area is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same?

River otter	<input type="radio"/> Increasing	<input type="radio"/> Decreasing	<input type="radio"/> Staying the same	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
Gray fox	<input type="radio"/> Increasing	<input type="radio"/> Decreasing	<input type="radio"/> Staying the same	<input type="radio"/> Don't know
Spotted skunk	<input type="radio"/> Increasing	<input type="radio"/> Decreasing	<input type="radio"/> Staying the same	<input type="radio"/> Don't know

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

25. If you have any comments or suggestions on furbearer management in KS, you can provide them here: _____

Thank you for your time and interest in Kansas furharvesting.

Appendix 2.

Furharvester Comments from the
2015-16 Furbearer Harvest Survey

AGE RESTRICTION ON HARVEST BOBCATS/ HARVEST ONLY ADULT MALES
ALL CRP LAND SHOULD BE OPEN TO PUBLIC HUNTING & FISHING! LOWER DEER LICENSE OR KILL TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
ALLOW ARTIFICIAL LIGHT HUNTING FOR NON-GAME ANIMALS
allow coon to be shot out year round. No hunters & no fur market. Coon are over populated.
allow coyotes to be hunted at night with artificial light.
Allow hunting coyotes at night with night vision/thermal/visible light.
Allow lights for calling coyotes at night.
Allow lights for calling. Could exclude lights during rifle deer seasons.
An extension on bobcat season would be nice. 48 hr check law on drowning sets would also be beneficial. I also would like to see an extension on muskrat trapping. Any sensible trapper would stop trapping rats after they've lost their value due to mating season.
Appreciate being able to hunt furbearers during specified bow portion of deer season.
Appreciate the understanding of muskrat incidentals during late beaver season. That was a great change this year
article in local newspaper about the importance of trapping, including local trappers knowledge, experience, reasons why they trap, etc.
back in the 70's muskrats were numerous, now not many as is most everywhere with the exceptions up north. The only suggestion is to continue to study the decline and maybe put a limit on them.
badgers are increasingly growing in population
BOBCAT NUMBERS ARE THE LOWEST IN 45 YRS. IN MY AREA. GREY FOX TRYING TO ESTABLISH AROUND WINDFIELD
BOBCAT SEASON NEEDS TO BE EXTENDED TO THE SAME AS BEAVER
BOBCAT SEASON SHOULD BE SHORTENED TO JAN 15 TO FEB 15
BOBCAT SEASON SHOULD START LATER AND POSSIBLY RUN LATER. YOU NEED TO CLOSE THE DOE SEASON IN JANUARY TOO MANY BUCKS GET SHOT
COONS SHOULD BE KILLED OR MANGE WILL KILL THEM HAVE SEEN THAT 3 TIMES IN 75 YEARS
Could not trap due to health issues
did not hunt due to health
did not trap or hunt because of bad prices, and had both knees replaced
DIDN'T MEAN TO GET FURBEARER LICENSE! MY MISTAKE- COUNTED AS A DONATION TO KDWPT
Do away with out of state trapping
do away with the daily permit program/ waste of money and time
DOING A GOOD JOB
DROP FEES BACK TO LAST YEARS PRICES. FUR PRICES ARE POOR. DON'T INCREASE LICENSE FEES.
end pheasant season at the end of year
Fur price down is why no trapping
Fur prices are so low that I don't think that many are being harvested. You see numerous coons, skunks, etc on the roads. I think they are a contributing factor in the very low numbers of game birds we have in the area, wild Pheasants are almost non-existent, very spotty at best. Back in the 70's and part of the 80's North Central KS used to be the hot spot in the nation. Bird populations are so low, I haven't hunted wild Pheasants in about 6 or 7 years.
FURHARVEST LICENSE SHOULD BE SEASONAL, LIKE HIP & DUCK STAMPS. WE HAVE TO BUY 2 FURHARVEST LICENSE FOR EACH SEASON. NO MRKT FOR FURS.
get rid of the River otters they are destroying every pond they enter
getting harder and harder to hunt with hounds and not trespass. i quit
Good job.
Have heard from many farmers about otters in their ponds. I would like to see some flyers put out by KDWPT how to contact trappers to catch these. The farmers are just shooting them and leaving them lay. We must educate these people as they only want to protect their fish that they have stocked and feed for years.
Hunting coyotes needs to be legal at night on private, state, and federal property.

