

2014-15 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-21

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Robin Jennison
Secretary

Prepared by

Matt Peek
Furbearer Biologist



September 2015

PERMISSION TO QUOTE

This is an annual progress report that may contain information that is subject to future modification or revision. Persons wishing to quote from this report, for reproduction or reference, should first obtain permission from the Chief of the Wildlife Section, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 512 SE 25th Avenue, Pratt, KS 67124.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please write to:

**The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Diversity and Civil Rights Programs- External Programs
4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203**

2014-15 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 season, 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. Questions were the same from 1983-2008. However, in 2009, a change in question structure in the trapping section was 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 the option of traditional paper surveys have always been available.

There were 8757 furharvester licenses sold in 2014, including 8341 resident licenses, 298 junior resident licenses, and 118 nonresident licenses. From these, a sample of 5334 license holders (60%) was selected. The online database contained e-mails for 1636 (31%) of these individuals, but 171 (10%) had opted out of SurveyMonkey™ surveys. An initial e-mail was sent to the remaining 1465 on April 2, 2015 containing a request for participation and a link to the survey. A reminder e-mail was sent out on April 13, 2015.

A single mailing consisting of a 2-page, 8.5"x11" paper survey (Appendix 1) was sent out on April 21, 2015 to furharvesters without a deliverable e-mail on file and to the nonrespondents of our e-mail request (n = 4827). 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 125 new and 45 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-four percent of respondents indicated they participated in furharvesting activities during the 2014-15 season (i.e. were active). This is down slightly from the 69% from 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 251,791 user days in pursuit of furbearers, including 155,290 days trapping, 71672 days hunting, and 24829 days running. These figures represent an 14% decrease in combined user days from the previous season. Average days afield by trappers, hunters, and runners were similar to last season (42, 18 and 44 last season compared to 40, 19 and 50 this season, respectively) but fewer furharvesters afield led to the decrease in total user days. 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. As is typically the case, trappers accounted for the majority of harvest of most furbearer species. Though far more coyotes are taken by hunters than trappers, most hunters who take coyotes by hunting do not have a furharvesting license, so take by these individuals isn't represented in this survey.

Historical furbearer harvest in Kansas based on the Furbearer Harvest Survey can be found in Table 6. This year's total harvest (222,082) was the lowest since the 2010-11 season, but for longer term perspective, this total harvest is higher than any season between 1987-88 and 2010-11 season. Not every species declined in harvest from last season. Coyote, mink, muskrat and otter increased by 16, 53, 63 and 7%, respectively. Harvest declined the most for gray fox, bobcat, swift fox and raccoon (65, 39, 37, and 20%, respectively).

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 also 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	1465	23	507	35.0
Paper survey	4827 ^a	63	1425	29.9
Total	5334	63	1932	36.7

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

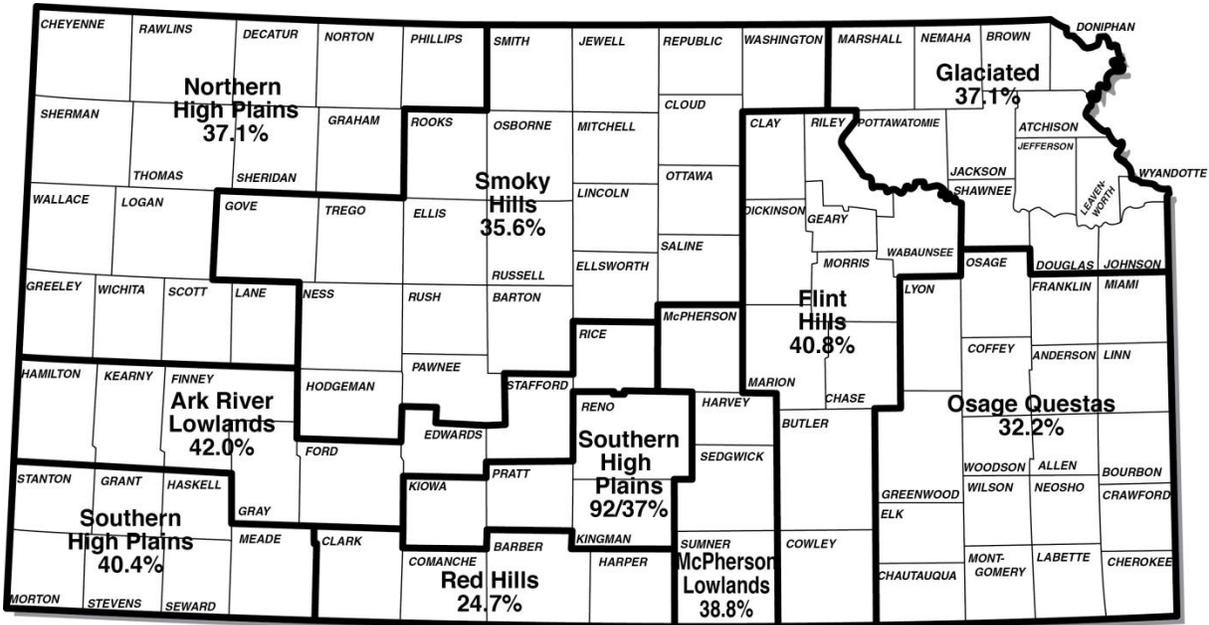


Figure 1. The number of survey respondents (number) and the response rate of furharvesters (percent) within each physiographic province in Kansas.

