

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Season Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 16-17, 2020	Virtual Meeting
	Public Hearing	September 2, 2020	Virtual Meeting
	Finalization	September 2-3, 2020	Virtual Meeting

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2020-21 and 2021-22 trapping and hunting seasons

Season Dates: December 26, 2020 – February 15, 2021

Area: Statewide

Nonresident Season Dates: January 9, 2021 – February 15, 2021

Area: Statewide

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Trappers or hunters who participate in the bobcat season east river are limited to one bobcat per trapper or hunter.
2. A bobcat taken must be presented to a conservation officer or wildlife damage specialist for registration and tagging of the pelt within 5 days of harvest. Additionally, once the season has closed, an individual has 24 hours to notify a conservation officer or wildlife damage specialist of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season. The pelt must be removed from the carcass and the carcass must be surrendered to the conservation officer or wildlife damage specialist. After the pelt has been tagged, it shall 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 the tag provided by the department.

Proposed changes from last year:

- 1.) Modify the season dates in eastern South Dakota to align with western South Dakota. Proposed season dates would be December 26 to February 15, statewide.
- 2.) Modify the open area in eastern South Dakota to include all counties. The proposed open area would be statewide.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

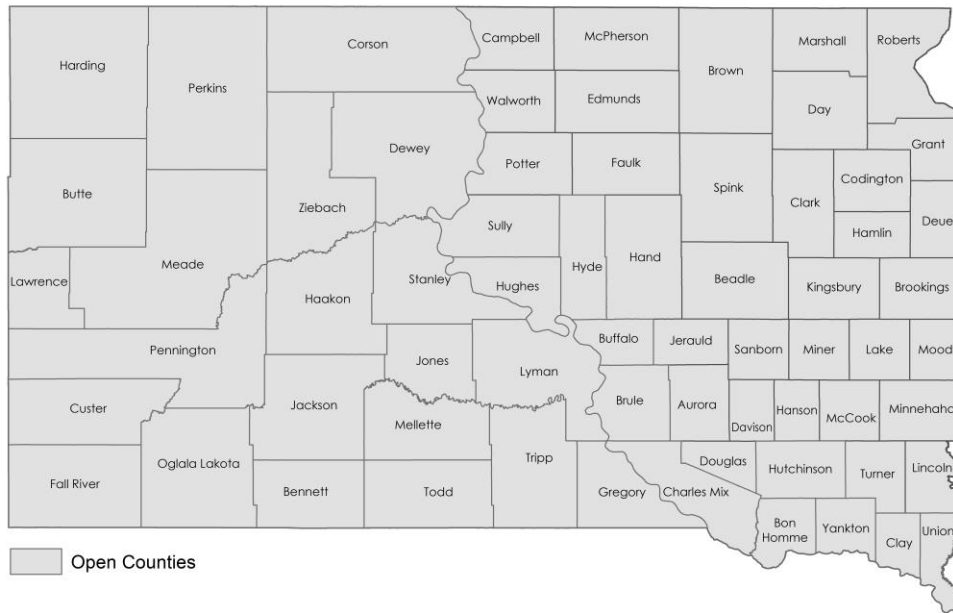
Bobcats occur in several areas of eastern South Dakota where the current bobcat season is not open. Minimal harvest in those areas would not be detrimental to bobcat populations and are protected by the limit of one bobcat per hunter or trapper. This expansion would create additional opportunity and aligning the two seasons' dates (eastern South Dakota and western South Dakota) and brings consistency and simplifies regulations.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