HUNTING LEASES HAVE CAUSED THE LOSS OF MOST ALL OF MY TRAPPING LOCATIONS.
I am happy with the season length. Keep up the good work.
I am just startng out, these animals on this survey are not what i am after
I AM MAINLY TRYING TO HELP QUAIL WITH PREDATOR REMOVAL
I AM VERY HAPPY WITH THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN THE GREAT STATE OF KANSAS
I believe if Kansas looked into how Texas used lights to hunt red fox and coyote that it would make getting the population down on both that are out of hand, I would of hunted more for coyotes but I was injured and couldn't hunt like I usually do.
I do believe that trapping season for bobcats should be Jan 1 thru Feb 28. Because we would get better quality pelts & not so many young
I feel as if the limit on river otters should /could be raised to 4 without hurting the population
I furbearer hunt so little and am so inexperienced and usually with others leading and me just tagging along so figuring out what data to provide is difficult.
I had shoulder surgery last fall, wasn't physically able to trap. Picked a good year too miss!
i had trouble getting my cats tagged in resonable time
I ONLY CALL COYOTES & BOBCATS.
i only use predator calls & call them in.
I shoot skunks whenever I see them
I think KDWPT is getting to be a money game!
i think steel traps should be made illegal. they are inhumane.
i think the night hunting is so bad in my area there is no game left
I THINK THE OTTER LIMIT SHOULD BE DROPPED. I SEE MORE & MORE SIGN EVERY YEAR IN THE PITTS. NOW I HAVE NOT SEEN A CREEK OR FARM POND WERE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN THROUGH AT SOME POINT. THANK YOU
I THINK THERE SHOULD BE MORE LIMITATIONS ON 220'S ON LAND. IT DOES NOT MAKE ANY SENSE TO ME TO DIFFERENTIATE THE SEASONS FOR BEAVER, OTTER & MUSKRAT.
I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE IT LEGAL TO HUNT COYOTES AT NIGHT WITH ARTIFICIAL LIGHT. IT WOULD PROVIDE MORE TIME TO GET KEIDS IN THE FIELD, CONSIDERING CHILDRENS SCHEDULES ARE SO MUCH MORE HECTIC NOW DAYS WITH SCHOOL & SPORT ACTIVITIES THAN IT USED TO BE.
I THINK YOU SHOULD BAR COYOTE HUNTING WITH DOGS AND TRUCKS. THEY ARE USING ATVS NOW AND THEY ARE GETTIN WAY TOO MANY. COYOTES DON'T HAVE A CHANCE.
I trapped some spotted skunks back in 1950-1955
I TREED ALOT MORE IN KILL SEASON, BUT COONS WEREN'T WORTH VERY MUCH SO DIDNT SEE ANY REASON TO KILL THEM. KILLED A FEW SICK COONS ALSO IN JEFFERESON COUNTY BURNED THEM
I WAS HUNTING DEER & SHOT 2 BOBCATS. I TRAPPED 2 COONS THAT WERE AFTER OUR CHICKENS. GOT PERMIT TO BE LEGAL & MOUNT BOBCATS.
I would like to see an extended check on killer traps.
I would like to see more river otters in Kansas. I avoid trapping them and the fox due to low numbers seen. I have released the fox and young bobcats I catch.
I would like to see Nov 1 to March 1 be the fur season.
I would suggest allowing the use of artifical light for the taking of predators at night. Many of the other states allow it and it would be helpful in calling coyotes, bobcats and raccoons.
IF THE FUR PRICES WERE HIGHER I'D TRY TO TRAP MORE
IF YOU WANT ACCURATE INFORMATION, SEND THIS THE DAY AFTER THE SEASON CLOSSES.
Implement a 36 hour check. Open out of state trapping season from 1/1 to 2/1.
INCREASE THE LEGNTH OF THE TRAPPING SEASON
Increasing selling price of furs=more trapping= control predator species= more quail = more money for ks. Subsidy from the state administered through licensed buyers given to trappers for each purchase to offset poor fur prices.
I'VE ONLY SEEN 1 RIVER OTTER IN JACKSON CO, HE WAS WEST OF 75 HIGHWAY

