

Bobcat Hunter/Trapper Survey 2015

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Abstract

Hunting/trapping questionnaires were mailed to all bobcat hunters/trappers that received permits for the 2015 season. Those interested in hunting and/or trapping bobcat needed to apply to a specific zone (north or south) and time period (period 1 or 2). Period 1 ran from October 17 – December 25 and Period 2 ran from December 26 – January 31. Approximately eighty-four (83.8) percent of total survey respondents pursued bobcats in 2015. Of these, 54.0% reported registering a bobcat, a decrease from 65.2% in 2014.

Methods

After completion of the 2015 season, a questionnaire was mailed to each of the 334 hunter/trappers who received a permit to pursue bobcats. A follow-up second mailing was then made to non-respondents. Bobcat harvest permit holders were asked specific questions about their hunting and trapping methods used during the season (Fig. 1). Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS). All duplicate responses were removed from the survey pool.

Results

Of the 334 bobcat hunter/trappers queried, 301 non-duplicate responses were received, for a response rate of 90.1%. Approximately eighty-four (83.8%) percent of these respondents reported hunting and/or trapping bobcats during the 2015 season (Table 1, Question 1).

The most common reason given for not pursuing bobcats was poor weather (43.1%, Table 1, Question 2). Knowing it may require eight years or more of continuous application, seventy-three (72.5%) percent of the total respondents said they will continue to apply for a bobcat permit in the future (Table 1, Question 3).

Respondents were asked their overall impression of the longer, two period structure. Bobcat hunters/trappers hunting the northern zone during Period 1 had the least favorable opinion (2.8) of the new season structure of the permit holders (Table 1, Question 4).

Fifty-four percent of hunters/trappers who pursued bobcats were successful. Bobcat hunters/trappers hunting the northern zone during Period 2 were most successful (83.1%), while bobcat hunters/trappers hunting the northern zone during Period 1 were the least successful (30.9%) (Table 1, Question 6). The primary harvest technique for Period 1 permit holders in both zones was trapping, while the primary harvest technique for Period 2 permit holders in both zones was hunting with dogs (Table 1, Question 5). Weather most likely played some role in techniques as Period 1 had above normal temperatures and rainfall which makes finding and pursuing bobcat with dogs more difficult.

Most harvested bobcats are either made into a taxidermy mount or the hide is tanned and kept or sold (96.2%), only a small number of Wisconsin bobcats enter the fur trade (3.8%) (Table 1, Question 6a).

Most hunters/trappers felt the bobcat season conditions were average to slightly below average (Table 1, Question 7). Northern zone Period 1 hunters/trappers felt that the 'presence of tracking snow (1" – 2") had the greatest positive impact on their bobcat hunting/trapping effort, while Northern zone Period 2 and both Period 1 and Period 2 Southern zone hunter/trappers felt that the 'split season divides permits, reduces competition' had the greatest positive impact on their bobcat hunting/trapping effort (Table 1, Question 7).

Bobcat trappers spent on average 16.2 days afield with 9.6 sets/day and located on average 2.9 bobcats (Table 1, Question 8). The most commonly used types of sets were foothold and body-gripper sets (Table 1, Question 9). Twenty-seven (27.3%) percent of all trappers released bobcats from their sets during the 2015 season (Table 1, Question 10).

Bobcat hunters who used dogs spent on average 6.3 days afield, while bobcat hunters who hunted without dogs spend on average 7.6 days afield. On average, hunters ran 2.9 bobcats with dogs (Table 1, Question 11). Twenty-one (20.7%) percent of all hunters using trained dogs reported to have passed on treed bobcats (Table 1, Question 12).

Most respondents (52.6%) hunted with friend(s) (Table 1, Question 13). Guided hunts occurred 3.7% of the time with all hunts costing less than \$1,000 (Table 1, Question 13a).

