

# **2013-14 BOBCAT PELT TAGGING REPORT**

## PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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## 2013-14 BOBCAT PELT TAGGING REPORT



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 2013, Kansas used yellow “KS BCAT” tags below number 60510. A total of 136 KDWPT employees and offices were issued tags for the 2013-14 furharvesting season.

CITES tags were affixed to the pelts of 4990 bobcats that were taken in Kansas during the furharvesting season. This included 1 bobcat salvaged by KDWPT. This was a 16% decrease in harvest from last season (5926) but a 10% increase over the 5 year average (4536). The number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since 1978 can be found in **Figure 1**.

Bobcats were taken in 101 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 1653 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 ( $n = 5$ ) were not included in this analysis. The pelt tagging records of 42 bobcats from one employee were lost in the mail, and are reported throughout the document as missing data.

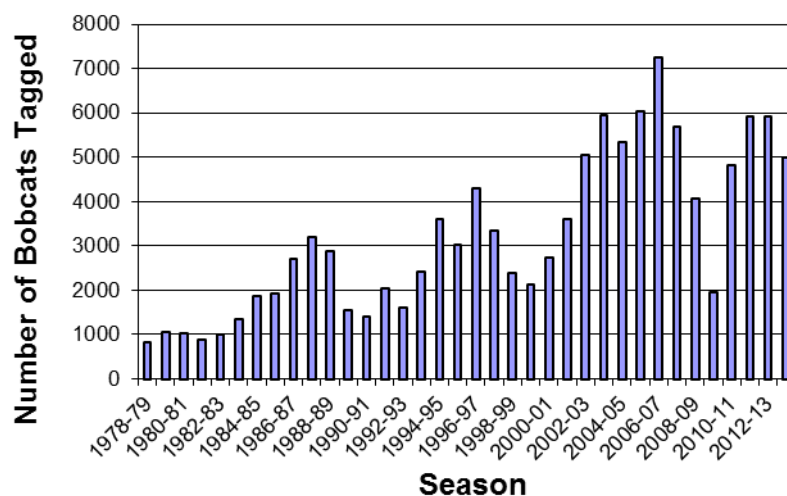


Figure 1. Number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since tagging began in 1978.

Figure 3. Number of bobcats taken per county during the 2013-14 furharvesting season in Kansas (n = 4948).

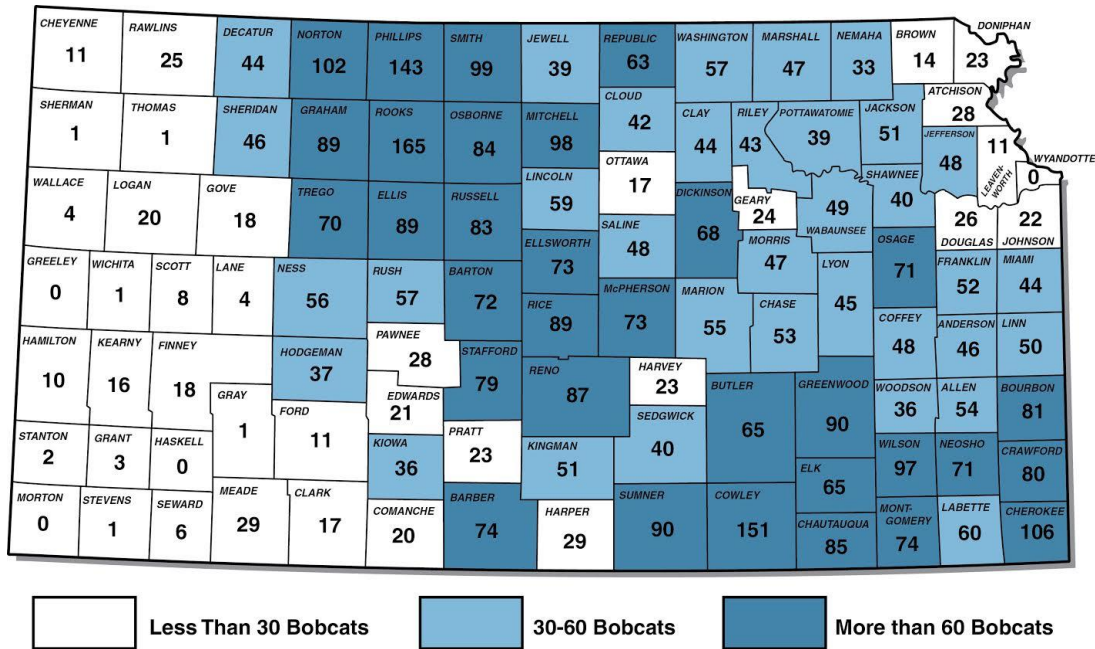


Figure 3. Estimated number of bobcats taken per day during the 2013-14 furharvesting season. (Data smoothed:  $y_{(i)} = .5y_{(i)} + .25y_{(i+1)} + .25y_{(i-1)}$ .)

