



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED:

October 15, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Bobcat Registration Requirements
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 16 of 2012
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The department is proposing a change to the requirements for registering and sealing a bobcat. Currently, the fur harvester must present the bobcat pelt and skull for sealing, registration, and examination, and the department retains the entire skull. Data collected from the skull is used to determine biologically relevant information such as the animal's age and sex.

The department has received feedback that occasionally fur harvesters will request to keep the skulls of the bobcats they harvest, because they are of personal value. Department biologists have confirmed that the genetic information collected from the skull can also be obtained by keeping at least one of the bobcat's teeth.

If the fur harvester requests to keep the skull, the department recommends allowing on-site personnel to determine if at least one tooth instead of the entire skull should be retained during the registration process. This change would only apply upon request and at department discretion. The department would prefer to retain the entire skull for testing when available as this ensures adequate genetic samples, assures an undamaged tooth is submitted for aging, and allows for more efficiency during registration. However, we also feel we can obtain appropriate information from a tooth relative to the limited number of requests we expect to receive from fur harvesters to keep the skull.

Recommendation:

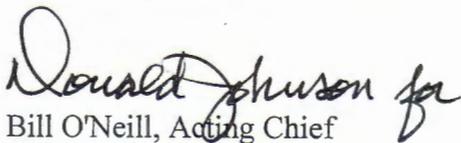
This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's October calendar and may be eligible for approval on December 13, 2012.



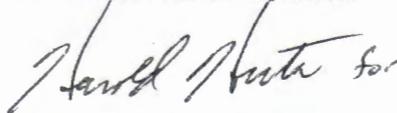
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



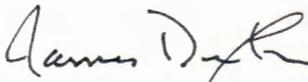
Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Bill O'Neill, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Deputy

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 16 of 2012

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective December 14, 2012, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.608 Bobcat open seasons, season limit, closed areas, restrictions; kill tags and tagging requirements; registration requirements; unlawful acts.

Sec. 3.608 (1) The open season for taking bobcat by trapping in bobcat management units A and B shall be December 1 to February 1. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in bobcat management units A and B shall be from January 1 to March 1.

(2) The open season for taking bobcat by trapping in bobcat management units C and D shall be from December 10 to December 20, on private lands only, using foothold traps only. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in management unit C shall be from January 1 to March 1. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in management unit D shall be from January 1 to February 1. A person shall not take a bobcat by means of trapping or hunting in that area of zone 2 not included in bobcat management units C and D.

(3) A person shall not take a bobcat in zone 3.

(4) The season limit shall be 2 bobcats per person except no person shall take more than 1 bobcat from bobcat management unit B, and no more than 1 bobcat in bobcat management units C and D combined.

(5) Through the last day of the open bobcat season, a person issued a fur harvester's license may obtain a free bobcat kill tag. A person who intends to hunt or trap bobcat shall request and be issued up to 2 free bobcat kill tags. A person shall not sell, loan, or permit in any manner another person to use the person's bobcat kill tag or use or attempt to use another person's bobcat kill tag. Only a person who is 8 years old or older may obtain a free bobcat kill tag. A person who kills a bobcat shall immediately validate the kill tag by notching out the appropriate information on the tag and attach the kill tag to the hide of the bobcat from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw of the bobcat in a secure and permanent manner. A person shall not tag a bobcat with a kill tag that is not valid for the unit in which the bobcat is taken. This kill tag shall remain attached to the bobcat until the animal is registered and sealed by the department. A person shall not possess a bobcat or bobcat hide that is not tagged with a validated kill tag unless a department seal is attached as provided by subsection (6).

(6) A person that kills a bobcat shall present the pelt and skull of the bobcat to the department to be registered and sealed no later than 10 days following the close of the season in which it was taken. The pelt and skull shall be presented for sealing in person by the fur harvester that killed the animal and shall not be presented for sealing or registration by another person. The person presenting the bobcat pelt and skull shall display their fur harvester license, including identification used to acquire the license, and shall provide harvest information as requested by the department. The department shall retain **at least one tooth or the skull, at the discretion of the department** ~~discretion~~, and attach an official seal to the pelt of each bobcat presented for examination. **The seal and shall be** ~~lock locked the seal~~ upon the hide in such a manner that it cannot be removed without cutting or ripping the bobcat

pelt or damaging the seal. An official seal attached by the department shall not be removed from the bobcat pelt until the bobcat pelt is processed or tanned. Subsequent to 10 days following March 1, it shall be unlawful to possess a bobcat pelt without an official department seal attached unless the pelt has been processed or tanned or the bobcat season is open.

Issued on this 13th day of December 2012.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Timothy L. Nichols, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Keith Creagh
Director