

Comparing Bobcat Trapping in Western States

	NM	CO	AZ	WY	MT	ID	UT	CA	OR	WA	NV
Trapper licenses (for 07-08 season)	2095	2107	1200	1844	4400	1150	1688	339	2616	836	1000
Bobcats tagged (killed)	4240	1847	1000	3066	Limited by quota to 2480	1450	2926	125	3144	836	2811
Shorter season than NM	(135 days) Nov.1- Mar 15	33% shorter: Dec 1- Feb 28	11% shorter Nov 1- Feb 28	22% shorter Nov15- Mar 1	44% shorter Dec.1- Feb 15	55% shorter Dec 14- Feb 16	33% shorter Nov 12- Feb 8	45% shorter Nov 24- Jan 31	33% shorter Dec 1- Feb 28	25% shorter Nov15- Feb28	40% shorter Dec. 1- Feb. 19
Field surveys	Scent post track surveys; not sufficient for trend data	No	No	No	Snow track surveys done multiple times ea. year	Snow track surveys	No	No	No	---	No
Mandatory reporting	Not really Approx 60% comply*	Survey by phone	Yes 96% comply	No	Yes	Yes	Yes Bobcat only	Yes	Yes 95% comply	Yes	Yes 68% comply
Trap effort data¹	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	--	Yes
Collect tooth for age²	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	--	Yes
Gender noted³	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	--	Yes
Bag limits	No	No	No	No	Yes*	No	Yes (5 in 2006)	(5) for hunters only	(5) in east	No	No
Trap type restricted to cage	No	Yes	Yes on public land	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Compiled by M.K. Ray, Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club, based on 07-08 season data. Since this compilation UT, MT and OR have reduced their bag limits and MT has reduced its quota.

* MT has bag limits that vary from 4 to 7. Some areas are unlimited. There are also quotas regardless of bag limits which when reached, the season closes. Trappers must call a special number to report their bobcat kill. Includes bobcat hunters.

**Mandatory reporting enacted in 2009 and will be implemented in the winter of 2010-2011

¹ Trappers supply information about how many traps are set and for how long so that trapping effort per catch can be determined. The higher it is, the higher the chance the population is in trouble.

² A higher ratio of older animals to younger ones is an indication of a population in decline.

³ The more females captured compared to males also indicates a population in decline.