

Bobcat Hunter/Trapper Survey 2014

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Abstract

Hunting/trapping questionnaires were mailed to all bobcat hunters/trappers that received permits for the 2014 season. 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. 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 18 – December 25 and Period 2 ran from December 26 – January 31. Approximately eighty-nine (88.8) percent of total survey respondents pursued bobcats in 2014. Of these, 65.2% reported registering a bobcat, a slight decrease from 68.7% in 2013.

Methods

After completion of the 2014 season, a questionnaire was mailed to each of the 386 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 386 bobcat hunter/trappers queried, 291 non-duplicate responses were received, for a response rate of 75.4%. Approximately eighty-nine (88.8%) percent of these respondents reported hunting and/or trapping bobcats during the 2014 season (Table 1, Question 1).

The most common reason given for not pursuing bobcats was poor weather (26.3%, Table 1, Question 2). Knowing it may require eight years or more of continuous application, seventy-nine (79.3%) 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 season structure. Bobcat hunters/trappers hunting the north zone during Period 1 had the least favorable opinion (3.5) of the new season structure of the permit holders (Table 1, Question 4).

Sixty-five (65.2) percent of hunters/trappers who pursued bobcats were successful. Bobcat hunters/trappers hunting the north zone during Period 2 were most successful (74.4%), while bobcat hunters/trappers hunting the south zone during Period 1 were the least successful (52.2%) (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 this as Period 1 had light, spotty snow fall in the north 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 (91.7%), only a small number of Wisconsin bobcats enter the fur trade (8.4%) (Table 1, Question 6a).

Most hunters/trappers felt the bobcat season conditions were about average (Table 1, Question 7). Northern zone hunters/trappers felt that the 'presence of tracking snow (1" – 2") had the greatest positive impact on their bobcat hunting/trapping effort, while 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 17.2 days afield with 7.2 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). Nine (9.2%) percent of all trappers released bobcats from their sets during the 2014 season (Table 1, Question 10).

Bobcat hunters who used dogs spent on average 4.6 days afield, while bobcat hunters who hunted without dogs spend on average 7.8 days afield. On average, hunters ran 3.8 bobcats with dogs (Table 1, Question 11). Twelve (12.1%) percent of all hunters using trained dogs reported to have passed on treed bobcats (Table 1, Question 12).

Most respondents (57.3%) hunted with friend(s) (Table 1, Question 13). Guided hunts occurred 6.6% of the time with most hunts costing less than \$500 (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 Bayfield counties (Table 1, Question 14). A total of 18 road kill and 352 live sightings were made (Table 1, Question 15)

Most hunters/trappers indicated that the bobcat population was 'about the same as last year', except for Period 1 hunters/trappers in the southern zone; hunters indicated that the bobcat population was 'more abundant than 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 (24.4%) and Period 2 (34.8%) for northern hunters was 'upland hardwoods - regeneration/brush'. The most common habitat for southern hunters during Period 1 was 'upland conifers - regeneration /brush' (18.2%) and 'lowland forest/swamp - regeneration/brush' (18.2%), while 'upland hardwoods - regeneration/brush' was preferred during Period 2.

Bobcat hunters reported experiencing competition or over-crowding with other bobcat hunters 12.2% of the time, while bobcat trappers experienced competition or over-crowding 1.6% of the time (Table 1, Questions 18 and 19). Eleven (11.2%) 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 2014 bobcat hunters/trapper questionnaire.

1. Did you hunt and/or trap bobcat during the 2014-15 season?

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	117	83.0	23	85.2	90	95.7	23	100.0	253	88.8
No	24	17.0	4	14.8	4	4.3	0	0.0	32	11.2

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	7	25.9	1	20.0	2	33.3	0	0.0	10	26.3
Too far to travel	2	7.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.3
Other	18	66.7	4	80.0	4	66.7	0	0.0	26	68.4

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	107	78.7	24	88.9	71	75.5	20	87.0	222	79.3
No	29	21.3	3	11.1	23	24.5	3	13.0	58	20.7

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: **3.5**

Period 2 Mean response: **5.0**

South Zone

Period 1 Mean response: **4.6**

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	15	11.2	2	8.3	7	8.1	2	9.1	26	9.7
1 – Did Not Like It	35	26.1	2	8.3	5	5.8	2	9.1	44	16.5
2	7	5.2	1	4.2	2	2.3	0	0.0	10	3.7
3	11	8.2	3	12.5	3	3.5	0	0.0	17	6.4
4	14	10.5	3	12.5	8	9.2	1	4.6	26	9.7
5	10	7.5	1	4.2	16	18.4	0	0.0	27	10.1
6	13	9.7	3	12.5	14	16.1	2	9.1	32	12.0
7 – Did Like it	29	21.6	9	37.5	32	36.8	15	68.2	85	31.8

