

2018-19 Bobcat Trapping Season Proposal



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- **Background and Justification**
- **Bobcat research presentation at Sept 2017 WC meeting**
 - Two genetically distinct populations based on Ohio studies
 - Expanding distribution and abundance based on verified sighting trends
 - Trail cameras, roadkill, incidentally trapped bobcats
- **Ongoing research to determine population size and estimate population growth rates**
 - Sex, age, and reproductive rates
 - Catch per unit effort
- **Trappers will play an important role in informing population models and what a sustainable harvest rate will be in SE Ohio**

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Bobcat Management Plan Goals/Objectives

1. Determine bobcat habitat relationships in Ohio
2. Maintain or improve habitat for an expanding bobcat population
3. Develop harvest recommendations and implement a conservative bobcat season

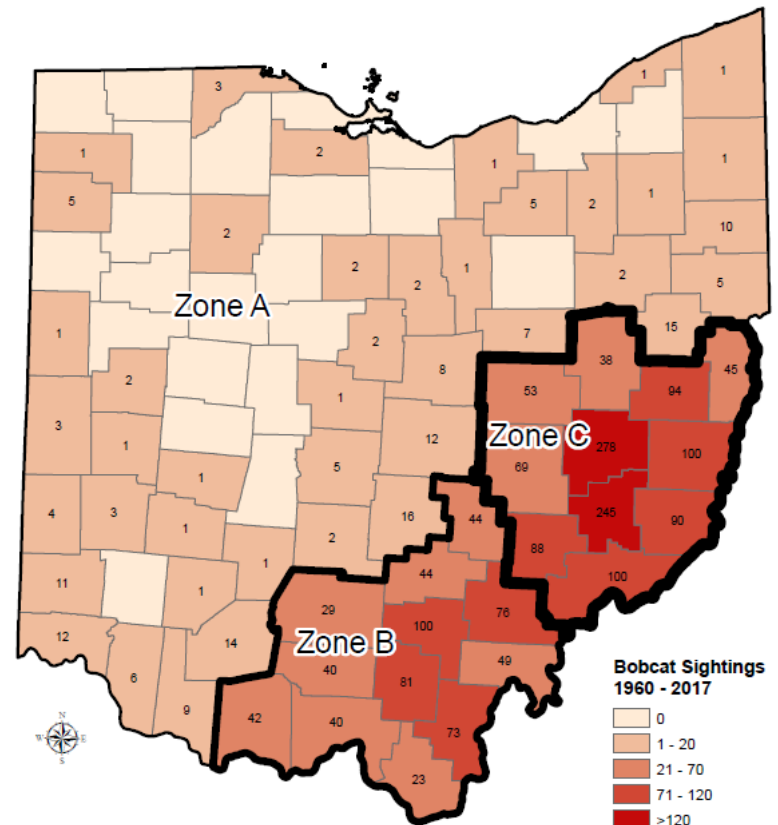
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Bobcat Management Plan Goals/Objectives

- 4. Validate harvest models and effects on an expanding bobcat population**
- 5. Increase public awareness of bobcat population recovery**
- 6. Establish protocols for nuisance bobcats and rehabilitation of orphan kittens**

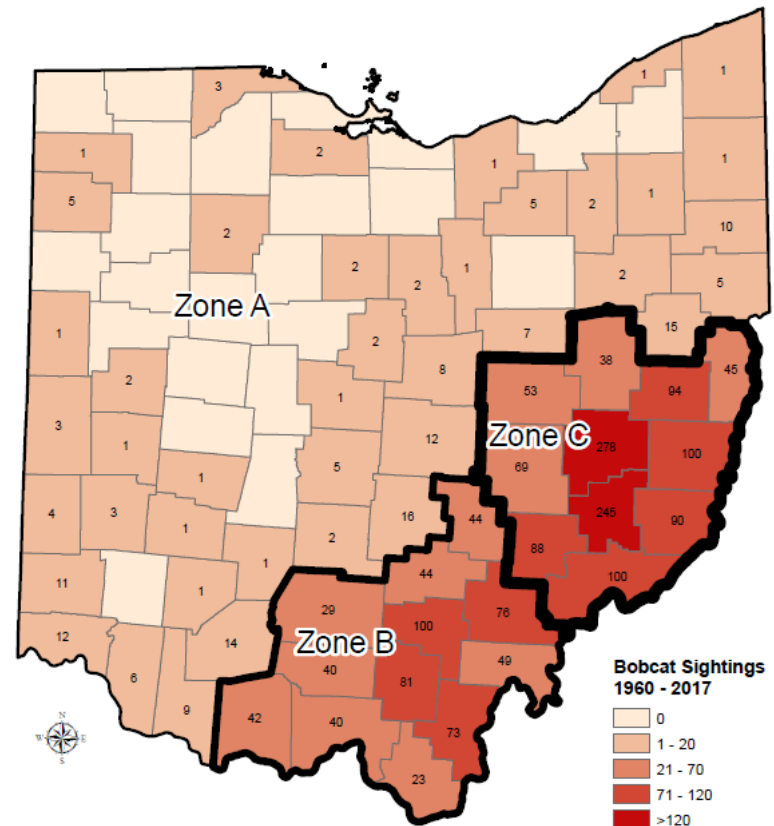
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- **Regulated, Limited Trapping Season**
- **Furtaker Permit required**
AND
- **Bobcat permit required**
- **Sold online and at license vendors**
- **Timing of permit sales TBD**
July 1 – Nov 9 2018?