A new southern management zone, which includes all of Wisconsin south of Highway 64, was established for the 2014 season. The northern harvest zone remained unchanged. Hunting/trapping efforts remain heaviest in the northern zone in Sawyer, Price, and Oneida counties (Table 1, Question 14). A total of 10 road kill and 393 live sightings were made (Table 1, Question 15) Most hunters/trappers indicated that the bobcat population was 'about the same as last year' (Table 1, Question 16).

Since bobcat hunters/trappers spend many hours over large areas looking for sign, they were also asked to give their impressions of fox, coyote, fisher, and gray wolf populations. Most hunters/trappers indicated that the coyote and gray wolf population were 'more abundant than the previous year' and fox were 'about the same as last year' (Table 1, Question 16). Most hunters/trappers also indicated that the bobcat, coyote, and gray wolf populations were 'more abundant than 10 years ago' (Table 1, Question 16a).

The most common habitat where bobcats were hunted or trapped during Period 1 in the northern zone was 'Upland Conifers – Regeneration/Brush' and in the southern zone was 'Lowland Forest/Swamp – Large/Mature'. Period 2 hunters/trappers in both zones preferred 'Upland Hardwoods – Regeneration/Brush' (Table 1, Question 17).

Bobcat hunters reported experiencing competition or over-crowding with other bobcat hunters 10.3% of the time, while bobcat trappers experienced competition or over-crowding 2.1% of the time (Table 1, Questions 18 and 19). Fourteen (14.3%) percent of bobcat hunter/trappers reported experiencing competition or over-crowding with the outdoor activities of others (Table 1, Question 20).

Table 1. Responses to the 2015 bobcat hunters/trapper questionnaire.

1. Did you hunt and/or trap bobcat during the 2015-16 season?

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	98	79.7	39	72.2	77	93.9	35	92.1	249	83.8
No	25	20.3	15	27.8	5	6.1	3	7.9	48	16.2

2. If no, why didn't you hunt and/or trap for bobcat?

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Poor Weather	15	57.7	7	41.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	22	43.1
Too far to travel	0	0.0	1	5.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.0
Other	11	42.3	9	52.9	5	100.0	3	100.0	28	54.9

The most frequently stated reasons listed under 'other' were health, time, and work constraints.

3. Knowing it may require eight years or more of continuous application, will you continue to apply for a bobcat permit in the future?

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	73	60.3	45	86.5	64	78.1	29	80.6	211	72.5
No	48	39.7	7	13.5	18	22.0	7	19.4	80	27.5

4. Overall, what was your impression of the longer, two season structure we have now?
1=Did Not Like, 7=Did Like It

North Zone

Period 1 Mean response: **2.8**

Period 2 Mean response: **5.3**

South Zone

Period 1 Mean response: **3.8**

Period 2 Mean response: **5.6**

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0 – No Opinion	19	16.2	7	13.5	10	12.4	5	14.3	41	14.4
1 – Did Not Like It	39	33.3	11	21.2	2	2.5	0	0.0	52	18.2
2	6	5.1	1	1.9	0	0.0	1	2.9	8	2.8
3	7	6.0	2	3.9	3	3.7	1	2.9	13	4.6
4	14	12.0	7	13.5	6	7.4	1	2.9	28	9.8
5	9	7.7	5	9.6	8	9.9	0	0.0	22	7.7
6	5	4.3	9	17.3	13	16.1	3	8.6	30	10.5
7 – Did Like it	18	15.4	10	19.2	39	48.2	24	68.6	91	31.9

5. What harvest technique(s) did you use? **Check all that apply.**

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Trapping	239	69.5	113	80.7	39	20.9	28	31.8	419	55.2
Predator Calls	43	12.5	16	11.4	19	10.2	5	5.7	83	10.9
Hunting Dogs	53	15.4	7	5.0	128	68.5	54	61.4	242	31.9
Incidental	9	2.6	4	2.9	1	0.5	1	1.1	15	2.0

6. Did you register a bobcat during the 2015-2016 season (October 17 – December 25 or December 26 – January 31)?

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	30	30.9	16	41.0	64	83.1	24	68.6	134	54.0
No	67	69.1	23	59.0	13	16.9	11	31.4	114	46.0

6a. If yes, what was its' final disposition?

