Bobcat
*(Lynx rufus)*

**How to Identify:**
- Brownish-red in color with black spots or bars on belly and sometimes on legs and body
- Small ear tufts and white spot on back of ear
- Tail with dark bars on top and white on bottom
- Short legs and small feet compared to larger Lynx

**Habitat:**
- Live in a variety of habitats including forests, scrubland, and deserts.
- Will make use of shrubs and low growing plants to provide cover.
- Bobcats mark their territories with claw marks on trees, pee, and poop.
- Bobcats are loners and use these invisible fences to keep other Bobcats from moving into their area.

**Explore Idaho with Scout the Fox!**
Bobcat

*(Lynx rufus)*

**Fun Facts!**

- Bobcats are ambush predators; they need to hide to catch dinner. They will sneak up and pounce on their prey or sit still and wait for prey to wander too closely.
- Bobcats eat mostly small mammals, such as rabbits, hares, mice and squirrels.
- Baby bobcats, called kits, are born in the spring. Usually the mother will have two or three kits but sometimes as many as seven kits are born.
- Kits may play hunt but usually won’t be able to catch food on their own until fall. This is when young bobcats venture out to live without their mother.
- Most cats hunt at night. They have large eyes and sharp vision. During the day, cats can see as well as humans; but at night, their vision is six times more sensitive!
- Bobcats are excellent tree climbers.
Help Protect the Bobcat

- Bobcats are generally doing well, with about one million in the wild.
- Threats to these cats include habitat fragmentation and loss of habitat.
- Support conservation of natural areas for all wildlife.
- Poisons used to kill rodents can harm Bobcats that eat rodents.
1. Look for information on the three wild cats that live in Idaho. Which one are you most likely to see?

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2. Take a look at the Bobcat photo, what do you see that would help the Bobcat blend in with their surroundings?

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