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RESOLUTION TITLE: IMPROVING BOBCAT HARVEST

PROBLEM: In the late 2000's, the bobcat goal changed from 1800 to 2400.

Reducing the bobcat goal would provide more harvest permits for the 13,000 people who apply for preference points each year.

Since the late 2000's, bobcat permits have declined dramatically.
1980's and 90's, permits issued ranged from 1540 (1999) to 5,285 (1989).
2000 – 2008 period, permits issued ranged from 540 (2008) to 1540 (2005).
Goal changes to 2400 – permits as follows: 2009/475; 2010/455; 2011/475; 2012/165.

The success rates soared, from 3% in 1991 to almost 60% in 2012, another indicator of high population.

The DNR's 2011-2012 hunter/trapper survey, trappers reported a mean of 3.5 bobcats caught in 19.5 days of trapping in period one, and 4.3 in 15.5 mean days trapped in period two. For hunters, 109 bobcats were located in 115 days of hunting with dogs.

The current data used to estimate the bobcat population is based on a study done years ago, in the 1980's. To augment the estimate, wildlife biologists in each county are supposed to complete a 10 mile driven transect once a year. But the past two years, this transect has only been completed by 75% of the northern county biologists.

Recent deer studies indicate that bobcats are a serious predator for deer.

Be it resolved, that Lincoln Co. supports reducing the bobcat population goal to 1800 in order to better utilize this resource and control bobcat numbers.

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