Response	Total	
	Count	Percent
Sold for the fur trade	5	3.8
Made into taxidermy mount	109	82.6
Tanned and kept or sold	18	13.6

7. How would you rate the hunting/trapping conditions during **your** bobcat season?
1=Very Poor, 7=Perfect

North Zone

Period 1 Mean response: **3.3**

Period 2 Mean response: **4.5**

South Zone

Period 1 Mean response: **3.6**

Period 2 Mean response: **3.9**

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 – Very Poor	22	23.2	8	20.5	1	1.3	4	11.8	35	14.3
2	14	14.7	4	10.3	8	10.4	4	11.8	30	12.2
3	11	11.6	5	12.8	9	11.7	4	11.8	29	11.8
4 – Average	24	25.3	10	25.6	26	33.8	12	35.3	72	29.4
5	13	13.7	6	15.4	12	15.6	4	11.8	35	14.3
6	7	7.4	3	7.7	12	15.6	2	5.9	24	9.8
7 – Perfect	4	4.2	3	7.7	9	11.7	4	11.8	20	8.2

Please rate the following factors and how they may have influenced your bobcat hunting/trapping (Percent):

Response	Period 1											
	North						South					
	0 – No Impact	1 – Neg. Impact	2	3	4	5 – Pos. Impact	0 – No Impact	1 – Neg. Impact	2	3	4	5 – Pos. Impact
Cold weather	64.1	14.1	4.4	14.1	1.1	2.2	55.3	21.1	2.6	7.9	13.2	0.0
Presence of tracking snow (1" – 2")	35.6	24.4	2.2	8.9	4.4	24.4	56.8	27.0	2.7	0.0	2.7	10.8
Walking snow (2"+ to 12")	58.5	15.9	3.7	13.4	2.4	6.1	63.9	22.2	2.8	2.8	0.0	8.3
Snowshoe snow (12"+)	73.8	17.9	1.2	4.8	1.2	1.2	73.0	13.5	5.4	2.7	2.7	2.7
Impassable roads (snowed in)	79.3	13.8	2.3	2.3	1.2	1.2	77.8	13.9	0.0	5.6	0.0	2.8
Split season divides permits, reduces competition	38.2	20.2	7.9	15.7	4.5	13.5	48.7	12.8	0.0	18.0	5.1	15.4
Other bobcat hunters/trappers	71.1	12.2	3.3	12.2	0.0	1.1	79.0	10.5	0.0	7.9	2.6	0.0
Other forest users	68.5	11.2	7.9	10.1	0.0	2.3	68.4	5.3	7.9	10.5	0.0	7.9

Response	Period 2											
	North						South					
	0 – No Impact	1 – Neg. Impact	2	3	4	5 – Pos. Impact	0 – No Impact	1 – Neg. Impact	2	3	4	5 – Pos. Impact
Cold weather	34.2	13.2	13.2	23.7	9.2	6.6	41.2	8.8	17.7	17.7	5.9	8.8
Presence of tracking snow (1" – 2")	9.2	10.5	15.8	13.2	17.1	34.2	9.7	12.9	12.9	12.9	16.1	35.5
Walking snow (2"+ to 12")	16.0	6.7	4.0	24.0	22.7	26.7	15.2	0.0	15.2	24.2	15.2	30.3
Snowshoe snow (12"+)	67.1	13.7	2.7	5.5	2.7	8.2	64.5	3.2	9.7	6.5	9.7	6.5
Impassable roads (snowed in)	73.6	6.9	4.2	12.5	2.8	0.0	62.5	12.5	0.0	9.4	9.4	6.3
Split season divides permits, reduces competition	26.0	1.4	2.7	24.7	11.0	34.3	15.2	3.0	3.0	12.1	18.2	48.5
Other bobcat hunters/trappers	56.0	17.3	9.3	16.0	0.0	1.3	55.9	11.8	14.7	8.8	8.8	0.0
Other forest users	69.3	12.0	6.7	12.0	0.0	0.0	55.9	8.8	17.7	8.8	8.8	0.0