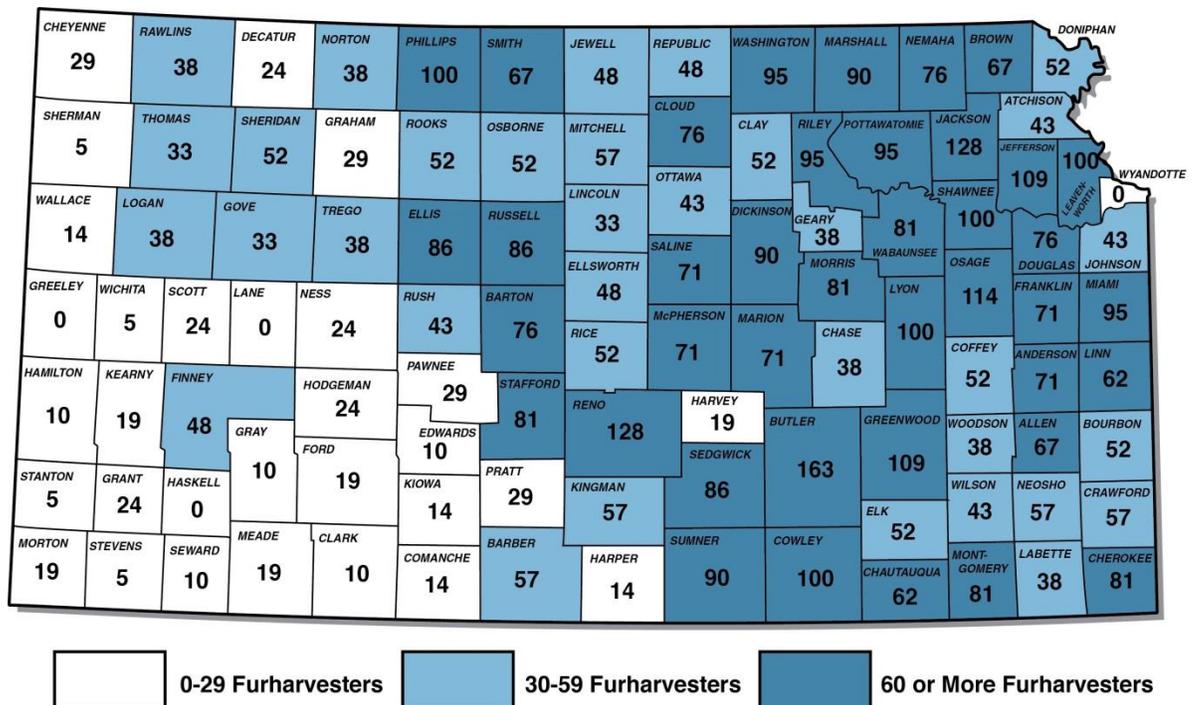


Figure 2. Estimated furharvester distribution in Kansas based on the county in which active survey respondents conducted most of their furharvesting activities.

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 2014-15.

Activity	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters
Inactive	3170	35.7
Trap only	1852	20.8
Hunt only	1483	16.7
Run only	18	0.2
Trap and hunt	1861	20.9
Trap and run	18	0.2
Hunt and run	322	3.6
Trap, hunt and run	161	1.8
Total Participation		
Total trappers	3892	49.3
Total hunters	3828	45.7
Total runners	521	6.9

Table 3. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for trappers in Kansas during the 2013-14 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	208	1,537	7,256	12.5	4.1	12	1.6
Beaver	215	6,962	4,756	5.76	11.5	100	7.0
Bobcat	437	3,548	16,244	10.4	1.2	20	1.8
Coyote	516	26,629	20,742	13.7	3.3	191	11.2
Red Fox	85	709	1,631	8.02	3.7	13	1.8
Gray Fox	6	9	279	6	0.8	1	0.3
Swift Fox	16	308	199	7.6	4.7	25	4.2
Mink	37	235	957	8.97	5.0	17	1.4
Muskrat	132	9,129	2,850	9.26	16.1	226	15.0
Opossum	540	41,257	16,815	12.8	7.0	800	16.6
Otter	33	216	320	4.63	19.9	3	1.4
Raccoon	751	72,073	26,925	14.5	7.8	529	20.9
Skunk	348	12,304	12,325	14.8	3.2	150	7.7
Weasel	3	0	146	2.67	0.0	0	0.0

Table 4. Harvest, participation, and activity levels for hunters in Kansas during the 2014-15 harvest season.

Species	Number of Hunters Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Harvest	Harvest/100 Days	Maximum Harvest	Ave Harvest/Hunter
Badger	52	248	26.0	6	1.0
Bobcat	333	805	8.1	30	0.5
Coyote	705	21,779	44.9	200	6.7
Red Fox	47	87	9.2	3	0.4
Gray Fox	19	9	0.4	1	0.1
Swift Fox	20	41	13.0	5	0.5
Opossum	64	1,813	89.7	30	6.2
Raccoon	301	20,955	104.0	287	15.1
Skunk	39	699	37.7	30	3.9

Table 5. Treeing success, participation, and activity levels for furharvesters in Kansas during the 2014-15 running season.

