

Pantex NEWS

MAINTAINING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND RELIABILITY OF AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE

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Pantex Neighbors Can Help With Bobcat Monitoring Effort

Pantex Plant has become the home of several bobcat families. B&W Pantex and West Texas A&M University are partnering in a study to track the movement and map the home range of the bobcats. B&W Pantex Wildlife Biologist, Jim Ray, and WTAMU's Dr. Ray Matlack are inviting Pantex neighbors to help in this effort.

"The neighbors have allowed us access to their property so that we can check on the collared bobcats that ventured off the Pantex site," said Ray. "They have been very helpful and have expressed an interest in doing more for the study," he said.

While on Pantex property, Ray and Matlack placed satellite collars on two 20-pound adult females and a 23 pound adult male. The collars transmit Global Positioning System (GPS) readings every two hours. Also, each adult and juvenile bobcat received two ear tags. Each animal has a unique color combination for easy recognition.

Bobcats are not aggressive and do not pose a danger to humans. The home range for each female is approximately 65 square miles in different directions. The male is believed to have an even larger area and has been tracked near Panhandle. Pantex neighbors are encouraged to call Ray or Matlack if a bobcat is sighted.

The researchers ask that you record the color of the ear tags, the animal's location, and the time of the observation. This information is vital to their monitoring efforts. Please note that the ear tags and collar may be difficult to see. Even so, they would like to know if a bobcat is spotted.

They are also interested in the recovery of one of the satellite collars. "The collar has data that we would want to include in the study," said Ray, "and we can have the collar refurbished, thus saving the expense of having to replace it with a new collar."

To report bobcat sightings, turn in radio-collars, or just talk about bobcats, please contact Ray at 477-5161, or Matlack at 651-2583.