

2009-10 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 2009, Kansas used yellow “KS BCAT” tags below number 39000 that were on hand from previous seasons. A total of 136 KDWP employees and offices were issued tags for the 2009-10 furharvesting season. Following the season, one tagger’s data on nine bobcats tagged (38230-38238) and 21 unused tags (38239-38259) were apparently lost in the mail. The nine bobcats are represented throughout the report as missing data.

CITES tags were affixed to the pelts of 1944 bobcats that were taken in Kansas during the furharvesting season. This included 6 bobcats salvaged or confiscated by KDWP. This was the fewest bobcats harvested since 1992-93, and a 52% decrease from last year’s harvest of 4080 bobcats. 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 761 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 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 = 4) were not included in this analysis.

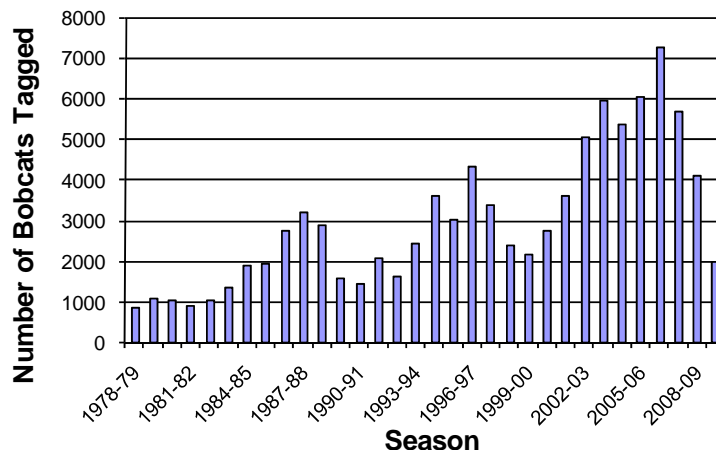


Figure 1. Number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since tagging began in 1978.

Table 1. Methods used to take bobcats during the 2009-10 furharvesting season in Kansas.

METHOD	Number of Furharvesters*	Number of Bobcats taken	Percent of Bobcats taken
TRAPPING			
(1) Foothold Trap	193	520	26.7%
(2) Body Gripping Trap	65	128	6.6%
(3) Cage Trap	126	336	17.3%
(4) Snare	88	285	14.7%
SUB-TOTAL	472	1269	65.3%
HUNTING			
(5) Rifle	284	423	21.8%
(6) Shotgun	52	59	3.0%
(7) Archery	40	41	2.1%
(8) Hounds	11	29	1.5%
SUB-TOTAL	387	552	28.4%
OTHER			
(9) Salvage	93	110	5.7%
(10) Unspecified	5	13	0.7%
SUB-TOTAL	98	123	6.3%
TOTAL	957	1944	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 2009-10 furharvesting season in Kansas.

SPECIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
FURBEARERS		
Bobcat	1520	78.2%
Coyote	156	8.0%
Raccoon	39	2.0%
SUB-TOTAL	1715	88.2%
BIG GAME		
Deer	69	3.5%
SMALL GAME		
Quail	4	0.2%
Pheasant	30	1.5%
rabbit	2	0.1%
squirrel	2	0.1%
turkey	1	0.1%
SUB-TOTAL	39	2.0%
OTHERS		
Unspecified	11	0.6%
Salvage	110	5.7%
SUB-TOTAL	121	6.2%
TOTAL	1944	100.0%

Table 3. Total season bag of bobcats per furharvester during the 2009-10 season.
 Data includes 6 bobcats taken by KDWP.

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	400	52.56%	52.56%	400	20.58%	20.58%
2	155	20.37%	72.93%	310	15.95%	36.52%
3	67	8.80%	81.73%	201	10.34%	46.86%
4	45	5.91%	87.65%	180	9.26%	56.12%
5	19	2.50%	90.14%	95	4.89%	61.01%
6	22	2.89%	93.04%	132	6.79%	67.80%
7	10	1.31%	94.35%	70	3.60%	71.40%
8	13	1.71%	96.06%	104	5.35%	76.75%
9	3	0.39%	96.45%	27	1.39%	78.14%
10	3	0.39%	96.85%	30	1.54%	79.68%
11	7	0.92%	97.77%	77	3.96%	83.64%
12	1	0.13%	97.90%	12	0.62%	84.26%
13	2	0.26%	98.16%	26	1.34%	85.60%
14	5	0.66%	98.82%	70	3.60%	89.20%
16	1	0.13%	98.95%	16	0.82%	90.02%
17	1	0.13%	99.08%	17	0.87%	90.90%
20	1	0.13%	99.21%	20	1.03%	91.92%
21	1	0.13%	99.34%	21	1.08%	93.00%
23	2	0.26%	99.61%	46	2.37%	95.37%
24	1	0.13%	99.74%	24	1.23%	96.60%
28	1	0.13%	99.87%	28	1.44%	98.05%
38	1	0.13%	100.00%	38	1.95%	100.00%

Total

761

1944