Species	Number of Runners Who Pursued (n)	Estimated Take*	Take/100 Days*	Maximum Take*	Ave Take/Runner*
Bobcat	5	55	35.7	6	2.4
Red Fox	1	0	0	0	0
Gray Fox	1	0	0	0	0
Opossum	16	515	23.7	25	7
Raccoon	104	22,046	100.7	600	46

*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

* 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 addressed furharvesting participation. During many seasons, around 30% of license holders indicate they do not participate in any furharvesting activities (nearly 36% this year; see Table 2.) We wanted to get a better idea of which activities these license buyers typically participate, and why specifically they didn’t participate this season.

We first asked furharvesters whether they hunt furbearers, trap furbearers, both, or neither during a typical season (Figure 3). Out of all license buyers, 72% indicated they hunt during a typical season (either “hunt and trap” or “hunt only”) 63% indicated they trap, and 7% indicated they typically don’t hunt or trap.

We then asked furharvesters who indicated they did not furharvest last season, why they did not do so despite having a license (Figure 4). By assigning a point value to responses (3=extremely important, 2=moderately important, 1=slightly important, 0=not at all important), a mean response value was calculated for each potential reason for not furharvesting (Figure 5). “Not enough time” was the most important reason given, followed by buying a license just in case “I see a furbearer while hunting other species” and low pelt prices. The next reason, bought a license for last season, refers to the fact that licenses are good for a calendar year, so some may have bought a license to furharvest from January through March of 2014 with no specific intent of harvest in the Fall/Winter of that year, even though the license would be valid.

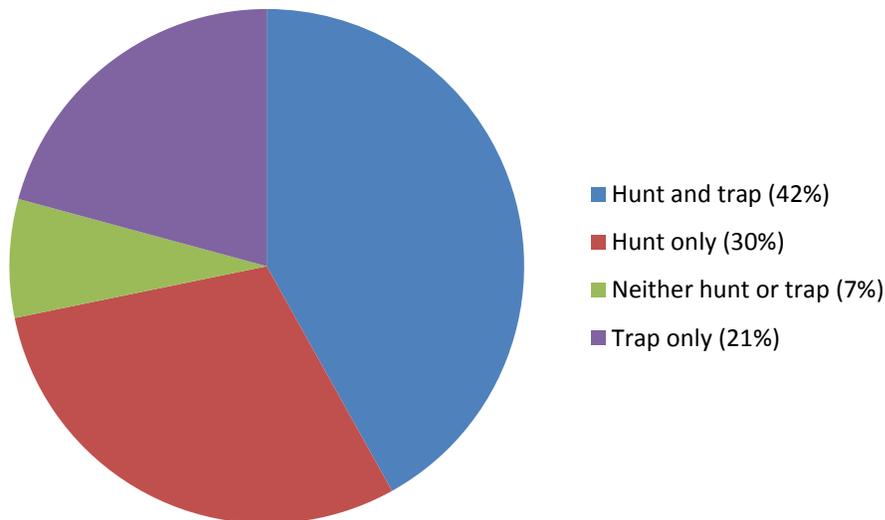


Figure 3. Furbearer hunting and trapping participation by Kansas furharvesters during a “typical season.”

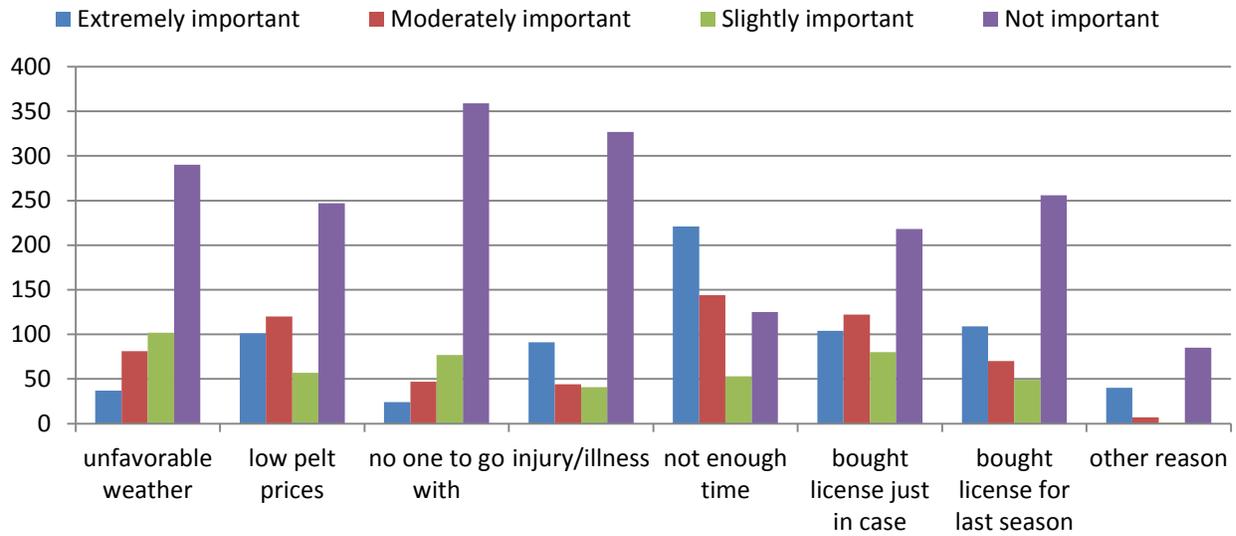


Figure 4. Importance of reasons why Kansas furharvesters did not participate in furharvesting activities despite having a license to do so. (Reasons are abbreviated. See appendix I, question number 22 for complete reasons.)

