

## Proposed Furbearer Regulation Changes

### 1) Bobcat Harvest Record Card OAR Reference to Bag Limit

The bag limit for bobcats in eastern Oregon was reduced from 7 to 5 starting with the 2008–2009 season. Harvest record cards issued since that time have correctly reflected the bag-limit (they have five rows) however the rules referring to the record card were not updated and need to be corrected to be consistent with the adopted bag limit, the printed Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Regulations, and the record cards. To remove the opportunity for this oversight in the future the Department proposes to eliminate references to the bag limit as drafted below.

#### **635-050-0180**

##### **Bobcat and River Otter Record Cards**

~~(7) Each eastern Oregon bobcat record card will have spaces for recording seven bobcats.~~

(8) No more than one record card for ~~seven~~ eastern Oregon bobcats will be issued any furtaker or hunter. A duplicate card may be issued, but no more than ~~seven~~ the bag limit described for eastern Oregon bobcats in OAR 635-050-0080 may be taken in a season.

The changes above remove unnecessary wording because the bobcat bag limited is described in **OAR 635-050-0080:**

##### **Bobcat:**

(1) The open harvest season for bobcat is December 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011 and December 1, 2011 through February 29, 2012.

(2) The bag limit for bobcat in those counties east of the summit of the Cascade Range (including Hood River and Klamath counties) is five per season per licensed hunter or trapper.

### 2) Complying with the Mandatory Annual Furtaker Harvest Report

To provide information necessary to assess furbearer harvest and populations, furtakers are required to report harvest and effort for the previous season to the Department by April 15. Furtakers that do not comply with this deadline are not eligible to receive a furtaker license for the next season. Non-compliance rates have been on average about 10% over the past 3 seasons. Implementing an option for furtakers that missed the reporting deadline to pay to “buy back in” offers advantages. For example, the Department may be able to collect additional harvest data, non-compliant furtakers have an option to be eligible for a furtaker license for the following season, and the number of non-compliant furtakers contacting the Department or the Commission requesting an exception to the current regulation is expected to decrease.

Wording in bold is proposed to modify the current rule:

#### **635-050-0045**

##### **General Furbearer Regulations**

(2) Any person possessing a valid furtaker's license or hunting license for furbearers is required to fill out and return a completed harvest report form to the Department at 3406 Cherry Avenue NE, Salem, Oregon 97303. The form shall be postmarked by April 15, 2011 for the 2010–2011 seasons and April 15, 2012 for the 2011–2012 seasons. Failure to do so shall deny the license holder the opportunity to purchase a hunting license for furbearers or furtaker's license for the following furbearer season, **unless the non-compliant licensee pays a fee of \$50.00 and completes and returns the harvest report form prior to the requested license being issued.**