

Live Trapping of *Lynx rufus* in Suburban West Reno

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Abstract:

Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) have adapted to a variety of environments in North America, including the urban/suburban environment. The presence of bobcats in the suburban West Reno area has been frequently documented in the last two years based on camera trapping data. Since little is known about how bobcats use this environment, the objective of this research was to better understand movement patterns, diet, and health of bobcats in this habitat. Wire cage traps were set in December 2021 on the properties of volunteers' homes where camera trapping had been successful. Visual attractants (i.e., feathers, foil, printed out images of prey) and scent lures (i.e., beaver gland, bobcat gland, skunk oil) were placed inside of the traps, and were checked weekly and re-baited. Since December 2021, one female bobcat has been trapped and fitted with a GPS collar. The trapped female was sedated by a veterinarian, fitted with a GPS collar, ear tagged, weighed at 20.8 lbs., had blood drawn, and had vitals checked every 5 minutes. To date, location data from this female has shown that she uses a more wild-type habitat to rest during the day and appears to travel to housing areas during the night. We plan to trap and collar more individuals over the next year in order to have a better understanding of the areas in which bobcats are frequently located, what time of day they are pushing into urban areas, and possible den locations that could be integrated into urban environments. To our knowledge, this is the first GPS collared bobcat in Northern Nevada, and the first study investigating how these species utilize this environment. This research will provide insight into the health of this local population and provide information to state agencies that manage this population.