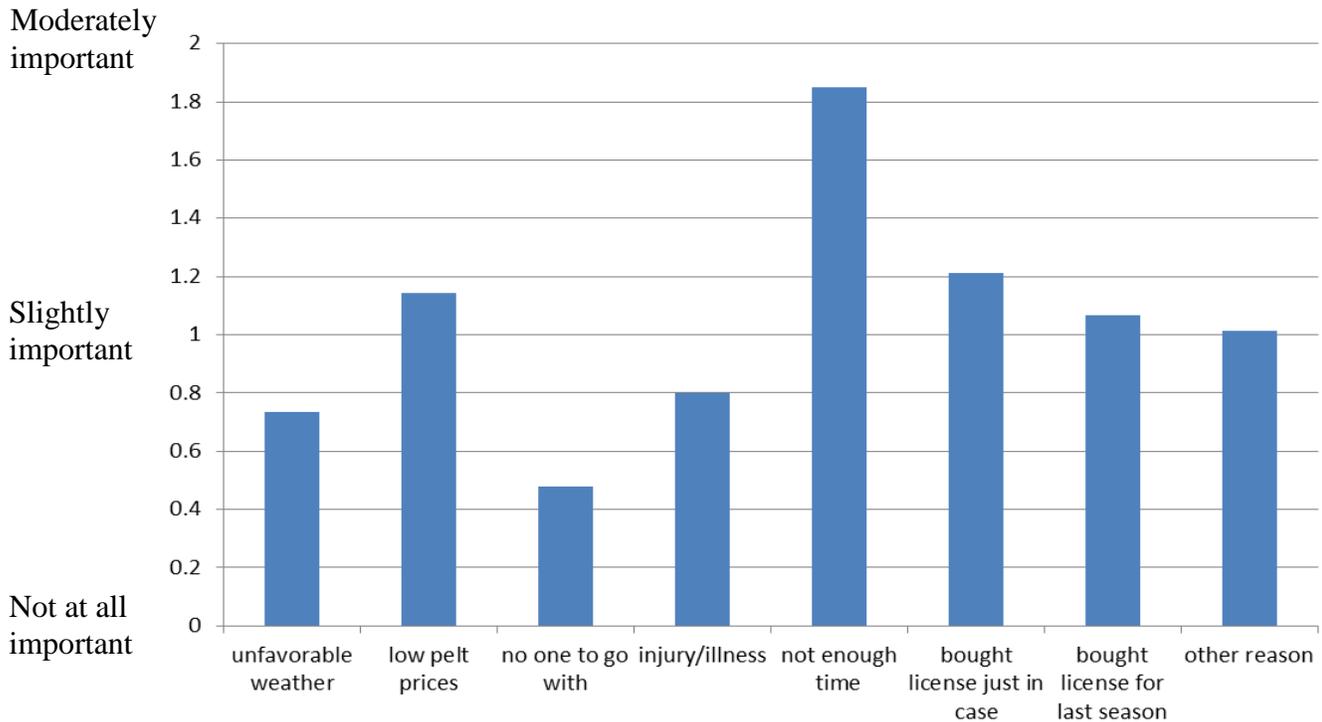


Figure 5. Ranking of reasons why Kansas furharvesters did not participate in furharvesting activities despite having a license to do so. (Reasons are abbreviated. See appendix I, question number 22 for complete reasons.)

Appendix 1.
Paper Version of the
2014-15 Furbearer Harvest Survey

2014-15 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 2014 or 2015. 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.surveymonkey.com/r/Fur14>.

Thank you for your participation!
Matt Peek, KDWPT furbearer biologist

Instructions:

- Please complete the survey even if you did not furharvest this year.
- 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 2014-15 season, or did you run furbearers with dogs during the running season in 2014?

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

2. In which county did you do most of your furharvesting in 2014-15? _____

3. Did you TRAP for furbearers in Kansas during the 2014-15 season?

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

4. How many of each did you harvest by TRAPPING in Kansas during the 2014-15 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 2014-15 season? The trapping season was 96 days (Nov 12-Feb 15) for all furbearers except beaver and otter, which were 140 days (Nov 12-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 2014-15 season?

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

14. How many of each did you harvest by HUNTING in Kansas during the 2014-15 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 2014-15 season? *The furbearer hunting season was 96 days (Nov 12-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 2014 running season (Mar 1-Nov 8, 2014)?

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

18. How many of each did you "tree" during the 2014 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 2014 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. During a typical season, do you hunt furbearers, trap furbearers, both hunt and trap, or neither?

