

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Season Chapter 41:08:01

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>July 11-12, 2024</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>Sept 5, 2024</b>	<b>Huron</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>Sept 5-6, 2024</b>	<b>Huron</b>

### SEASON INFORMATION

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:**

Residents: December 26, 2024 – February 15, 2025  
Nonresidents: January 11 – February 15, 2025

Residents: December 26, 2025 – February 15, 2026  
Nonresidents: January 10 – February 15, 2026

**Open Area:** See Figure 1.

**Licenses:** Unlimited. A furbearer license is required for all nonresidents and residents over 18 years of age. Residents under age 18 are not required to have a license.

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Hunters or trappers who participate in the East River management zone are limited to one bobcat per season and there is no limit per hunter or trapper in the West River and Black Hills management zones.
2. A bobcat taken must be presented to a department representative for registration and tagging of the pelt, within five days of harvest. Once the season has closed, a person has 24 hours to notify a department representative of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season.
3. The pelt must be removed from the carcass and the carcass must be surrendered to the department representative. After the pelt has been tagged, it must be returned to the hunter or trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the hunter or trapper after the carcass has been inspected and the lower jaw has been removed.
4. A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw bobcat pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with a tag provided by the department or if taken from another jurisdiction, properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the animal has been lawfully taken is necessary.

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Edit § 41:08:01:08.01 to limit the number of bobcats harvested to one per hunter or trapper in the Black Hills management zone.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Age structure data from harvested bobcats has suggested low juvenile recruitment rates in the Black Hills. The South Dakota Bobcat Action Plan 2024-2028 states if the juvenile-to-adult female harvest ratio falls below 10% for two or more consecutive years the Black Hills management zone will enter into a “Low Harvest” strategy. The “Low Harvest Strategy” allows for the harvest of only one bobcat per trapper or hunter during the 52-day season. In three of the last four years in the Black Hills, the juvenile-to-adult female harvest ratio has been below 10%. If harvest age ratios during the 2024-2025 or 2025-2026 hunting and trapping season are above 10% juveniles-to-adult females in the Black Hills management zone, the “Moderate Harvest” strategy may be recommended which allows an unlimited number of bobcats per hunter or trapper per season.

During the 2022-2023 season, five of 15 individuals harvested more than one bobcat and during the 2023-2024 season, five of 26 individuals harvested more than one bobcat in the Black Hills management zone. Limiting hunters and trappers to 1 bobcat in the Black Hills will reduce harvest and improve population growth.

Figure 1. Map of bobcat management zones from the South Dakota Bobcat Action Plan 2024-2028.

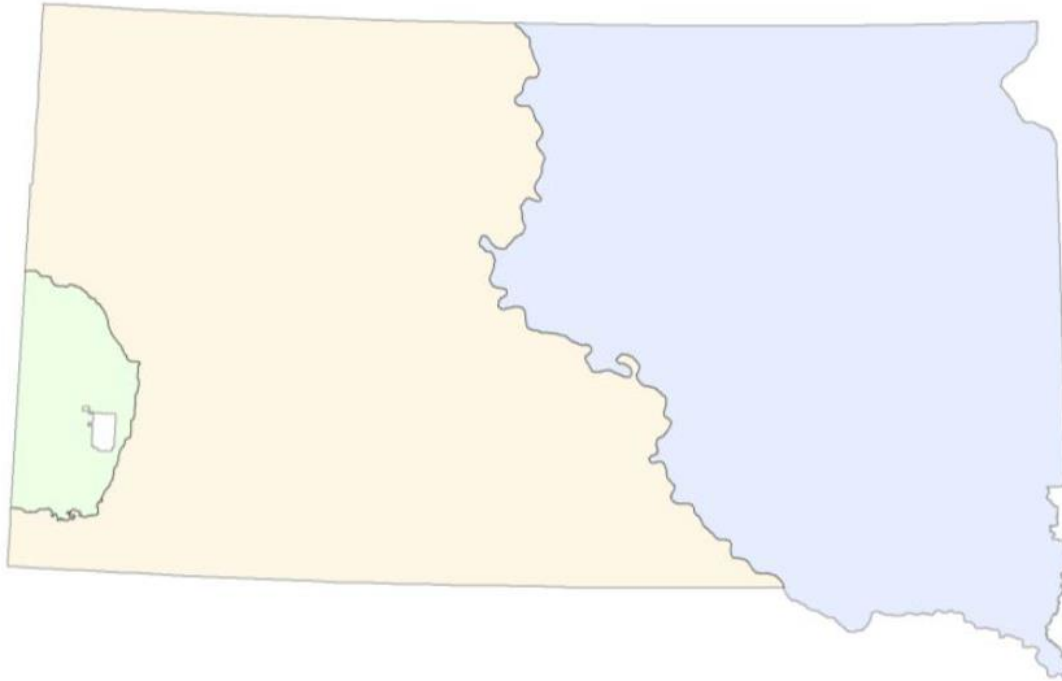


Table 1. Bobcat harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

Year	Furbearer Licenses		Active Hunters/Trappers		Harvest		Satisfaction	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident	Trapping	Hunting	Resident	Nonres
2013	4,745	19	2,641	14	347		4.63	4.44
2014	4,227	12	2,304	10	214		4.89	5.00
2015	3,940	14	2,065	14	254		4.93	4.40
2016	3,620	11	1,804	5	218		4.95	5.00
2017	3,915	17	2,120	15	367	95	5.05	5.63
2018	4,154	14	2,168	12	264	71	4.97	5.44
2019	4,334	17	2,237	13	209	58	5.09	4.43
2020	4,689	15	2,295	15	243	61	5.22	5.50
2021	4,726	13	2,200	0	212	49	5.21	NA
2022	4,024	4	1,826	0	122	47	5.16	NA

## DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:08:01:08.01. Bobcat trapping and hunting season established -- Hunting restrictions -- Tagging requirements. The bobcat trapping and hunting season is open statewide from sunrise on December 26 through sunset on February 15. Any trapper or hunter participating in the bobcat season east of the Missouri River and in the area described by: that portion of Lawrence County south of Interstate 90; that portion of Meade County west and south of Interstate 90; those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties west of State Highway 79; that portion of Fall River County north and west of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then east along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River. then east along the Cheyenne River to its junction with State Highway 79; then north along State Highway 79 to its junction with the Custer County line; is limited to one bobcat per trapper or hunter.

A bobcat taken must be presented to a department representative for registration and tagging of the pelt, within five days of harvest. Once the season has closed, a person has 24 hours to notify a department representative of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season. The pelt must be removed from the carcass and the carcass must be surrendered to the department representative. After the pelt has been tagged, it must be returned to the hunter or trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the hunter or trapper after the carcass has been inspected and the lower jaw has been removed.

A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw bobcat pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with a tag provided by the department or if taken from another jurisdiction, properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the animal has been lawfully taken is necessary.

## RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

## RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Yes, some hunters or trappers will have less opportunity because they can only harvest one bobcat in the Black Hills.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

## FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_