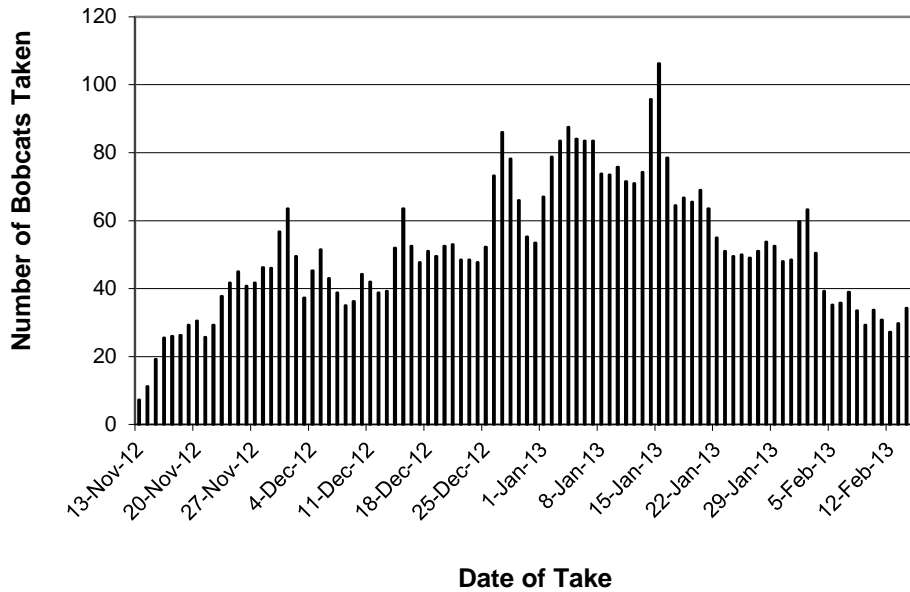


Table 1. Methods used to take bobcats during the 2013-14 furharvesting season in Kansas.

METHOD		Number of Furharvesters*	Number of Bobcats taken	Percent of Bobcats taken
TRAPPING				
	(1) Foothold Trap	782	2373	47.6%
	(2) Body Gripping Trap	158	317	6.4%
	(3) Cage Trap	346	845	16.9%
	(4) Snare	231	607	12.2%
	SUB-TOTAL	1517	4142	83.0%
HUNTING				
	(5) Rifle	391	513	10.3%
	(6) Shotgun	51	59	1.2%
	(7) Archery	61	66	1.3%
	(8) Hounds	11	21	0.4%
	SUB-TOTAL	514	659	13.2%
OTHER				
	(9) Salvage	111	116	2.3%
	(10) Unspecified or other	16	73	1.5%
	SUB-TOTAL	127	189	3.8%
TOTAL		2158	4990	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 2013-14 furharvesting season in Kansas.

SPECIES		FREQUENCY	PERCENT
FURBEARERS	Bobcat	4260	85.4%
	Coyote	342	6.9%
	Raccoon	108	2.2%
	Fox or "K-9"	6	0.1%
	Muskrat	1	0.0%
	SUB-TOTAL	4717	94.5%
BIG GAME	Deer	98	2.0%
SMALL GAME	Quail	2	0.0%
	Pheasant	2	0.0%
	Birds*	4	0.1%
	SUB-TOTAL	8	0.2%
OTHER	Unspecified or other	51	1.0%
	Salvage	116	2.3%
	SUB-TOTAL	167	3.3%
TOTAL		4990	100.0%

\*Pheasant, quail, duck and turkey

Table 3. Total season bag of bobcats per furharvester during the 2013-14 season.  
Data includes 1 bobcat taken 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	774	46.82%	46.82%	774	15.64%	15.64%
2	302	18.27%	65.09%	604	12.21%	27.85%
3	189	11.43%	76.53%	567	11.46%	39.31%
4	96	5.81%	82.34%	384	7.76%	47.07%
5	80	4.84%	87.17%	400	8.08%	55.15%
6	61	3.69%	90.87%	366	7.40%	62.55%
7	35	2.12%	92.98%	245	4.95%	67.50%
8	17	1.03%	94.01%	136	2.75%	70.25%
9	12	0.73%	94.74%	108	2.18%	72.43%
10	19	1.15%	95.89%	190	3.84%	76.27%
11	14	0.85%	96.73%	154	3.11%	79.39%
12	4	0.24%	96.98%	48	0.97%	80.36%
13	9	0.54%	97.52%	117	2.36%	82.72%
14	9	0.54%	98.06%	126	2.55%	85.27%
15	4	0.24%	98.31%	60	1.21%	86.48%
16	3	0.18%	98.49%	48	0.97%	87.45%
17	4	0.24%	98.73%	68	1.37%	88.82%
18	3	0.18%	98.91%	54	1.09%	89.92%
20	5	0.30%	99.21%	100	2.02%	91.94%
21	2	0.12%	99.33%	42	0.85%	92.78%
23	1	0.06%	99.40%	23	0.46%	93.25%
24	2	0.12%	99.52%	48	0.97%	94.22%
26	1	0.06%	99.58%	26	0.53%	94.75%
27	1	0.06%	99.64%	27	0.55%	95.29%
30	2	0.12%	99.76%	60	1.21%	96.50%
34	1	0.06%	99.82%	34	0.69%	97.19%
38	1	0.06%	99.88%	38	0.77%	97.96%
50	1	0.06%	99.94%	50	1.01%	98.97%
51	1	0.06%	100.00%	51	1.03%	100.00%
Total	1653			4948		