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	237	62.0	64	77.1	43	20.3	17	25.8	361	48.6
Predator Calls	35	9.2	6	7.2	12	5.7	15	22.7	68	9.2
Hunting Dogs	103	27.0	10	12.1	154	72.6	32	48.5	299	40.2
Incidental	7	1.8	3	3.6	3	1.4	2	3.0	15	2.0

6. Did you register a bobcat during the 2014-2015 season (October 18 – 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	71	60.7	12	52.2	67	74.4	15	65.2	165	65.2
No	46	39.3	11	47.8	23	25.6	8	34.8	88	34.8

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

Response	Total	
	Count	Percent
Sold for the fur trade	14	8.4
Made into taxidermy mount	116	69.5
Tanned and kept or sold	37	22.2

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

North Zone

Period 1 Mean response: **4.2**

Period 2 Mean response: **4.3**

South Zone

Period 1 Mean response: **4.7**

Period 2 Mean response: **4.3**

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 – Very Poor	8	7.0	1	4.4	2	2.2	1	4.4	12	4.8
2	14	12.3	1	4.4	12	13.3	1	4.4	28	11.2
3	15	13.2	2	8.7	13	14.4	3	13.0	33	13.2
4 – Average	30	26.3	5	21.7	26	28.9	8	34.8	69	27.6
5	20	17.5	6	26.1	14	15.6	6	26.1	46	18.4
6	15	13.2	6	26.1	17	18.9	2	8.7	40	16.0
7 – Perfect	12	10.5	2	8.7	6	6.7	2	8.7	22	8.8

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	42.2	7.8	17.2	13.8	8.6	9.5	42.9	4.8	9.5	9.5	23.8	9.5
Presence of tracking snow (1" – 2")	22.3	8.0	10.7	12.5	16.1	30.4	40.9	9.1	9.1	9.1	22.7	9.1
Walking snow (2"+ to 12")	33.6	8.9	13.3	15.9	11.5	16.8	59.1	13.6	9.1	9.1	9.1	0.0
Snowshoe snow (12"+)	57.9	21.5	4.7	6.5	1.9	7.5	76.2	19.1	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0
Impassable roads (snowed in)	66.4	13.6	8.2	6.4	1.8	3.6	72.7	18.2	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
Split season divides permits, reduces competition	42.5	7.9	0.9	21.2	10.6	16.8	42.9	4.8	4.8	14.3	14.3	19.1
Other bobcat hunters/trappers	68.8	8.9	9.8	9.8	0.9	1.8	77.3	9.1	4.6	9.1	0.0	0.0
Other forest users	70.8	10.6	5.3	10.6	1.8	0.9	60.9	17.4	8.7	4.4	8.7	0.0

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	22.7	21.6	21.6	21.6	5.7	6.8	31.8	0.0	27.3	27.3	4.6	9.1
Presence of tracking snow (1" – 2")	10.3	14.9	12.6	11.5	14.9	35.6	4.6	13.6	4.6	18.2	9.1	50.0
Walking snow (2"+ to 12")	22.9	8.4	7.2	20.5	19.3	21.7	28.6	4.8	4.8	14.3	14.3	33.3
Snowshoe snow (12"+)	50.0	10.5	12.8	11.6	11.6	3.5	65.0	10.0	5.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Impassable roads (snowed in)	51.2	19.1	10.7	4.8	10.7	3.6	71.4	0.0	9.5	14.3	0.0	4.8
Split season divides permits, reduces competition	32.2	4.6	1.2	17.2	13.8	31.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	20.0	55.0
Other bobcat hunters/trappers	52.3	3.5	24.4	12.8	3.5	3.5	57.1	19.1	0.0	19.1	4.8	0.0
Other forest users	65.5	6.9	10.3	11.5	5.8	0.0	57.1	23.8	4.8	9.5	4.8	0.0

8. If you **TRAPPED** bobcat during the 2014-2015 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	66	19.0	18	11.9	16	22.4	8	15.5
Average number of sets/day	68	8.8	18	4.3	16	10.7	7	5.1
Number of bobcats located	53	2.7	15	2.9	15	3.4	6	2.7

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	9.5	15	9.9	10	4.9	6	4.3
# of body-gripper sets	29	3.6	6	1.8	7	1.6	2	2.0
# of cage sets	6	1.7	5	5.0	4	1.0	2	1.5
# of cable restraint sets made	2	3.0	2	3.0	3	2.7	4	4.5