Jackrabbits need to be protected.
JUST HUNTED BOBCATS & COYOTES WHEN BOWHUNTING DEER
Kansas needs a bounty on beavers. No value in them so noone including myself wants to trap them. Or get a state trapping org going.....
KANSAS SHOULD ALLOW NIGHT COYOTE HUNTING WITH A REDLIGHT. COYOTES ARE GETTING SMART TO THE CALLS IN THE DAYTIME.
KEEP PROMOTING THE SPORT! IT'S IMPORTANT
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
Keep up the good work KDWPT!
last season in 10 days I caught 35 plus striped skunks, this season in 6 days I caught 0 striped skunks. Only 3 of my 11 coyotes did not have mange.
LATER BOBCAT SEASON, LATER INTO THE YEAR
Lengthen Bobcat and Muskrat season
let coyotes, bobcats, fox be hunted at night with use of flashlights
let me trap problem beaver. I don't have A.D.C. licence
LET US HAVE AN OPEN KILL SEASON ON COON UNTIL FOR PRICES COME BACK. IT WILL HELP KEEP DISTEMPER KILLS DOWN. ALL THESE DEER FEEDERS ARE PULLING SICK COONS INTO CONTACT WITH HEALTHY ONES AS POPULATIONS INCREASE DUE TO LACK OF HUNTING PRESURES.
LOWER LICENSE PRICES
lower the price for a license is too high, i will not do this again
MAKE AN INFORMATION SITE FOR CREATING FURBEARER HABITAT
MAke coyote hunters names available to land owners that are having problems. You could survey and see what hunters would give you their contact info to give to land owners
Make mountain lions legal game animals
MAKE WALK-IN TRAPPER FRIENDLY
more detailed maps of public hunting
More Gary fox and introduce more otter in the republic river.
must not be a random drawing, I'm chosen every year
NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE BEAVER POPULATION, TO MUCH DAMAGE
need to help prices go up or they will drop game bird # by distroying nest & eating young
non-resident furharvesting should be banned!
Nothing to add
Number of coyotes in our area has increased. a large amount last season just didn't take the time to trap!
OPEN SKUNK YEAR AROUND TO FACILITATE ACCIDENTAL SKUNKS CAUGHT WHILE COYOTE TRAPPING
open trapping season later in the year
open up night hunting for coyotes.
open up otter per man, per year. They tear shit up & kill ALOT of fish. & good ponds ruined. They should be open like beaver- no limit but maybe still tagged
Open W.I. Hunting to Furhavesting. Only 1 Coyote I caught didn't have mange, Beaver are out of control on Rivers & Streams
opening day time is foolish !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
OPOSSUM & STRIPED SKUNK SHOULD BE OPEN YEAR ROUND LIKE COYOTES. tHEY ARE A NUISANCE.
Otter are becoming a nuisance. You need get rid of the two otter limit
Otter limit in SE Kansas should be lifted
OVER THE LAST 20 YRS I HAVE SEEN A HUGE INCREASE IN BOBCATS, TURKEYS, JACK RABBIRS & PRAIRIE CHICKENS. A DECLINE IN COYOTES.
Please allow for online testing and submission for the damage control permit.

