

Trapper Rule Recommendations 19.32.2, NMAC

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

State Game Commission Meeting

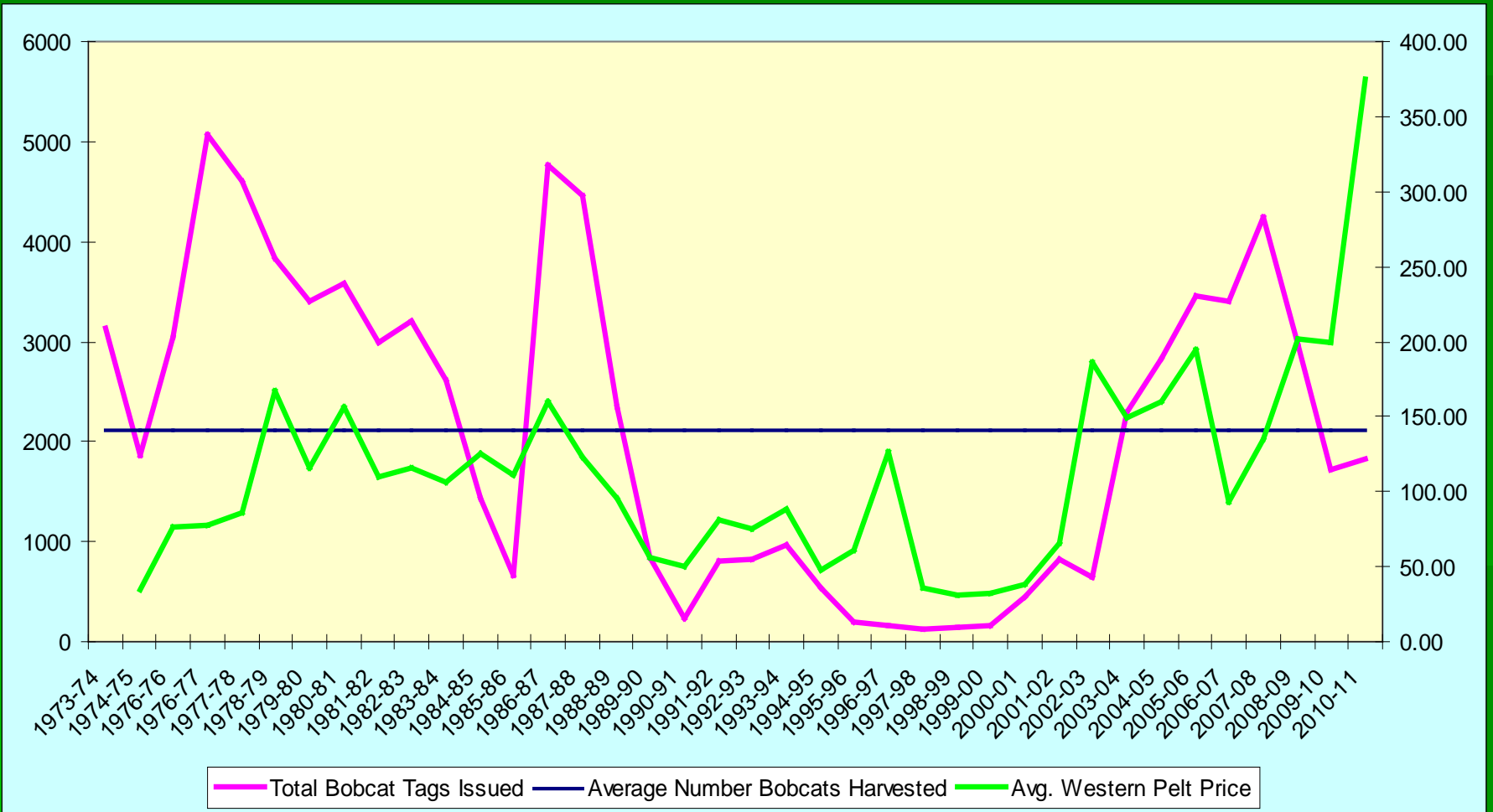
July 21, 2011

Clayton, NM

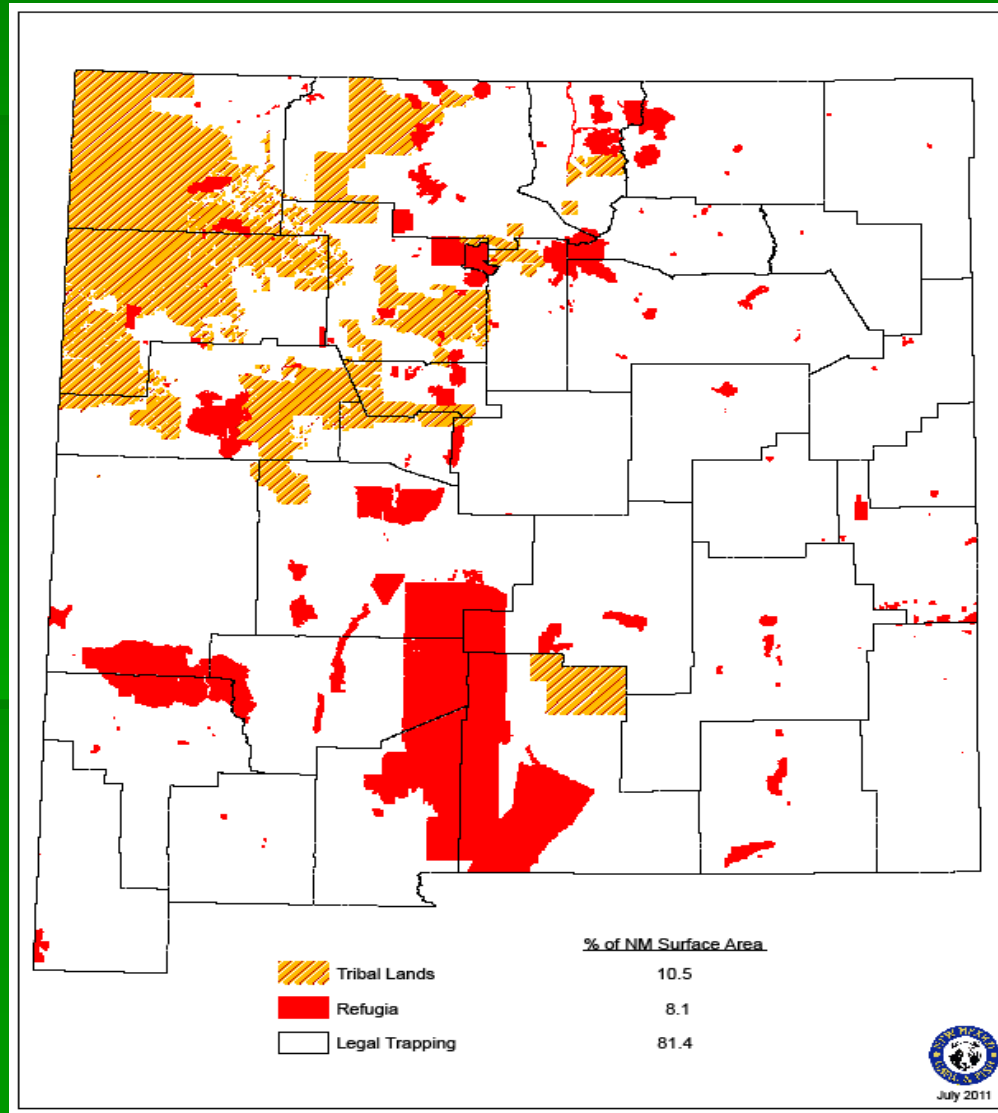
New Mexico Furbearer Management

- Furbearer harvest is a sustainable use of a renewable resource as mandated by NM state statute
- Furbearer harvest data and population trends are reviewed annually
- Management decisions and recommendations are based on long-term trend data – Pelt prices vs. harvest; scent post visitation rates; catch per unit effort

BOBCAT HARVEST



Furbearer Refugia



Mandatory Harvest Reporting

- Implemented in 2006
- Average reporting rate – 68% - Includes both hunters and trappers
- ~200 trapper license holders rejected from Big Game Draw in 2011 for non-reporting

Current Trapper Rule Review

- Rule opened for public comment in December 2010
- Majority of comments received from general public have been via form letters or robo e-mails
 - Ban all trapping based on social values
 - Ban trapping on public lands based on perceived user conflict
 - Ban all “leg-hold”, snares and conibear traps





Public Comment through July 19

- Pro-Trapping

- 343 form letters
- 17 individual letters
- 128 e-mails
- 1,364 petition signatures
- FNAWS – 10,000
- NMPWPM – 3,200