Hunt only Trap only Both hunt and trap Neither hunt or trap

22. For those who bought a license but did not trap or hunt furbearers during 2014-15, how important were each of the following factors to you not furharvesting?

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Extremely Important
Unfavorable weather	0	0	0	0
Low pelt prices	0	0	0	0
Didn't have anyone to go with	0	0	0	0
Injury/illness	0	0	0	0
Didn't have time	0	0	0	0
I buy a license only in case I see a furbearer while hunting other species	0	0	0	0
I bought the license to use during the 2013-14 season	0	0	0	0
Other. List other important factor here:	0	0	0	0

23. 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: _____

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

Last year's Furbearer Harvest Survey report and several other furbearer-related reports are posted on the KDWP website. From the "Furharvesting" page, just select the "Furbearer Reports" link. Thank you for your time and interest in Kansas furharvesting.

Appendix 2.

Furharvester Comments from the
2014-15 Furbearer Harvest Survey

14-15' WAS MY FIRST YEAR HUNTING/TRAPPING. HAD A LOT OF FUN, DIDN'T CATCH MUCH
a bounty on beaver maybe considered nessary soon. I only trap problem beaver when seacon is near end
a furharvester license should cover hunting coyotes
A more convenient means of tagging bobcat in a timely manner.
all good at this time
Allow lights and/or night vision for coyotes!
ALLOW MUSKRATS TO BE TRAPPED DURING BEAVER SEASON
allow squirrel trapping as a method of take
appreciate all you do. It is a priveledge to be able to hunt.
AS A HOUNDSMEN I WISH WE HAD A RIGHT TO RETRIEVE LAW AND I WISH WE HAD THE NIGHTS PASS FOR OUT OF STATE HUNTERS THAT COME AND TRY TO BUY A HOUND
be able to call coyotes at night and use a spot light
Bobcat are late to prime in Kansas. It would be helpful to have a cat season that opened later (Jan 1) and ran to end of March. This way the kittens will be 45 days bigger and all cats should be prime.
bobcat numbers seem to be down, not sure on cause. We need to make otter limit go up. Theres way to many
Bobcat season needs to be as long as beaver season, as the pelts are not prime until late season
bobcat season needs to be extended to coincide with beaver season. pelts are not prime at the 1st of the season
BOBCAT SEASON NEEDS TO START IN DECEMBER AND RUN UNTIL MARCH 1ST. FURS PRIME
Bring back the Otter
Call coyotes at night with a light but not during a big game rifle season
City/county animal control, street/road/highway, and park/rec depts all pu and toss road kills and other kills every day. Numbers, locations, samples, etc could be a decent sampling in many areas with high populations of people and animals.
Clearer instructions and more information in the guide, better boundary definitions on the maps would be greatly helpful.
close dog hunting coyotes during firearm deer season
coon do paralysis killing dogs right and left possible cause (large amount of brush piles not being burned)
Coyote calling at night and extend the bobcat season another 15-30 days
Coyotes had Mange real bad but didnt seem to impact populations much
cross train all personell in the kwpd offices to tag pelts.
DEER HUNT IN HOME COUNTY. TALKED TO LOCALS WHO HAD BEEN SEEING COUGAR. NOT SURE ON THE LAWS REGARDING BIG CATS. WE'VE BEEN SEEING THEM IN COWLEY & CHAUTAUGUA COUNTIES FOR YEARS. MIGHT TAKE A POKE AT ONE.
didn;t trap because of low fur prices
Do away with conibears bigger than 110 on land. They are nothing but trouble, & people need to learn to use footholds.
DOING A GREAT JOB IN MY OPINION
DON'T ALLOW HARVEST OF BOBCATS UNTIL JAN. 1. THEIR PELTS ARE REALLY NOT PRIME UNTIL AFTER THAT DATE.
Don't allow the harvest of Bobcats until after Jan 1, the pelts aren't truly good and prime til then
DON'T OPEN BOBCAT SEASON UNTIL JANUARY 1. THE WEATHER IS COLDER AND PELTS ARE PRIMMER
End upland game season new years eve. Especially on public lands.
ENJOY OUR TRAPPING PRIVLEDGES, PLEASE DON'T RESTRICT THEM
Extend bobcat season into march
EXTEND THE BOBCAT SEASON
Get rid if the deer & out of staters so we can hunt again.
HAVE 2 DAYS INSTEAD OF 1 TO CHECK TRAPS
HAVE GAME WARDENS CHECK 4 WHEELERS CROSSING PRIVATE PROPERTY MORE
How about a 2 day trap check on private property only and/or on killing/drowning sets?

