

Reproductive Ecology of Suburban Bobcats

Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are wide-ranging North American felines adapted to various environments, including suburban ones. While previous research shows that urbanization can pose problems to bobcat populations, the bobcat population in West Reno seems to be thriving. To determine the impacts of the suburban environment on this local bobcat population, we deployed camera traps and GPS-collared bobcats for the last three years. One collared female was tracked during 2022, and based on GPS points and homeowner sightings, we found and investigated two den sites and discovered that she had three kittens in May/June 2022. She successfully reared two kittens to weaning age, a higher reproductive success rate than other bobcat populations in non-suburban environments. A second trapping of the same female in March 2023 showed she became pregnant again before weaning her current kittens. This trapping event most likely caused the dispersal of her current kittens. We will compare her 2023 data to last year to determine patterns of den site use and better elucidate the suburban environment's impact on female bobcats' reproductive success.