# Activity Patterns of Urban Bobcats (Lynx rufus) in West Reno



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### **Overview**

We monitored the activity and presence of bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) by using camera traps for the past year. This study has expanded our knowledge of bobcats in West Reno and further contributes to research into wildlife that is present in Nevada.

# **Introduction**

Bobcats (Lynx rufus), who are wide-ranging North American felids, have adapted to a variety of environments including the urban environment. Anecdotally, bobcat sightings have increased in Reno in the last few years. To date, little to no research has been conducted on Nevada's bobcat populations, including the urban bobcats located in Reno. We set camera traps to determine the presence of bobcats in West Reno.

### **Methods**

16 sites with 2 camera traps at each location. Cameras have a motion detector and take 3 photos at a time. SD cards collected once a month. Time, date, and location for each photo recorded.

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## <u>Results</u>

Activity occurs more often during nighttime (Fig 1) and winter months (Fig 2). Evidence of at least 1 bobcat sighting has occurred in 9 out of 16 locations.





Figure 1. Sightings of bobcats during day and nighttime hours.



Figure 2. Monthly bobcat sightings in 2020.

#### Do we need 2 cameras? 60% of the time 2 cameras picked up the same bobcat.

# **Conclusion**

This bobcat project continues as we pinpoint consistent activity patterns of bobcats. We hope to expand this project by collaring cats to monitor more of their movement patterns, diet, sex ratios, and presence of diseases.