

# **BOBCAT MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

*Raised by Working Group in 1985*

## **Habitat**

- Habitat has a big effect on bobcats – thinning thickets reduces rabbit population.

## **Population**

- Population in northern Maine has declined over the last 15 years. Estimates in our assessment are too high.
- Coyotes compete with bobcats – eat food previously available to cats.
- Fisher may prey on bobcat kittens.
- More than 1 think effects bobcat populations: winter, harvesting, predation, habitat, food.
- Need more information on population – concerned that our estimates are not good. Our population estimates should be improved.

## **Harvest/Use Opportunity**

- Changes in harvest over last 10 years do not necessarily reflect changes in populations (other factors influence harvest; e.g., season length, pelt values, weather, etc.).
- Concerned with using a limit or shortening hunting season. Hunting season changes have already been made.