please allow night coyote hunting, tons of yotes. alot at river landing delaware near perry lake lenexa, ks has tons of foxes urban areas.
Please email me a copy of this survey when completed.
Please let us hunt coyotes at night with artificial light and a electronic collar
PLEASE STOCK MORE BOBCATS AND MOUNTAIN LIONS
prairie chickens are gone!
RACCOON SHOULD BE ON THE SAME LIST AS A COYOTE AND HAVE NO SEASON
River otter continue to increase in numbers. Hopefully we can soon increase the amount each fur Harvester can take
RIVER OTTER EXPANSION TO CENTRAL KANSAS RIVERS- REPUBLIC, SMOKY ETC. RELOACTION WHILE FOUR PRICES ARE LOW!
save money, don't tag cats.
SEASON NEEDS TO START EARLIER
SEASON ON ALL FERREL CATS
Seems like the numbers of bobcats are down in our area- just wondering if others had experienced the same.
seen cougar tracks on consecetive years and one cougar in Labette county
seen river otter 4 years ago and only 1 ever seen
Snares and anything bigger than a 110 conibear should not be allowed on public land to trap with above ground or out of the water.
SORRY FOR TAKING SO LONG TO REPLY
Sorry it took me so long to respond!
sorry to much on my plate to trap this year. I miss it something really enjoy.Thanks for all your work.
START TRAPPING SEASON A WEEK LATER TO HELP YOUNGER COON PRIME UP. END TRAPPING SEASON A WEEK LATER AS BOBCAT & BADGER PRIME LATE.
STOP DEER HUNTERS FROM KILLING COONS, THEY ARE TRAPPING & POISONING STOP THE USE OF ELECTRONIC CALLS FOR COONS. OR STOP BAITING DEER! PLEASE STOP ALL BAITING PERIOD
STOP OUT OF STATE DEER HUNTERS FROM SHOOTING BOBCATS &COYOTES WHILE DEER HUNTING. STOP OUT OF STATE GUIDED HUNTS SO LOCAL GUYS AND GALS CAN FIND PLACES TO GO
Survey-too hard to be accurate, too many choices you have to guess on. I am not educated beyond my senses like some people who make surveys like this one.
Take the limit off otter in Kansas I've seen sign in lots of good fishing ponds
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE KDWP'S
Thank you for asking. Just haven't gone out for fur yet.
THANK YOU FOR HAVING A FURHARVEST SEASON
THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU TO HELP THE KANSAS WILDLIFE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
Thanks for all you do
thanks for supporting Furbearer season
Thanks Kansas, we love you!
The River Otter is as destructive as the wolf in Yellowstone. I have one comes thru here kills siveral big fish eats half an leaves rest on bend or ice. Also a big concern is the commorants, taking over Bone Creek and Spring River eating all the bait fish. It has already effected fishing
There are plenty of varmints out there, but I have a feeling that some will eat poisonous snakes. So, I didn't feel the need to trap any.
there should be a daily bag limit on running furbearers.
There shouldn't be a season on coons.
there use to be a lot of muskrat on the Solomon river now there are very few. Would it be possible to stock some & there has been very little trapping in the past 10 years. (and there are no mink)
THERE'S A HUGE COYOTE PROBLEM AND I THINK TRAPPING SHOULD BE ASESSABLE FOR EVERYONE IN COYOTE FURHARVESTING.
Things are fine. Just didn't have time to trap after all
This is just an observation bobcats are on the increase in my hunt area of Franklin County

this year I only trapped nuisance animals
too many skunks
trap during nesting season for quail and pheasant and turkey
Trapping on public land should be closed until Jan. 1st. each year.
WE NEED TO STOP USING GAME FEEDERS. SICK COON COUNT ON THEM AND THEN HEALTHY COON GET SICK FROM USING THEM.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HUNT COYOTES WITH ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AT NIGHT.
we should be able to hunt coyotes with artificial light
What is wrong with extending the season to the end of February? We are forced to quit trapping right when our bobcats are hitting their peak fur & primeness. Also, how about going reciprocal with Oklahoma? It's costing us twice as much to trap nonresident down there verses them coming up here.
WHEN I BOUGHT MY HUNTING LICENSE IN 2015 THEY MADE A MISTAKE AND SOLD ME A FURHARVESTER LICENSE.
Why are the permits increasing?
why open the season at noon? Suggest at least start the season at sunrise.
wish coyote hunting by vehicle was illegal. There is alot of animals that get spooked by them and cows that run through fences by coyote hunting with vehicles.
WOULD BE NICE TO USE ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AT NIGHT FOR CALLING FURBEARERS. BUT REQUIRE THE HUNTERS TO NOTIFY THE LOCAL GAME WARDEN FIRST.
WOULD LIKE OPENING DAY TO BEGIN AT 8 AM. MOST FURBEARERS WOULD BE RESTING AND NOT BE LIKELY TRAPPED UNTIL EVENING, GIVING MORE TIME TO SET TRAPS OPENING DAY.
would like to have night hunting for coyotes in kansas
Would like to see a 2 day check on submerced bodygrip traps
YES, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A LIST WITH ADDRESSES OF FUR BUYERS IN KANSAS. MORE INFORMATION ON TICK PREVENTION AND HOW TO GET RID OF THEM IN YARDS, ETC. WHAT IS THE BEST INSECTICIDES TO USE. THEY LOVE ME!
You are doing a fine job!!!
You guys are doing a great job.
You need to separate the survey between furharvesting for pelts and ADC trapping. Due to fur prices, I do NO furharvesting for pelts. I did not skin any species other than muskrat this year. 100% of my trapping in 2015-16 was ADC work.