8. If you **TRAPPED** bobcat during the 2015-2016 season, please answer the following questions:

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>			
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>	
Response	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean
Number of days trapped	68	20.6	30	21.9	13	16.9	9	16.2
Average number of sets/day	68	8.9	28	8.6	13	6.3	9	9.6
Number of bobcats located	38	2.6	23	2.2	8	2.6	9	2.9

9. Type of sets used:

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>			
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>	
Response	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean
# of foothold sets made	51	7.5	24	9.9	9	5.8	6	20.8
# of body-gripper sets	32	2.2	15	1.8	11	3.0	2	4.0
# of cage sets	25	0.6	13	0.5	6	1.8	2	1.0
# of cable restraint sets made	22	2.7	12	2.4	7	1.9	5	2.0

10. Did you release any bobcats from your traps during the 2015-2016 season?

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>			
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>	
Response	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	8	11.3	7	23.3	0	0.0	3	27.3
No	63	88.7	23	76.7	15	100.0	8	72.7

If yes, how many? (Frequency)

Response	<i>Period 1</i>		<i>Period 2</i>	
	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1	5	5	0	2
2	0	2	0	1
≥3	3	0	0	0

11. If you **HUNTED** bobcat during the 2015-2016 season, please answer the following questions:

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>			
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>	
Response	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean	Count	Mean
# of days hunted with dogs	22	4.7	4	2.0	63	5.7	25	6.3
# of days hunted without dogs	14	14.9	7	9.4	7	4.6	5	7.6
# of bobcats run with dogs	19	2.4	3	1.0	58	2.9	23	2.9
# of bobcats located	18	5.3	5	2.6	57	4.5	23	4.5
# of days hunted using predator calls	35	3.5	11	2.0	42	0.5	17	1.9

12. Did you pass on any treed bobcats during the 2015-16 season?

Response	Period 1				Period 2			
	North		South		North		South	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	3	4.0	1	3.9	7	10.8	6	20.7
No	72	96.0	25	96.2	58	89.2	23	79.3

If yes, how many (Frequency)?

Response	Period 1		Period 2	
	North	South	North	South
1	0	1	3	2
2	1	0	1	3
≥3	2	0	3	2

13. In your bobcat hunting/trapping efforts, did you: (Check all that apply)

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Hunt/trap alone	63	57.8	30	68.2	16	19.5	10	27.0	119	43.8
Hunt/trap with friend(s)	42	38.5	14	31.8	61	74.4	26	70.3	143	52.6
Participate in a guided trip	4	3.7	0	0.0	5	6.1	1	2.7	10	3.7

13a. If you participated in a guided trip, generally what was the fee.

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Less than \$500	1	25.0	0	0.0	3	60.0	1	100.0	5	50.0
\$500-\$999	3	75.0	0	0.0	2	40.0	0	0.0	5	50.0
\$1,000-\$1,499	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
\$1,500-\$1,999	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
\$2,000+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

14. In which counties did you hunt and/or trap bobcats? (Please list the county you spent the most time in first) (Frequency, percent).