- NM Sportsmen & Landowner Coalition – 114,146
- US Sportsmen's Alliance – 1.2 million
- NM Conservation Officers Association – 120

- Anti-Trapping

- 5,209 petition signatures
- 11 individual letters
- 2,586 robo e-mails
- 520 e-mails

Trapper Rule Recommendations

- General clean-up and clarification
 - Additional and modified definitions
 - Use of 'furbearer'— statutory authority
 - Clarification of 'road' and 'trail'
 - Body-gripping set requirements
 - Pelt tagging requirement

Specific Recommendations

- Year-round pursuit season for raccoons
- Discretionary furbearer season on WMAs
- 5 bobcat limit on nonresidents
- Ability to set bag limits
- Include crossbow in legal weapon types
- Increase legal distance from campgrounds and boat launching areas to ½ mile

Specific Recommendations Cont'd

- Increase set-back distance for land sets from roads and trails for body-gripping, snares and foot-hold traps with jaw spreads over 5 inches to 50 yards
- Define legal shooting hours
- Change trap check requirement
- Illegal to destroy, disturb or remove any trap or trapped wildlife

Unaddressed Issues in Proposal

- 19.32.2.10 B(2) - ... All foot-hold traps with an inside jaw spread equal or greater than 5.5 inches shall be offset *unless they have padded jaws.*
- 19.32.2.10 B(5) – The recommended set-backs should apply to land sets only.