



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Endangered and Nongame Species Program

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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Division of Fish & Wildlife would like your help with our efforts to better understand the bobcat population in New Jersey. Bobcats are currently listed as Endangered in the state and we are trying to better understand the dynamics of the population as well as the threats that bobcats face so that we can work to recover them. We have a few concurrent studies that we are working on to this end. We have been trapping and collaring cats with GPS collars to better understand their habitat use and range of movements. We have a scent detection dog that we've been using for the past several years to find bobcat scat throughout the core of the range in northwestern NJ. The locations of the scats are marked and the DNA from the scat enables us to identify individuals as well as the sex of that bobcat. We are documenting all road-killed bobcats and from each recovered carcass we are collecting genetic samples, a tooth for age analyses and the reproductive tracts from females. We also have a trapper response team aimed at safely releasing any bobcats that are accidentally trapped by licensed trappers. Finally, we receive sighting information from the public that is incorporated into our rare species database. All of this information is helping us learn about the genetic structure of the population, the population size and distribution, habitat preferences, and particular sections of roads that are resulting in high mortality. More information about NJ bobcats can be found on our website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/pdf/end-thrtened/bobcat.pdf>

We are requesting your help with any information you have about bobcat sightings and road kills. It is illegal to possess a bobcat from NJ, and if you pick up a road-killed bobcat you must immediately report it by calling 1-908-638-4682. A biologist from the Division of Fish and Wildlife will call to make arrangements to pick up the carcass. Attached is a flyer describing the type of information we're looking for and how to contact us. Would you please post this information? We greatly appreciate your assistance in helping us to recover NJ's bobcat population.

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