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	# of Trips	Percent								
Adams	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Ashland	9	7.8	0	0.0	3	2.5	0	0.0	12	3.5
Bayfield	11	9.6	0	0.0	5	4.1	0	0.0	16	4.7
Buffalo	0	0.0	3	5.9	0	0.0	2	3.8	5	1.5
Burnett	1	0.9	0	0.0	5	4.1	0	0.0	6	1.8
Chippewa	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	0.8	2	3.8	4	1.2
Clark	0	0.0	3	5.9	0	0.0	10	18.9	13	3.8
Dane	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Douglas	11	9.6	0	0.0	8	6.6	0	0.0	19	5.6
Dunn	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.9	1	0.3
Eau Claire	0	0.0	4	7.8	0	0.0	5	9.4	9	2.6
Florence	2	1.7	0	0.0	5	4.1	0	0.0	7	2.1
Forest	4	3.5	0	0.0	9	7.4	0	0.0	13	3.8
Grant	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Iowa	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Iron	3	2.6	0	0.0	4	3.3	0	0.0	7	2.1
Jackson	0	0.0	2	3.9	0	0.0	6	11.3	8	2.3
Juneau	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	2	3.8	3	0.9
Langlade	2	1.7	0	0.0	6	4.9	1	1.9	9	2.6
Lincoln	3	2.6	0	0.0	10	8.2	0	0.0	13	3.8
Marathon	1	0.9	10	19.6	0	0.0	3	5.7	14	4.1
Marinette	4	3.5	1	2.0	9	7.4	1	1.9	15	4.4
Monroe	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.8	2	0.6
Oconto	0	0.0	3	5.9	2	1.6	4	7.5	9	2.6
Oneida	12	10.4	0	0.0	10	8.2	0	0.0	22	6.5
Outagamie	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.9	1	0.3
Polk	1	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Portage	0	0.0	4	7.8	0	0.0	3	5.7	7	2.1
Price	13	11.3	0	0.0	12	9.8	0	0.0	25	7.3
Rusk	10	8.7	0	0.0	6	4.9	0	0.0	16	4.7
Sawyer	13	11.3	3	5.9	7	5.7	0	0.0	23	6.7
Shawano	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	7.5	4	1.2
Taylor	4	3.5	1	2.0	9	7.4	0	0.0	14	4.1
Trempealeau	0	0.0	2	3.9	0	0.0	1	1.9	3	0.9
Vilas	5	4.3	0	0.0	4	3.3	0	0.0	9	2.6
Washburn	4	3.5	0	0.0	7	5.7	0	0.0	11	3.2
Waupaca	1	0.9	7	13.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	2.3
Wood	0	0.0	3	5.9	0	0.0	5	9.4	8	2.3

15. In 2015 did you observe any bobcat(s)? If yes, please fill in the following information:

Total reported road kills: 10

County	# of Road Kill Sightings	Percent	County	# of Road Kill Sightings	Percent
Forest	1	10.0	Oneida	1	10.0
Jackson	1	10.0	Sauk	1	10.0
Juneau	1	10.0	Sawyer	1	10.0
Marathon	1	10.0	Washburn	1	10.0
Marinette	1	10.0	Waupaca	1	10.0

Total reported live sightings: 393

County	# of Live Sightings	Percent	County	# of Live Sightings	Percent	County	# of Live Sightings	Percent
Adams	1	0.3	Florence	6	1.5	Portage	9	2.3
Ashland	6	1.5	Forest	11	2.8	Price	46	11.7
Barron	4	1.0	Iron	3	0.8	Rusk	9	2.3
Bayfield	13	3.3	Jackson	13	3.3	Sawyer	20	5.1
Buffalo	25	6.4	Juneau	2	0.5	Shawano	11	2.8
Burnett	3	0.8	Lafayette	4	1.0	Sauk	1	0.3
Chippewa	5	1.3	Langlade	11	2.8	Taylor	20	5.1
Clark	5	1.3	Lincoln	7	1.8	Trempealeau	3	0.8
Columbia	1	0.3	Marathon	4	1.0	Vilas	1	0.3
Crawford	1	0.3	Marinette	21	5.3	Washburn	13	3.3
Douglas	20	5.1	Oconto	8	2.0	Waupaca	23	5.9
Dunn	5	1.3	Oneida	25	6.4	Winnebago	3	0.8
Eau Claire	8	2.0	Outagamie	4	1.0	Wood	18	4.6

