

RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY

- Project Title:** Evaluation of bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) survival, harvest, and population size in western South Dakota.
- Need:** Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are native to South Dakota and are an important furbearer in western South Dakota where they are managed by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) with an annual hunting and trapping season. To date, information available on bobcats has been acquired primarily from harvested animals as well as a recent research project (W-95-R, Wildlife Surveys; Mosby 2011). The purpose of this project is to build upon previous research efforts and to obtain estimates of population parameters for bobcats (e.g., population size, harvest rates, survival rates, cause-specific mortality) needed for reliable population modeling as well as monitoring impacts from harvest.
- Objectives:**
1. Estimate the population size and density of bobcats in western South Dakota.
 2. Estimate the population dynamics of bobcats in western South Dakota including: harvest rates, survival rates, and causes of mortality.
 3. Design a survey and methodology to accurately determine annual bobcat populations or indices.
 4. Estimate home-range size of bobcats specific to certain habitat type.
- Study Location:** Western South Dakota
- Expected Completion:** June 2016
- Principal Investigator:** Dr. Jonathan A. Jenks, Distinguished Professor, South Dakota State University
- Other Personnel:** Brandon Tycz, Graduate Research Assistant, South Dakota State University
Keith Fisk, Wildlife Damage Program Administrator, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
John Kanta, Regional Wildlife Manager, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
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- Funding:** Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration, Study No. 7549, administered through South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.