



Colorado Bobcat Mortality and Harvest Report

Bobcats are a small-game furbearer species in Colorado with a harvest season from Dec 1- end of Feb of each year. Either a furbearer license or a small game license AND furbearer harvest permit is required to pursue bobcats. The season closes two months in advance of female bobcats giving birth. Bobcat kittens are usually born in late April/May and disperse independently in fall and winter. Possession of a harvested bobcat comes with the requirement for a mandatory check and sealing process in Colorado, which allows CPW to collect specific data on bobcat mortalities, including gender, age class, and location of mortality. All reported bobcat mortalities are shown in the table below, including harvest, roadkill, game damage, and other sources (miscellaneous).

Each year, CPW summarizes and evaluates data on bobcat population performance against five management guidelines. The goal of evaluating bobcat data against these benchmarks is to maintain long-term, self-sustaining bobcat populations in suitable habitat in Colorado while also providing opportunities for bobcat harvest. A diverse suite of management guidelines are used to develop an annual conclusion on bobcat population trend. If the majority of these metrics exceed the management guidelines in certain scenarios, CPW could recommend adjusting regulations governing bobcat seasons, harvest methods, or bag limits to safeguard Colorado’s bobcat populations. Recent evaluations of these guidelines suggest Colorado’s bobcat populations are stable and may be increasing in some areas. Colorado’s bobcat season timing and length, limitations on trapping methods of take, and the annual data collected from mandatory check on all harvested bobcat supports the management of a viable bobcat population.

COLORADO BOBCAT MORTALITY												
License Yr	Total Mortality (all sources)	Gender			Mortality Type							
		Male	Female	Unk	Hunt	Live Trap	30-day Permit	RoadKill	Game Dmg	Misc	Unk	
2010-11	1578	851	700	21	676	813	8	43	5	2	25	
2011-12	1686	942	718	26	607	1021	13	26	4	4	11	
2012-13	1917	1052	839	26	648	1206	2	36	2	5	18	
2013-14	2022	1127	868	27	595	1350	9	45	5	8	10	
2014-15	1695	1000	682	13	472	1162	2	36	2	1	20	
2015-16	1407	795	589	23	470	882	7	38	2	6	2	
2016-17	1952	1073	846	33	789	1038	23	75	9	9	9	
2017-18	2062	1174	871	17	708	1269	19	37	13	4	12	
2018-19	2009	1128	864	17	762	1174	9	37	14	5	8	
2019-20	1226	686	530	10	473	687	4	44	11	5	2	
2020-21	1098	586	502	10	484	552	7	40	9	6	0	
2021-22	921	546	366	9	345	521	4	35	8	8	0	
2022-23	801	451	338	12	383	355	0	40	17	6	0	
The above data is for the license year from April 1st- March 31st of each year.												
Bobcat season is open Dec 1st- end of Feb.												