16. In your opinion, how does the current bobcat, fox, coyote, fisher, and gray wolf population compare to last year? Check one for each species. (Percent)

Response	Period 1									
	North					South				
	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf
More abundant than last year	30.9	12.0	42.6	21.7	76.7	39.5	8.1	55.3	22.2	66.7
Less abundant than last year	18.1	31.5	21.3	35.9	6.7	7.9	35.1	15.8	27.8	5.6
About the same as last year	35.1	43.5	31.9	28.3	10.0	42.1	46.0	29.0	33.3	5.6
No opinion	16.0	13.0	4.3	14.1	6.7	10.5	10.8	0.0	16.7	22.2

Response	Period 2									
	North					South				
	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf
More abundant than last year	24.0	8.3	52.7	23.3	84.0	35.3	11.8	47.1	18.2	79.4
Less abundant than last year	8.0	38.9	6.8	23.3	0.0	5.9	32.4	11.8	36.4	0.0
About the same as last year	41.3	30.6	31.1	27.4	4.0	47.1	44.1	32.4	27.3	5.9
No opinion	26.7	22.2	9.5	26.0	12.0	11.8	11.8	8.8	18.2	14.7

16a. In your opinion, how does the current population of these same furbearers compare to ten years ago? Check one for each species. (Percent)

Response	Period 1									
	North					South				
	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf
More abundant than last year	48.4	17.0	45.7	17.4	80.9	83.8	10.8	65.8	35.1	72.2
Less abundant than last year	19.0	41.5	19.2	43.5	5.3	2.7	51.4	10.5	21.6	0.0
About the same as last year	17.9	26.6	25.5	22.8	5.3	2.7	16.2	5.3	18.9	2.8
No opinion	14.7	14.9	9.6	16.3	8.5	10.8	21.6	18.4	24.3	25.0

Response	Period 2									
	North					South				
	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf
More abundant than last year	52.6	6.9	57.3	25.0	89.3	79.4	14.7	47.1	35.3	91.2
Less abundant than last year	10.5	48.0	8.0	23.6	2.7	0.0	55.9	11.8	26.5	0.0
About the same as last year	13.2	19.2	24.0	19.4	2.7	11.8	17.7	35.3	23.5	0.0
No opinion	23.7	26.0	10.7	31.9	5.3	8.8	11.8	5.9	14.7	8.8

17. In which habitat type did you hunt and/or trap for bobcat the most? (Percent)

Response	Period 1		Period 2	
	North	South	North	South
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Upland Conifers – Regeneration / Brush	20.2	20.6	9.2	22.9
Upland Conifers – Thinned / Pole-sized	6.4	0.0	4.0	5.7
Upland Conifers – Large / Mature	6.4	5.9	7.9	2.9
Lowland Forest/Swamp – Regeneration / Brush	11.7	14.7	2.6	8.6
Lowland Forest/Swamp – Thinned / Pole-sized	7.5	5.9	2.6	5.7
Lowland Forest/Swamp – Large / Mature	4.3	26.5	5.3	2.9
Upland Hardwoods – Regeneration / Brush	19.2	5.9	38.2	40.0
Upland Hardwoods – Thinned / Pole-sized	10.6	14.7	5.3	8.6
Upland Hardwoods – Large / Mature	13.8	5.9	25.0	2.9

18. Did you experience any competition or over-crowding with other bobcat hunters?

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	6	6.3	0	0.0	13	17.4	6	17.1	25	10.3
No	89	93.7	37	100.0	63	82.9	29	82.9	218	89.7

If yes, what county or counties did you experience competition or over-crowding with other bobcat hunters?