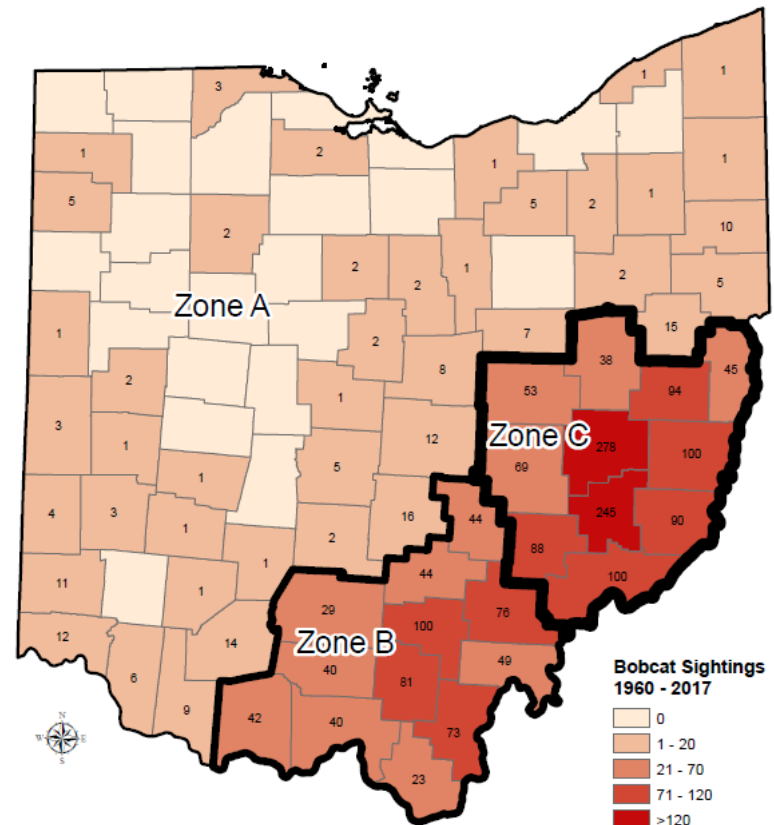
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- **Trapping Only**
- **Season Dates:**
 - **Nov 10, 2018 – January 31, 2019**
 - Consistent with other furbearers
- **Bag limit of 1 bobcat**
- **3 Zones established based on research and sightings**
 - Zone A: Closed Season
 - Zone B: Quota of 20 bobcats
 - Zone C: Quota of 40 bobcats
- **Season will end in each Zone when Quota is reached**



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- **Game Check required by 11:30 PM of day trapped**
- **Game Check will allow for season closure of either Zone the following day once quota is reached**
 - Contact through email, text, and media
- **Mandatory carcass submission for receipt of CITES Tag**
 - Carcasses will be used for research purposes



Proposed Zones for Bobcats

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- **Additional Resources:**
- **Ohio Bobcat Management Plan**
- **Summary of 2017 Bobcat Sightings in Ohio**
- **Trapping and Furbearer Management in North American Wildlife Conservation**
- **Best Management Practices for Trapping Bobcats in the United States**
- **U.S. Exports and Reexports of Bobcats. USFWS Report**