HOW COME EVERY IDIOT IN THE STATE CAN BUY OVER COUNTER WHITETAIL TAGS BUT OUT HERE IN WALLACE COUNTY WE CAN'T BUY OVERCOUNTER TURKEY TAGS.
Hunting license should be enough! Too many predators for quail, rabbits, etc.
Hunting the above species with dogs in KS is a problem. Shut down deer for two week for the dogs owned to hunt furbearer species.
Hunting with Terriers that go to ground? I don't do this but hearing about it
I appreciate the monitoring/study of furbearers in KS. While some of the CO's seem to dislike the tagging for bobcats, I feel that it is a good indicator of how their numbers are. Thank you for continuing to do the surveys. I wish it were required in order to obtain the next year's license --for all species. Especially upland game where harvest numbers from KDWPT appear to be heavily inflated.
I believe having more more classes and educational oppertunities around the Wichita area would greatly increase the intrest in fur harvesting.
I believe we should be able to hunt coyotes at night with a flashlight/spotlight. It is legal in other states. I hope this gets changed.
I BETTER BUY A LOTTERY TICKET BECAUSE I GET "RANDOMLY" SELECTED EVERY YEAR FOR SURVEYS
I BUY ALL MY LISENCES WHETHER I PLANED TO USE THEM OR NOT HOPEFULLT I WONT BE WORKING OUT OF TOWN WORKING THIS SEASON
I caught 5 coyotes, 2 were very mangy
I don't see why I need a fur harvester license to shoot a bobcat if I call one in or just see it while hunting something else.
I don't understand the lag from harvest season to running season
I fail to understand why beaver trapping needs to be on a 24 hour check when using drowners or submerged body grips in icy water. Water trapping should have extended checks to make furharvesters more efficient. A dead beaver/otter/muskrat/mink is just as dead 10 minutes after the catch as it is 48 hours after the catch.
i feel like there a great population of coon and coyote
I FOUND 6 RACCOONS THAT WERE DEAD IN OR NEAR WATER. HADN'T FOUND DEAD GAME LIKE THAT BEFORE. I'M CONCERNED THAT THEY HAD DISEASE OR WERE POISONED
I HAVE MINIMAL DEER & FOWL ON MY PROPERTY BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY COYOTES & RACCOONS
i hunt and trap on my land and do not believe that uyou should have to have a license to sell coyote furs!
I hunt on our farm property to manage predators
I JUST SET TRAPS TO HELP A LANDOWNER W/ CONTROLLING OPOSSUMS AND SKUNKS. I MAY TRAP MORE IN THE FUTURE - DON'T KNOW YET
I LIKE THE FISHING AND HUNTING WALK-IN THANKS
I love trapping for furberers, and hunting them. Thank you for letting it happen still in Kansas.
I MAINLY WANT TO SHOOT A BOBCAT TO HAVE MOUNTED
i suggest maiking calling furbearers at night lega, like Texa does. you don't do anything about those braking this law anyway, also I think trap seasoning should be earlier for coon.
I support an increase in wild habitat wherever and whenever possible.
I THINK ARTIFICIAL LIGHT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HUNT COYOTES. BADGERS SHOULD BE LISTED AS VARIMITS
I think trapping season should be a week or two longer
I TRAP ONLY BEAVER & MUSKRATTHAT ARE CAUSING DAMAGE ON MY PROPERTY. HAVE PROPERTY NEXT TO FARM POND (3 ACRE). BEAVER DESTROY TREES. MUSKRAT BURRING INTO BARN & DAM. rACCOON WAS ACCIDENTAL
I TRAP USING ONLY CAGE TRAPS AND HUNT PREDITORS USING ELECTRONIC CALLS WITH SHOT GUNS ONLY. FUR PRICES DID AFFECT THE NUMBER OF DAYS THAT I TRAPPED
I wish we could coyote call at night, with the use of gun mounted lights. Like in some other near by states.
I wish you would start an archery season for bobcat and fox around November 1st to give archers a better chance to harvest a bobcat or fox.
I would like for season to open earlier in Nov. The Jan & Feb hunting not good weather
I would like the season to open earlier.