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>				<i>Total</i>	
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>Statewide</i>	
Response	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Bayfield	1	16.7	0	0.0	1	6.3	0	0.0	2	6.7
Burnett	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.3	0	0.0	1	3.3
Clark	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	3	10.0
Douglas	1	16.7	0	0.0	2	12.5	0	0.0	3	10.0
Eau Claire	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	3.3
Forest	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	12.5	0	0.0	2	6.7
Jackson	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	3.3
Iron	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.3
Lincoln	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	12.5	0	0.0	2	6.7
Monroe	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	3.3
Oconto	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	25.0	2	6.7
Oneida	1	16.7	0	0.0	2	12.5	0	0.0	3	10.0
Price	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.3
Rusk	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.3	0	0.0	1	3.3
Sawyer	1	16.7	0	0.0	2	12.5	0	0.0	3	10.0
Taylor	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	12.5	0	0.0	2	6.7
Washburn	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.3	0	0.0	1	3.3

19. Did you experience any competition or over-crowding with other bobcat trappers?

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>				<i>Total</i>	
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>Statewide</i>	
Response	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	1	1.2	0	0.0	1	2.4	2	8.3	4	2.1
No	84	98.8	39	100.0	41	97.6	22	91.7	186	97.9

If yes, what county or counties did you experience competition or over-crowding with other bobcat trappers?

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>				<i>Total</i>	
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>Statewide</i>	
Response	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Bayfield	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	33.3
Marathon	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	33.3
Wood	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	33.3

20. Did you experience any competition or over-crowding with the outdoor activities of others?

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>				<i>Total</i>	
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>Statewide</i>	
Response	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	11	11.8	8	20.5	8	10.8	7	21.9	34	14.3
No	82	88.2	31	79.5	66	89.2	25	78.1	204	85.7

If yes, what county or counties did you experience competition or over-crowding?

Response	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>				<i>Total</i>	
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>Statewide</i>	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Ashland	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Bayfield	3	23.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	11.5
Clark	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Dodge	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Douglas	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Eau Claire	0	0.0	2	25.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	3	11.5
Grant	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Iron	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Juneau	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Marathon	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Marinette	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Oconto	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	2	50.0	3	11.5
Oneida	2	15.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	7.7
Price	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Sawyer	2	15.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	7.7
Taylor	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	3.8
Trempealeau	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8
Washburn	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.8

Dear Bobcat Hunter/Trapper:

You have been selected to help the Department of Natural Resources gather much needed information on Wisconsin's bobcat harvest. Please help our furbearer management program by completing this voluntary questionnaire. We would like your input regarding bobcat seasons and management.

Although postage is not required to return this questionnaire, placing a stamp on the enclosed envelope will save DNR funds for management. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Sincerely,

John F. Olson

John F. Olson
Furbearer Ecologist
Bureau of Wildlife Management

<p>1. Did you hunt and/or trap bobcat during the 2015-2016 season?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>2. If no, why didn't you hunt and/or trap for bobcat?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poor weather <input type="checkbox"/> Too far to travel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain): _____</p>																																																																																
<p>3. Knowing it may require eight years or more of continuous application, will you continue to apply for a bobcat permit in the future?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>4. Overall, what was your impression of the longer, two season structure we have now?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>No opinion</td> <td>Did not like it</td> <td colspan="5"></td> <td>Did like it</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </table>	No opinion	Did not like it						Did like it	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																
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<p>IF YOU DID NOT HUNT OR TRAP, PLEASE STOP HERE AND RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. THANK YOU!</p>																																																																																	
<p>5. What harvest technique(s) did you use? Check all that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trapping <input type="checkbox"/> Predator calls <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting dogs <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental</p>																																																																																	
<p>6. Did you register a bobcat during the 2015-2016 season (October 17-December 25 or December 26-January 31)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>6a. If yes, what was its' final disposition?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sold for the fur trade <input type="checkbox"/> Tanned and kept or sold</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Made into a taxidermy mount</p>																																																																																
<p>7. How would you rate the hunting/trapping conditions during your bobcat season?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="2">Very poor</td> <td colspan="3">Average</td> <td colspan="2">Perfect</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please rate the following factors and how they may have influenced your bobcat hunting/trapping:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No impact</th> <th>Negative impact</th> <th colspan="4"></th> <th>Positive impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cold weather</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presence of tracking snow (1"-2")</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walking snow (2"+ to 12")</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Snowshoe snow (12"+)</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impassable roads (snowed in)</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Split season divides permits, reduces competition</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other bobcat hunters/trappers</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other forest users</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Very poor		Average			Perfect			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		No impact	Negative impact					Positive impact	Cold weather	0	1	2	3	4	5	Presence of tracking snow (1"-2")	0	1	2	3	4	5	Walking snow (2"+ to 12")	0	1	2	3	4	5	Snowshoe snow (12"+)	0	1	2	3	4	5	Impassable roads (snowed in)	0	1	2	3	4	5	Split season divides permits, reduces competition	0	1	2	3	4	5	Other bobcat hunters/trappers	0	1	2	3	4	5	Other forest users	0	1	2	3	4	5
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Figure 1. The 2015-2016 Wisconsin bobcat hunting/trapping questionnaire.

