

Furbearer Management Registration Information

2011-2016 Annual Fur Production and 5-Year Average Based on Export Permits

Species	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	5-Year Average
Badger	362	644	391	349	199	389
Beaver	14,079	10,585	12,088	9,093	8652	10,899
Bobcat	27	22	29	14	24	23
Coyote	35,050	29,326	33,364	43,122	44607	37,094
Fisher	2,095	1,391	1,772	1,592	1645	1,699
Fox	1,940	1,807	1,836	2,278	2153	2,003
Canada Lynx	2,486	1,930	2,093	1,420	1710	1,928
Marten	12,883	9,627	11,505	8,570	8279	10,173
Mink	613	475	560	757	454	572
Muskrat	15,453	18,757	41,632	47,015	22554	29,082
River Otter	316	266	269	283	311	289
Raccoon	216	179	221	211	42	174
Skunk	75	24	32	165	60	71
Squirrel	24,175	5,704	13,555	8,438	13037	12,982
Weasel (Ermine)	4,132	3,613	4,486	5,308	4553	4,418
Wolf	586	574	598	632	968	672
Wolverine	41	46	75	57	67	57

Fur Production Based on Export Permits

Species	2015/2016 Season			2014/2015 Season			% Change		
	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value	# Pelts	Avg Price	Economic Value
Badger	199	\$22.32	\$4,442	349	\$20.33	\$7,095	-43%	10%	-37%
Beaver	8652	\$8.56	\$74,061	9093	\$15.53	\$141,214	-5%	-45%	-48%
Bobcat	24	\$160.50	\$3,852	14	\$232.27	\$3,252	71%	-31%	18%
Coyote	44607	\$60.41	\$2,694,709	43122	\$100.14	\$4,318,237	3%	-40%	-38%
Fisher	1645	\$46.24	\$76,065	1592	\$93.67	\$149,123	3%	-51%	-49%
Fox	2153	\$10.20	\$21,961	2278	\$21.93	\$49,957	-5%	-53%	-56%
Lynx	1710	\$38.12	\$65,185	1420	\$88.01	\$124,974	20%	-57%	-48%
Marten	8279	\$40.88	\$338,446	8570	\$73.44	\$629,381	-3%	-44%	-46%
Mink	454	\$7.83	\$3,555	757	\$11.39	\$8,622	-40%	-31%	-59%
Muskrat	22554	\$1.57	\$35,410	47015	\$4.25	\$199,814	-52%	-63%	-82%
River Otter	311	\$22.74	\$7,072	283	\$49.99	\$14,147	10%	-55%	-50%
Raccoon	42	\$2.64	\$111	211	\$10.80	\$2,279	-80%	-76%	-95%
Skunk	60	\$3.61	\$217	165	\$4.75	\$784	-64%	-24%	-72%
Squirrel	13037	\$0.39	\$5,084	8438	\$1.19	\$10,041	55%	-67%	-49%
Weasel	4553	\$1.44	\$6,556	5308	\$1.32	\$7,007	-14%	9%	-6%
Wolf	968	\$124.78	\$120,787	632	\$150.67	\$95,223	53%	-17%	27%
Wolverine	67	\$216.00	\$14,472	57	\$181.73	\$10,359	18%	19%	40%
Total Fur Value			\$3,471,985			\$5,771,508			-40%

Trapper Statistics 2015/16

Registered Licences	1,544
Partner Licences	1,360
Resident Licences	1,868
Registered Fur Management Areas	1,632



Trapping and Cougar Management

In recent years, the number of cougars accidentally killed by trappers in Alberta has increased. Cougars are carefully managed as a hunted game animal in Alberta, and no trapping season exists. In areas where incidental mortality of cougars is high, hunting quotas for cougars may need to be reduced to prevent population declines. As important stewards of Alberta's wildlife resources, trappers should take precautions to limit the number of cougars and other non-target species that are accidentally captured.

Most cougars are captured in snares set for wolves or coyotes, or in large conibears set for lynx, bobcats, or wolverines. Cougars are not trap-shy and are much more easily captured than wary species such as wolves. Therefore, trappers should take steps to reduce the chance that a cougar will find their traps. Avoid placing snares or large conibears in areas where ungulates are wintering. When possible, place your sets in open areas where cougars will feel uncomfortable. Keep snares and traps well away (>200 m) from

bait; use canid-specific gland lures, urine, and scats to lure wolves and coyotes to your sets. If you see cougar tracks near your sets, close the snares or pull the traps until the cougar has moved on. Consider moving your sets to a new area if you're seeing regular cougar activity. By taking these few simple precautions, trappers can reduce the chance that they will accidentally catch a cougar, leaving more of these animals for enjoyment by all Albertans. For more information on cougars and cougar management in Alberta, download the Management Plan for Cougars in Alberta at: esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife.

Reminder: All cougar harvests (even accidental) must be registered at a Fish and Wildlife office immediately!

Accurate harvest information helps in managing the furbearer resource, and ultimately benefits the trapping industry. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Control of Problem Wildlife

Regulations allow landholders (residents only) to take immediate action to control some problem wildlife. The following privileges are beyond those permitted under fur management licences during the seasons set out on page 15.

Please contact your district Fish and Wildlife office when furbearers other than the species shown in this section are destroying property. A damage control licence may be necessary.

Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act* specifies that no person shall hunt wildlife or discharge firearms on or over occupied lands, or enter on such lands for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant.

Beaver may be hunted and trapped, without a licence and during all seasons, on privately owned land by the owner or occupant of the land, or by a resident with written permission from the owner or occupant of the land.

Wolf¹ may be hunted (but not trapped) without a licence during all seasons, as follows:

- on privately owned land by the owner or occupant of the land, or by a resident with permission from the owner or occupant.
- on public land by a person authorized to keep livestock on that land, or by a resident who has written permission from that authorized person.

The above authorities to hunt wolves extend to lands within 8 km (5 mi.) of the land described above, provided the authorized person or resident has right of access.

Coyotes¹ may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence, at all times of the year throughout the province:

- a) by a resident who has right of access to hunt on lands that are not public lands within the Green Area;
- b) by the owner or occupant of privately owned land, on the privately owned land;
- c) by a person maintaining livestock on public land, on that public land; or

d) *on lands described in c) that are in the Green Area, by a resident who is authorized in writing by the person described in c).

* These pelts must be salvaged.

¹ For further information and other seasons regarding the hunting of wolf and coyote, including the use of bait for hunting wolf and coyote, please refer to the current *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations*.

Red fox may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence and during all seasons, by a resident on privately owned land to which the resident has the right of access.

Badger and Red Squirrel may be hunted or trapped, without a licence and during all seasons, by a resident on privately owned land to which the resident has the right of access.

Skunk and raccoon may be hunted or trapped during all seasons by the owner or occupant of land, or by a person authorized by the owner or occupant, or by the holder of a licence authorizing the trapping of fur-bearing animals.

Rabbit or hare may be hunted (but not trapped), throughout the province, at any time of year, without a licence on land which the person has the right of access for hunting. A resident may use snares to take rabbit or hare, provided the snare meets the requirements set out on page 13.

Bobcat may be hunted (but not trapped) by a resident on land which the resident has the right of access for hunting in WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118 and 119 and that part of WMU 110 east of Highway No. 2 and south of Highway No. 3 from November 1 to February 28.