i would like to know more about otter in Kansas.
i would like to see bag limit on bobcat
I would like to see season open 2 weeks earlier and take the 2 weeks off the end of season. I would also like to see fox have greater restrictions in less populated areas.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOMETHING DIFFERENT ON TRAPPING REGULATIONS. GOT OUR DOG CAUGHT IN AN UNMARKED TRAP
I would like to see trapping season start the same weekend as the pheasant/quail opener
I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF THERE WAS A BOUNTY ON SKUNKS
I would. at complexed survy online, however link was not response with code provided
I'd like to see artificial light legal for coyote hunting like it use to be in the 1960's
I'd like to see underwater bodygrip check requirements changed to 48 hrs.
In 2014 I saw 6 otters in my pond just of Deer Creek in Southern Anderson County. [specific location withheld]
in Northeast kansas where I hunt we have entirely too many coyotes and there number are out of hand. I wish the state would allow night hunting with the use of red tinted light in order to better manage the coyote population
IN OKLAHOMA YOU CAN USE A LIGHT IF USING A SHOTGUN. WHY NOT KS?
In our county, we have a county employee, that the county pays wages to trap all beaver on roadway areas. SHOULD be done by local trappers!
increase otter limit. go to a 48 hour check on lethal sets
IT IS NOT WORTH KILL THEM FOR PENNYS ON THE DOLLAR
IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN PERMISSION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PUBLIC LAND IS OVER TRAPPED
IT WOULD BE AWESOME TO BE ABLE TO HUNT COYOTES AT NIGHT WITH A LIGHT
IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE WALK-IN TRAPPING, LIKE WALK-IN HUNTING
I've hunt in a number of other states throughout the Midwest. I feel you guys are doing a great job considering the budget cuts and all there is to deal with. Thank you for the jobs you do
I've never had a furbearer license in my life, only deer and turkey.
Kanasa is doing a great job
Kansas needs to rethink night hunting predators. Its legal but with no artificial light. I'd rather shoot at eyes that are lit up than shoot in the general direction in the dark
KDWP does a great job at fur-bearer management
keep lisenca prices down, cause it is the most expensive outdoor hobby i have when fur prices are not enough to pay for gas let alone equipment, may not even trap next year eventhough i already have licenses
Keep up the good work [furbearer biologist]! Still waiting on the big cat to be in my trap.
KILL RACCOON & OPOSSUM YEAR AROUND. THERE IS NO FUR MARKET. HOUNDSMEN WILL NOT HURT THE POPULATION
landowners should be able to sell furs without license. I'm not a landowner
Leased land for trophy hunting is killing me. I've lost a lot of good places to hunt meat or trap fur on account of greed and ego trips.
legalize nightvision optics
Let us call coyotes at night with a light if people are going to poach deer you won't stop it
let us hunt coyotes at night
Like it the way it is.
LIKE TO SPOTLIGHT COYOTES
Longer season for bobcat
LONGER THAN 24 HR CHECK ON TRAPS. A LOT OF SPECIES WILL BEGIN TO AVOID AN AREA IF THERE IS TOO MUCH ACTIVITY. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WITH COYOTES WHEN YOU ARE DOING DAMAGE CONTROL.
LOTS OF MANGE IN ROOKS & GRAHAM COUNTIES
Love the season dates and everything for fur bearing.
MAKE FURBEARER LICENSE FOR SEASON DURATION INSTEAD OF CALENDER YEAR
MAKE IT EASIER TO CALL A WARDON (OFFICER) TO TALK WITH

make it illegal for non-resident deer hunters to shoot our coyotes and bobcats while deer hunting
make it so the fur buyers can take possession of Bobcats without tags. they already have all the information needed to get a bobcat tag in the state of Kansas it would free up resources and make the game wardens jobs a lot easier. it is absolutely ridiculous to think of the financial situation that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Tourism is in to have game wardens running all over the state meeting fur trappers to tag 1 Bobcat at a time.if the fur buyers were able to take possession of the Bobcats and then they make one phone call and the game warden can come over and tag 20-30 cats all at the same time.
make muskrat season the same as leaver season
make trapping legal on ALL walk-in-hunting-trappers are the only sportsman not allowed to use walk-in-hunting!
mange BAD in coyotes, distemper in coon getting worse
MAP OF WEHRE/WHEN TO HUNT OR CALENDER ON THE WEBSITE
market needs to go back up. No one wants to trap!
more area to hunt
more furharvesting demonstations,and gatherings to learn
More otter tags, they destroy things and eat all the fish.
MOVED OUT OF STATE
NEED A LIST OF RECOGNIZED CLUBS' LINKS ON YOUR WEBSITE:)
need good support for hunters with hounds
need to promote more furharvesters to join the Ks. Furharvesters Assoc. Very importatn to promote the importance of trapping to all sportsmen.
Needs to be a limit on bobcat. There are too man people trapping them and not enough to go around.
night hunting coyotes with artificial lights would be something I would like to see in the future
Night hunting for coyotes would provide more hunting opportunities, help control the population, and help the rebound of the pheasant population.
Night time hunting of coyotes with spotlight should be leagalized
no closed season from Run to Hunt
No need in the closed days for coon hunting. I have treed as seen as many as 27 raccoon in one night.
No particular commenents. I enjoy trapping and wish to continue. I think its a skill passed down generation to generation and love sharing it with my boys. Its important to be in tune with nature and help balance healthy populations of animals in the wild.
not alot of private property to hunt due to other hunters/people ruining it for the rest of us.
nuisance species (packrat) caught 55
ONLY HUNTED OUT OF A TREE STAND
open a season that legal to kill one coon per night year round
Open bobcat on Nov 01 instead of Nov 15
open bobcat season Dec.20. Close march 1. To many being shot during bird season. Fur is not prime at this time. Also many are wounded and die. Population is down due to bird hunters
open coon season earlier & stop the coyote chasing with trucks & dogs during gun deer season, but keep coyote season open
open season after Thanksgiving! Lots of blue unprime coon at the door this year!
Our season need to reflect the primness of out furbearers. Beaver should not start until Dec. 15th at the earliest along with bobcat coon and muskrat. Bobcat needs to run till Feb 28th, badger till Mar 15th. The only seasons that need to start in Nov. are fox, coyote, skunk, opossum and mink. Early openings prior to primness encourages harvest of sub prime pelts in a race to "get mine first" especially on public properties. We have the ability to target specific species fairly accurately.
OUTLAW SNARES & KILLER TRAPS BEFORE YOU KILL MY DOG!
Please close running season. many of my firelds KILL several animals using running season as an excuse
Please continue protecting B.F.Ferrets, etc. THANKS!
PLEASE CONTINUE TO PROMOTE FURHARVESTING IN KS
please stop cutting down trees on public land areas at Glen elder
Possibly do away with trap tagging most of the time they get tore off and lost anyway.