<p>8. If you TRAPPED bobcat during the 2015-2016 season, please answer the following questions:</p> <p>Number of days trapped: _____</p> <p>Average number of sets/day: _____</p> <p>Number of bobcats located: _____</p>	<p>9. Type of sets used:</p> <p>_____ # of foothold sets made</p> <p>_____ # of body-gripper sets</p> <p>_____ # of cage sets</p> <p>_____ # of cable restraint sets made</p>																														
<p>10. Did you release any bobcats from your traps during the 2015-2016 season?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, how many? _____</p>	<p>11. If you HUNTED bobcat during the 2015-2016 season, please answer the following questions:</p> <p>Number of days hunted with dogs: _____</p> <p>Number of days hunted without dogs: _____</p> <p>Number of bobcats run with dogs: _____</p> <p>Number of bobcats located: _____</p> <p>Number of days hunted using predator calls: _____</p>																														
<p>12. Did you pass on any treed bobcats during the 2015-2016 season?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how many? _____</p>																															
<p>13. In your bobcat hunting/trapping efforts, did you: (Check all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hunt/trap alone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hunt/trap with friend(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Participate in a guided trip (go to 13a)</p>	<p>13a. If you participated in a guided trip, generally what was the fee?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$500</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$500 to \$999</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 to \$1,499</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 to \$1,999</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000 +</p>																														
<p>14. In which counties did you hunt and/or trap bobcats? (Please list the county you spent the most time in first.)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>																															
<p>15. In 2015 did you observe any bobcat(s)? If yes, please fill in the following information:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #cccccc;"> <th style="width: 15%;"># of Road Kill</th> <th style="width: 35%;">County</th> <th style="width: 15%;"># of Live Sightings</th> <th style="width: 35%;">County</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>		# of Road Kill	County	# of Live Sightings	County																										
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Figure 1. *Continued.*

17. In which habitat type did you hunt and/or trap for bobcat the most? (Check one)		
<u>Upland Conifers</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration / Brush <input type="checkbox"/> Thinned / Pole-sized <input type="checkbox"/> Large / Mature	<u>Upland Hardwoods</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration / Brush <input type="checkbox"/> Thinned / Pole-sized <input type="checkbox"/> Large / Mature	<u>Lowland Forest / Swamp</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration / Brush <input type="checkbox"/> Thinned / Pole-sized <input type="checkbox"/> Large / Mature
18. Did you experience any competition or over-crowding with other bobcat hunters? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what county or counties did you experience competition or over-crowding with other bobcat hunters? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	19. Did you experience any competition or over-crowding with other bobcat trappers? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what county or counties did you experience competition or over-crowding with other bobcat trappers? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
20. Did you experience any competition or over-crowding with the outdoor activities of others? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what county or counties did you experience competition or over-crowding? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

Please add any comments you would like to offer regarding bobcat populations, harvest regulations or overall bobcat management.

Figure 1. Continued.