Bobcat Season - Current Open Area



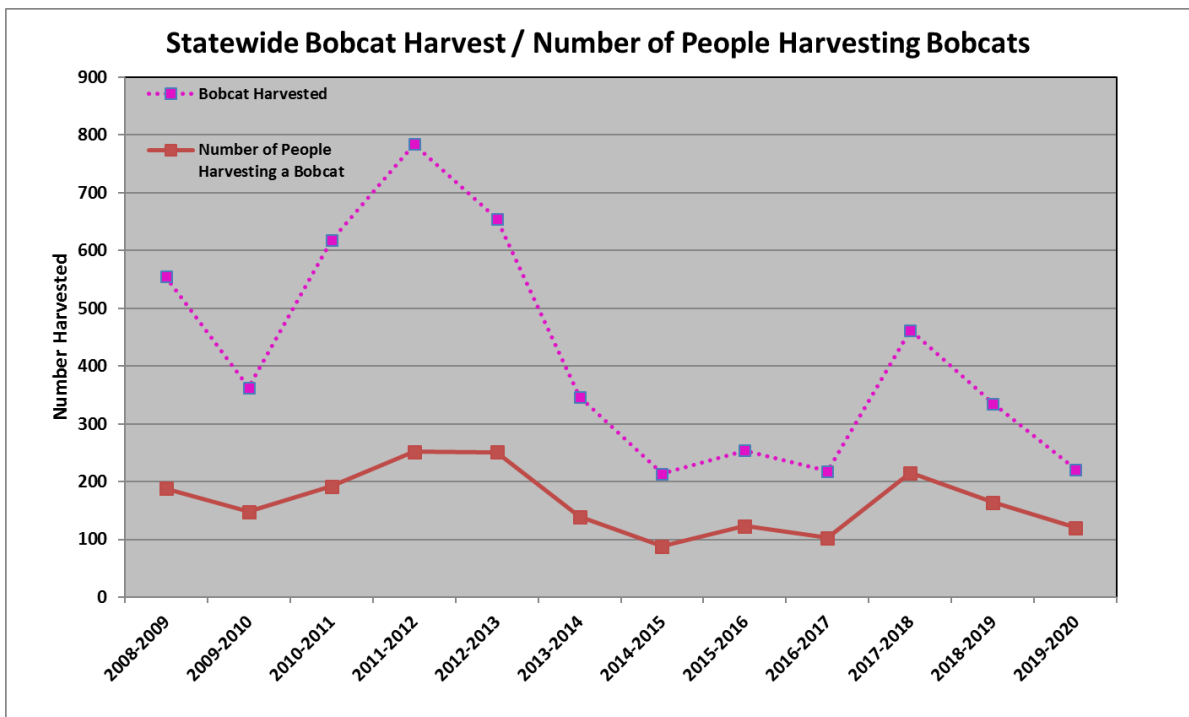
Bobcat Season - Proposed Open Area



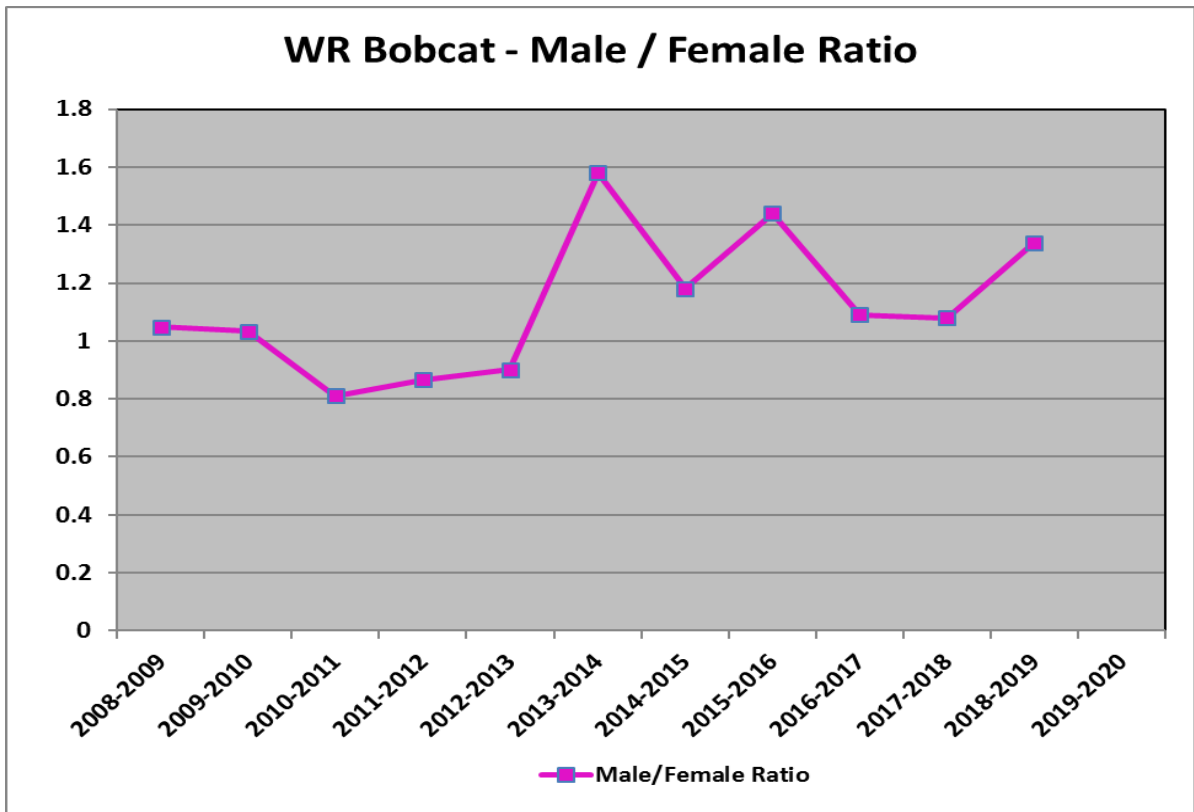
APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

Bobcat Harvest Statistics

	West River	East River
2009-2010	363	
2010-2011	618	
2011-2012	784	
2012-2013	615	40
2013-2014	323	24
2014-2015	206	8
2015-2016	242	12
2016-2017	206	12
2017-2018	428	34
2018-2019	312	23
2019-2020	190	31



APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____



RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
 - Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
 - i. The proposed change was brought forward to expand the open area and provide more opportunity and align season dates.
 - ii. Input will be sought through the commission process and be evaluated with GFP’s annual bobcat harvest report.
2. Historical Considerations
 - In 2012, the east river bobcat season was established. At the same time, nonresident trappers were allowed to participate in the bobcat trapping and hunting season (in all open areas) with a shorter season, which remains today.
3. Biological Considerations
 - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
 - i. The majority of bobcat habitat in eastern South Dakota occurs along brushy habitat along rivers and streams (i.e. riparian areas). The limit of one bobcat per hunter or trapper is enough of a restriction to limit overharvest where bobcats occur in eastern South Dakota. No biological effect is expected.
4. Social Considerations
 - The expansion would provide additional opportunities for hunters and trappers in eastern South Dakota, with a longer season and larger geographic area.
5. Financial considerations
 - Not applicable.

APPROVE ____ **MODIFY** ____ **REJECT** ____ **NO ACTION** ____

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?** Not applicable.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?** Yes.
Including the additional counties into the season would allow individuals in those areas to have a chance at harvesting a unique wildlife species and create additional opportunity for hunters and trappers.
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?** The expanded open area creates a larger geographic area for people to participate and lengthening the season allows for more opportunity.
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?** The expanded open area creates a larger geographic area for people to participate and lengthening the season allows for more opportunity.

APPROVE ____ **MODIFY** ____ **REJECT** ____ **NO ACTION** ____