Prices (obviously out of your control). Mainly: public access to rivers!
private property is getting harder to hunt. We need more walk-in hunting. this, I believe is a good program. Maybe extend to coyote hunters
provide info to police services about traps and who to involve
push back bobcat season. need the month of Feb.
QUIT DRAINING MARSHES AT VALLEY FALLS, KS SO RATS WILL HAVE MORE HABITAT
Quit requiring bobcat tagging.
quit the tagging of bobcat. It's a waste of time.
Raise furbearer prices
Ran across several hunters shooting coon during running season and leaving them lay on the ground
repeal jaw spread restriction
Running coyotes with dogs/ trucks in KA needs to be better regulated & banned during rifle seasons
Saw 2 coyote- german sheppard cross, run with spinning coyote tail characteristic. chase deer herds, howled at moving deer at mornings!
season needs to be later fur not prime early
season should be closed longer to give animals a longer break
Send out survey before season for more accurate information.
send survey to someone who can give more relevance to them. Im 67 and not as rabid as I used to be.
Shorten the beginning of beaver season. Pelts aren't ready til winter hits. Lengthen season end.
shorten the deer hunting season- Tough to call predators for awhile after those seasons
Should make it legal to harvest raccoons all yer. Should legalize using lazer to harvest raccoons
spent a couple days "calling" after killing a deer...was surprised I blanked out !
spot lighting coyotes would help more coyotes be managed
START FUR SEASON DECEMBER 1ST
START SEASON LATER WHEN PELTS ARE PRIME
start the season 2 weeks earlier
stop the public land isportman call in requirement!
take kill season of for awhile they are getting to thick
Take limit off otter trapping.
THANK YOU
Thanks for the great work you do!
thanks for the opportunity to trap
THANKS SO MUCH FOR LETTING OUT OF STATE TRAPPERS COME TO KS & ENJOY YOUR GREAT STATE
Thanks. Great survey.
THE '14-15' SEASON WAS FIRST YEAR TO HUNT/TRAP
THE ONLY REASON I BUY A FURHARVEST IS IN CASE I CALL IN A BOBCAT WHILE HUNTING COYOTES
There should not be a limit on otters
this is my first year trapping.
This year I only trapped with dog proof traps and my game camara shows alot of active animals
Too many deer seasons - idiots with guns. Seems like you add more each year - thanks.
too many leg hold traps!
Totals are from Roadkill collection only
TRAP 1 BOBCAT, HIT 1 WITH THE CAR.; LEASING MADE IT VERY HARD TO FIND LAND TO HUNT & RUN TRAPS
Try to get walk in lands for trapping, have more days at end of season to tag bobcats.
Use of any artificial lights for shooting at night
Want to hunt at night with lights, lasers or supressors like many of our neighboring states allow.
was just trying to thin out the coyotes here at home, found they are smarter than me
We have to many coyotes but out of state lease agreements don't allow farmers to let you hunt. I am not a fan of out of state (deer) head hunters

We need a longer season just to manage nest predators. Raccoon, opossum, skunks etc. Most people want to trap their deer hunting spots early and end up having low success rates on removing nest predators when cold weather moves in.
We need more public land to hunt.
We should not hunt & trap in the same areas on public land. too many dogs being caught. Make 220's legal only in water sets on public land!
What about a season that starts November 1st- March 1st? I know tradition is high but might help people with time constraints and younger trappers just getting started into trapping. Thanks!
What can be done to help muskrat populations should begin ASAP. i still disagree with opening trapping at noon- when dog hunters outnumber trappers maybe it had value- I get a half day to set traps & dog hunters get the entire night to hunt!
what should I do when I am sick or injured and not able to check my traps when they are set? I trap with my brother, so we never have this problem, but in case of emergency, is it alright to leave the traps unchecked or is it highly illegal? Please email the answer.
WHY DON'T YOU SELL FURHARVESTER LICENSE FOR THE SEASON? 2014-15 SEASON- ONE LICENSE. KDWPT DOES THAT FOR WATERFOWL. WHOA, BETTER YET-MAKE IT CALENDER YEAR AND MORE REVENUE BY SELLING MORE LICENSES! FEWER GAME WARDENS MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO GET BOBCATS TAGGED. YOU (KDWPT) NEED A BETTER SYSTEM FOR THAT
Why is it necessary to have a fur harvester license in running season when it is illegal to kill them?
Will we ever be able to hunt coyotes by light.
wish traps had to be marked.
would be nice if trapping season started earlier, mabey a couple weeks BEFORE pheasant and quail season. I trap mainly on public hunting and would be nice too have time to trap early coon before worrying about hunting dogs.
Year, was good, just did not reach my goal of 1 bobcat. Also have a youth season, lot of kids like it.
yes, when I call to report a game violation (someone never checked traps for 4 days) I expect a game warden to act on that info. not call said person and slap his hand, wabunsee county has more damn poachers and game thieves and no one seems to give a damn, a lot of shot deer left dead and I call and not a damn thing done about it.
You guys are doing a great job.
you guys are doing great!
You need to allow using lights calling coyotes at night
YOU NEED TO OPEN COON SEASON 1 WEEK LATER SO THEY ARE PRIME