

June 13, 2016

Chairman County Advisory Wildlife Board

The Board of Directors of the Nevada Trappers Association is asking for your CAB's support of our recommendation for the following Furbearer Seasons for 2016-17 & 2017-2018 to the Wildlife Commission when they meet on June 24 & 25 in Elko.

Bobcat & Grey Fox* November 1 – February 28 120 day season**

All other furbearers As recommended by NDOW

Justification:

The Nevada Trappers have always supported the process of setting Bobcat and Grey Fox season length based upon the best biological data that the Department has collected over the past two year period. Kitten production per female and the male to female ratio of the harvest indicates the condition of the cat population. For the past 30 years or so, we have agreed with the Department to shorten the season when these indicators show low production, and a longer season (120 day) when the habitat conditions and the kitten production is good. The last season's data clearly shows excellent production and above average Male/Female ratios.

The Department's recommendation of a 94 day bobcat season (they are calling it the Standard Season) is based upon using the new "Draft Harvest Management Guidelines for Hunting seasons in Nevada" which are still in Draft development and haven't been approved by the Commission at this time.

We support the concept of establishing future season "guidelines" using the criteria that has been used for four decades successfully. We would like to have more input into this criteria however before it becomes policy. We have specific concerns with how new criterion such as how harvest effort will be treated, (trap nights/cat harvest per questionnaire). These new Draft Guidelines also propose to change the period of analysis from two years to a three year period which requires further discussion.

If you have any questions regarding NVTA's recommendations, please give me a call and I thank your Board for supporting our recommendation.

*Both bobcat & grey fox 120 day season

**Since the late 1990's, only 4 bobcat seasons have been shorter than 120 days

Best Regards,



Joel Blakeslee, President

JC/Jim Curran