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MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board/Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Predatory Mammals and Furbearer Program Coordinator

DATE: July 9, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020-21 BOBCAT AND FURBEARER RECOMMENDATIONS

Bobcat populations are managed according to the Utah Bobcat Management Plan. The plan lists three parameters that we look at each year to determine the number of bobcat permits to issue that season. These parameters are percent juveniles in the harvest, percent adult survival, and percent females in the harvest. If two of the three parameters remain within management targets, baseline permit numbers are maintained at 6 per individual trapper with no cap on total permits sold. The season is also set at the most liberal length from mid-November to March 1st. If two of these parameters fall outside of management parameters, indicating a declining bobcat population, permits issued to individuals are adjusted down and the season is shortened to begin later in the year. If three parameters indicate a declining population, total permits sold are capped at 80% of sales from the previous year.

This year, two of the three parameters fall outside of the plan guidelines and indicate that bobcat numbers are declining. For this reason we are recommending lowering the number of permits per individual trapper from 5 to 4, shortening the season to begin later in November (November 25, 2020 – March 1, 2021), and maintaining the total number of permits available at 6,460.

All other furbearer seasons are as follows:

Beaver and Mink – September 19, 2020 – April 1, 2021

Marten, Badger, Gray Fox, Kit Fox, Ringtail, Spotted Skunk, and Weasel
September 19, 2020 – March 1, 2021