10. Did you release any bobcats from your traps during the 2014-2015 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	7	9.3	2	9.5	3	11.1	0	0.0
No	68	90.7	19	90.5	24	88.9	8	100.0

If yes, how many? (Frequency)

	<i>Period 1</i>		<i>Period 2</i>	
	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1	2	1	3	1
2	1	0	0	0
≥3	4	1	0	0

11. If you **HUNTED** bobcat during the 2014-2015 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	50	4.6	5	2.4	77	5.7	15	5.6
# of days hunted without dogs	20	11.1	5	7.4	11	3.9	5	8.8
# of bobcats run with dogs	45	4.0	3	3.0	75	3.3	14	4.8
# of bobcats located	53	6.1	8	1.8	70	4.8	15	7.1
# of days hunted using predator calls	15	5.5	2	3.0	13	2.8	7	8.1

12. Did you pass on any treed bobcats during the 2014-15 season?

	<i>Period 1</i>				<i>Period 2</i>			
	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>		<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>	
<i>Response</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	7	7.1	0	0.0	16	18.4	4	19.1
No	92	92.9	17	100.0	71	81.6	17	81.0

If yes, how many (Frequency)?

<i>Response</i>	<i>Period 1</i>		<i>Period 2</i>	
	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1	1	0	9	0
2	2	0	5	0
≥3	2	0	2	4

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

<i>Response</i>	<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>	
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Hunt/trap alone	64	46.7	15	68.2	15	15.0	10	34.5	104	36.1
Hunt/trap with friend(s)	64	46.7	7	31.8	76	76.0	18	62.1	165	57.3
Participate in a guided trip	9	6.6	0	0.0	9	9.0	1	3.5	19	6.6

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

<i>Response</i>	<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>	
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Less than \$500	7	77.8	0	0.0	2	22.2	1	100.0	10	52.6
\$500-\$999	1	11.1	0	0.0	5	55.6	0	0.0	6	31.6
\$1,000-\$1,499	1	11.1	0	0.0	2	22.2	0	0.0	3	15.8
\$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	3.9	0	0.0	1	2.8	2	0.6
Ashland	6	3.8	0	0.0	6	4.7	0	0.0	12	3.4
Bayfield	14	8.8	0	0.0	9	7.0	0	0.0	23	6.6
Brown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.8	1	0.3
Buffalo	0	0.0	1	3.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Burnett	3	1.9	0	0.0	4	3.1	0	0.0	7	2.0
Chippewa	2	1.3	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.9
Clark	0	0.0	2	7.7	0	0.0	6	16.7	8	2.3
Douglas	6	3.8	0	0.0	10	7.8	0	0.0	16	4.6
Dunn	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.8	1	0.3
Eau Claire	1	0.6	1	3.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6
Florence	5	3.1	0	0.0	2	1.6	0	0.0	7	2.0
Forest	8	5.0	0	0.0	6	4.7	0	0.0	14	4.0
Iowa	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.3
Iron	4	2.5	0	0.0	5	3.9	0	0.0	9	2.6
Jackson	0	0.0	2	7.7	0	0.0	5	13.9	7	2.0
Juneau	1	0.6	2	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.9
La Crosse	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.8	1	0.3
Langlade	10	6.3	1	3.9	4	3.1	1	2.8	16	4.6
Lincoln	11	6.9	0	0.0	7	5.4	0	0.0	18	5.1
Marathon	1	0.6	3	11.5	1	0.8	5	13.9	10	2.8
Marinette	8	5.0	0	0.0	3	2.3	0	0.0	11	3.1
Marquette	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Monroe	0	0.0	2	7.7	0	0.0	1	2.8	3	0.9
Oconto	6	3.8	0	0.0	2	1.6	3	8.3	11	3.1
Oneida	10	6.3	0	0.0	11	8.5	0	0.0	21	6.0
Polk	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.6	0	0.0	2	0.6
Portage	0	0.0	1	3.9	0	0.0	1	2.8	2	0.6
Price	12	7.5	0	0.0	17	13.2	0	0.0	29	8.3
Rusk	10	6.3	0	0.0	11	8.5	0	0.0	21	6.0
Sawyer	23	14.4	0	0.0	13	10.1	0	0.0	36	10.3
Shawano	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	19.4	7	2.0
Taylor	7	4.4	0	0.0	9	7.0	0	0.0	16	4.6
Trempealeau	0	0.0	1	3.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Vilas	3	1.9	0	0.0	2	1.6	0	0.0	5	1.4
Washburn	7	4.4	0	0.0	3	2.3	0	0.0	10	2.8
Waupaca	0	0.0	4	15.4	0	0.0	2	5.6	6	1.7
Wood	1	0.6	5	19.2	0	0.0	1	2.8	7	2.0

15. In 2014 did you observe any bobcat(s)? If yes, please fill in the following information:

Total reported road kills: 18

County	# of Road Kill Sightings	Percent	County	# of Road Kill Sightings	Percent
Bayfield	1	5.6	Marinette	2	11.1
Florence	1	5.6	Oconto	1	5.6
Iowa	1	5.6	Price	1	5.6
Jackson	1	5.6	Sauk	1	5.6
Langlade	1	5.6	Sawyer	4	22.2
Lincoln	1	5.6	Taylor	4	22.2

Total reported live sightings: 352

County	# of Live Sightings	Percent	County	# of Live Sightings	Percent	County	# of Live Sightings	Percent
Ashland	8	2.3	La Crosse	3	0.9	Rusk	37	10.5
Bayfield	11	3.1	Langlade	17	4.8	Sawyer	34	9.7
Burnett	3	0.9	Lincoln	20	5.7	Shawano	12	3.4
Chippewa	1	0.3	Marathon	17	4.8	Taylor	13	3.7
Clark	15	4.3	Marinette	5	1.4	Trempealeau	2	0.6
Douglas	19	5.4	Monroe	24	6.8	Vilas	2	0.6
Eau Claire	1	0.3	Oconto	8	2.3	Washburn	15	4.3
Forest	6	1.7	Oneida	23	6.5	Waupaca	12	3.4
Iron	1	0.3	Polk	1	0.3	Wood	2	0.6
Jackson	25	7.1	Price	15	4.3			

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	32.7	12.4	42.1	18.3	71.4	61.9	28.6	68.2	40.9	71.4
Less abundant than last year	12.4	28.3	11.4	40.0	3.6	4.8	23.8	0.0	22.7	4.8
About the same as last year	36.3	39.8	39.5	21.7	10.7	23.8	38.1	27.3	22.7	9.5
No opinion	18.6	19.5	7.0	20.0	14.3	9.5	9.5	4.5	13.6	14.3

Response	Period 2									
	North					South				
	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf
More abundant than last year	25.3	12.8	50.0	17.2	78.4	34.8	21.7	52.2	34.8	78.3
Less abundant than last year	9.2	24.4	11.4	24.1	0.0	8.7	34.8	4.4	21.7	0.0
About the same as last year	43.7	33.7	25.0	29.9	13.6	47.8	39.1	39.1	39.1	17.4
No opinion	21.8	29.1	13.6	28.7	8.0	8.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4

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	50.9	13.5	55.7	17.5	86.8	81.8	0.0	76.2	40.9	85.7
Less abundant than last year	16.7	49.6	13.0	57.9	2.6	0.0	61.9	4.8	31.8	4.8
About the same as last year	20.2	26.1	27.0	10.5	4.4	4.6	28.6	14.3	13.6	0.0
No opinion	12.3	10.8	4.4	14.0	6.1	13.6	9.5	4.8	13.6	9.5

Response	Period 2									
	North					South				
	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf
More abundant than last year	54.6	17.2	57.5	19.5	84.3	78.3	39.1	65.2	52.2	87.0
Less abundant than last year	5.7	34.5	16.1	36.8	3.4	0.0	52.2	17.4	21.7	4.4
About the same as last year	17.1	25.3	11.5	16.1	1.1	17.4	8.7	17.4	17.4	4.4
No opinion	22.7	23.0	14.9	27.6	11.2	4.4	0.0	0.0	8.7	4.4

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	11.3	18.2	5.6	17.4
Upland Conifers – Thinned / Pole-sized	6.1	4.6	3.4	8.7
Upland Conifers – Large / Mature	2.6	9.1	4.5	0.0
Lowland Forest/Swamp – Regeneration / Brush	10.4	18.2	4.5	13.0
Lowland Forest/Swamp – Thinned / Pole-sized	5.2	9.1	5.6	17.4
Lowland Forest/Swamp – Large / Mature	9.6	9.1	9.0	0.0
Upland Hardwoods – Regeneration / Brush	24.4	13.6	34.8	30.4
Upland Hardwoods – Thinned / Pole-sized	8.7	9.1	14.6	0.0
Upland Hardwoods – Large / Mature	21.7	9.1	18.0	13.0

18. Did you experience any 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
Yes	6	5.3	0	0.0	22	24.4	2	8.7	30	12.2
No	107	94.7	20	100.0	68	75.6	21	91.3	216	87.8

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	2	11.1	0	0.0	3	11.5
Douglas	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	11.1	0	0.0	2	7.7
Clark	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	2	7.7
Langlade	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	11.1	0	0.0	2	7.7
Lincoln	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	11.1	0	0.0	2	7.7
Oconto	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	0	0.0	1	3.8
Oneida	1	16.7	0	0.0	2	11.1	0	0.0	3	11.5
Price	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	0	0.0	1	3.8
Rusk	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	16.7	0	0.0	3	11.5
Sawyer	2	33.3	0	0.0	2	11.1	0	0.0	4	15.4
Taylor	2	33.3	0	0.0	1	6.6	0	0.0	3	11.5

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	1.1	0	0.0	2	4.0	0	0.0	3	1.6
No	94	99.0	21	100.0	48	96.0	17	100.0	180	98.4

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	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	2	66.7
Forest	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	33.3

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

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	11	9.9	6	27.3	9	10.3	1	4.6	27	11.2
No	100	90.1	16	72.7	78	89.7	21	95.5	215	88.8

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

Response	Period 1				Period 2				Total	
	North		South		North		South		Statewide	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Adams	0	0.0	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.0
Bayfield	1	10.0	0	0.0	2	25.0	0	0.0	3	12.0
Douglas	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	1	4.0
Forest	2	20.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	3	12.0
Iron	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.0
Juneau	0	0.0	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.0
Langlade	2	20.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	3	12.0
Marathon	0	0.0	1	16.7	0	0.0	1	100.0	2	8.0
Marinette	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.0
Oconto	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.0
Price	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	1	4.0
Sawyer	2	20.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	3	12.0
Taylor	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0	1	4.0
Waupaca	0	0.0	1	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.0
Wood	0	0.0	2	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	8.0

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 season 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 2014-2015 season?</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (2) <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>2. If no, why didn't you hunt and/or trap for bobcat?</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Poor weather (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Too far to travel</p> <p>(3) <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>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (2) <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>4. Overall, what was your impression of the longer, two season structure we have now?</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">No Opinion</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Did Not Like It</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Did Like It</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table>	No Opinion	Did Not Like It	Did Like It	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	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>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Predator Calls (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting Dogs (4) <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental</p>																																																																														
<p>6. Did you register a bobcat during the 2014-2015 season (October 18 - December 25 or December 26 - January 31) ?</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (2) <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>6a. If yes, what was its' final disposition?</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Sold for the fur trade (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Tanned and kept or sold</p> <p>(2) <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 style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-left: 100px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Very Poor</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Average</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Perfect</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please rate the following factors and how they may have influenced your bobcat hunting/trapping:</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-left: 100px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">No Impact</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">Negative Impact</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">2</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">3</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">4</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">Positive Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Cold Weather</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Presence of tracking snow (1" - 2")</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Walking snow (2"+ to 12")</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Snowshoe snow (12"+)</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Impassable roads (snowed in)</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Split Season divides permits, reduces competition</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Other bobcat hunters/trappers</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Other forest users</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Very Poor	Average			Perfect			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		No Impact	Negative Impact	2	3	4	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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<p>8. If you TRAPPED bobcat during the 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 season?</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (2) <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, how many? _____</p>	<p>11. If you HUNTED bobcat during the 2014-2015 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>																																																																													

Figure 1. The 2014-2015 Wisconsin bobcat hunting/trapping questionnaire.

12. Did you pass on any treed bobcats during the 2014-2015 season?

(1) Yes (2) No If yes, how many? _____

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

- (1) Hunt/trap alone
- (2) Hunt/trap with friend(s)
- (3) Participate in a guided trip (go to 13a)

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

- (1) less than \$500
- (2) \$500 to \$999
- (3) \$1,000 to \$1,499
- (2) \$1,500 to \$1,999
- (3) \$2,000+

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

15. In 2014 did you observe any bobcat(s)? If yes, please fill in the following information:

# of Road Kill	County	# of Live Sightings	County

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)

	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf
More abundant than last year	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Less abundant than last year	<input type="checkbox"/>				
About the same as last year	<input type="checkbox"/>				
No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

	Bobcat	Fox	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Wolf
More abundant than ten years ago	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Less abundant than ten years ago	<input type="checkbox"/>				
About the same as ten years ago	<input type="checkbox"/>				
No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Upland Conifers	Upland Hardwoods	Lowland Forest / Swamp
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration / Brush	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration / Brush	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration / Brush
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Thinned / Pole-sized	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Thinned / Pole-sized	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Thinned / Pole-sized
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Large / Mature	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Large / Mature	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Large / Mature

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

(1) Yes (2) No

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

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

(1) Yes (2) No

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

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

(1) Yes (2) No

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

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

Figure 1. Continued.