

Compliance with Maine's Incidental Take Permit -TE48539B
2015 Annual Report

Submitted to
US Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Prepared by
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



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Item 1: Summary and Tabulation of 2015 Lynx Incidental Captures

IM 2 Responding to Lynx Incidental Captures

Commitment: IFW will continue to have biologists respond to lynx incidental captures (anywhere in the state) to release or assist in the release of the animal, to assess the animal for injuries, treat injuries, and to transport the animal if veterinary care is warranted with some exceptional circumstances (i.e., inclement weather, travel time, time of day, etc.).

Effectiveness monitoring: IFW will summarize the data tracked in the database to assess whether the goals of the Plan have been met (i.e., that the majority of lynx are released after incidental capture with no more than 9 lynx requiring veterinarian care for a severe injury, and no more than 3 lynx dying from trap related injuries during the 15-year permit period).

Reporting: IFW will summarize data on lynx incidental captures in traps in annual reports and will include information on whether the goals were achieved or changed circumstance was triggered.

PI 2 Investigate all lynx incidental captures

Commitment: IFW Warden Service will continue to investigate all lynx incidental captures throughout the 15-year permit period to document take levels and compliance with trapping regulations.

PI 3 Cooperate with USFWS on Investigations

Commitment: IFW will continue to inform USFWS Special Agents of lynx incidental captures.

Activity this report period: During the 2015-16 trapping season, 4 lynx were incidentally captured in foothold traps set for canids (n=2) or fisher (n=2). No lynx were caught in killer-type traps set for marten and fisher, in aquatic sets, or traps set by ADC agents. All 4 lynx were captured by licensed fur-trappers (Table 3); none were captured by trappers enrolled in MDIFW's Predator Management program. All incidental lynx captures in traps were investigated by Maine Game Wardens for compliance with Maine's trapping regulations and USFWS Special Agents were immediately notified of all lynx captures and any violations. Two traps were not set in compliance with Maine's new foothold trap regulations (side-mounted chain and catch circle not clear of vegetation) and one trapper notified IFW after the 24 hour report period. Trappers were issued a warning for violations.

The USFWS issued an incidental take permit on November 4, 2014 and the permit took effect on November 17, 2014. The permit covers MDIFW and its trapping program from the incidental capture of up to 195 lynx in legal traps over the 15 year permit. This includes up to 3 lynx mortalities and up to 9 lynx with severe injuries that can be released after veterinarian care. Three of the 4 lynx captured in foothold traps had no or minor injuries and were released from traps by IFW biologists. One lynx was released by the trapper and the trapper reported the lynx appeared uninjured.

Item 2: Any changes to trapping related regulations that are required by the ITP or that may otherwise affect the ITP or this permit.

RC 1 Restrict placement of killer-type traps set on land in all WMDs that have resident lynx

Commitment in Original Plan: Following issuance of the permit, IFW will maintain the current regulation that requires killer-type traps that have a jaw spread greater than 5 inches to be set on leaning poles. Although exclusion devices are currently permitted in WMD 7, 14, 18 and 19, through the rule making process, IFW intends to permit killer-type traps with an inside jaw spread $\leq 7 \frac{1}{2}$ inches to be set on the ground if placed within a lynx exclusion device in WMD 1-6 and 8-11 (currently not permitted by the Consent Decree). An exclusion device will not be required for blind sets (as described in Section 3) or leaning pole sets.

Amended Commitment (2015): Under this amended plan, IFW will prohibit the setting of killer-type traps when they are set on or above ground in the lynx zone, unless they are set with an exclusion device or as described in Rule 09-137 Chapter 4.01 K page 29.

Effectiveness monitoring: IFW will track and report annually on the number of lynx caught in killer-type traps. IFW will immediately notify the USFWS if changed circumstance #2 and 3 are triggered (Section 5.4).

Reporting: In addition to reporting described in monitoring section, IFW will inform the USFWS of any rule changes annually.

RC 4 Restrict foothold traps types and configurations when set on land

Commitment: IFW will continue to require at least one swivel on the chain of foothold traps in lynx WMDs and will prohibit the upland use of traps with teeth statewide.

Amended Commitment (2015) : On land in lynx WMDs, IFW will require trap chains to be mounted within the central portion of the base of the trap and have at least three swiveling points: one at the base of the trap, one midway in the chain, and one at the anchoring point (except as described in Appendix 2 in Maine's ITP). Traps will be required to be staked with a catch circle clear of woody vegetation or other obstructions (Appendix 2 in Maine's ITP). IFW will prohibit the upland use of foothold traps with teeth statewide.

Effectiveness monitoring: IFW will immediately notify the USFWS if changed circumstance #2 (i.e., injury rate increases) is triggered.

Reporting: IFW will notify the USFWS in annual reports of when regulatory changes occurred.

Activity this report period: During the previous trapping season (2014), two lynx were captured and killed in killer-type traps set for marten/fisher on leaning poles. Both traps were legal. This triggered Changed Circumstance #3 in Maine's ITP and amendment to our Incidental Take Plan. During the 2015-16 trapping season, the following regulatory changes were implemented to killer-type traps. Out of an abundance of caution, these regulations were implemented statewide.

- Exclusion devices are now required for all body gripping traps set on dry land statewide, with the exception of 5x5" and smaller body gripping traps set as: blind sets, when the trap is partially covered by water at all times, or under overhanging banks.

Although the 2 lynx were killed in killer-type traps, out of an abundance of caution several regulatory changes to foothold traps were implemented. These included:

- All foothold traps set on dryland must have three swiveling points and the chain must be centrally mounted at the base of the trap. One swiveling point must be at the base of the trap, one mid-way in the chain, and one at the trap's anchoring point.
- The use of drags are prohibited in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19. Foothold traps set on dryland in these WMDs must have the trap anchored to the ground and the catch circle cleared of woody vegetation, debris, and manmade material that could cause entanglement of the trapped animal.

Prior to implementation, we anticipated that these changes could impact trapper effort and harvest. This fall, we documented a significant decrease in harvest of marten and fisher and in the number of trappers participating, as well as, a moderate decrease in canid trapping. In the lynx WMDs, we saw a 61% decrease in trappers that harvest a marten or fisher (51 trappers in 2015 vs. 131 trappers in 2014) and a 86% decrease in harvest (in 2015 vs 2014); see Item 21 page 25 for more information. Low pelt prices and the need to retool traps like contributed, especially for killer-type traps. Trapper's expressed concern over cost to build, efficiency in transporting, and ability to capture the target animal with exclusion devices. These factors likely impacted trapper effort and ultimately harvest of marten and fisher. Given the low harvest of fisher and marten this year, IFW is considering a request from the Maine Trapper's Association to extend the trapping season for fisher and marten. If harvest continues to be impacted, we will work with trappers and the USFWS to identify more practicable tools for avoiding lynx captures while permitting harvest of legal furbearers.

Item 3. Data on lynx capture reporting rates & evaluation of compliance with reporting requirements.

Measure in ITP: RC 2 Mandatory Reporting

Commitment: IFW will continue to require any lynx caught incidentally, dead or alive, during any trapping season to be reported to an IFW official as soon as possible and prior to releasing the lynx from the trap, unless an IFW official cannot be reached in time to prevent injury to the lynx. Any lynx released under this provision must be reported to IFW within 24 hours of the time it was discovered.

Reporting: Data on reporting rate will be compiled by IFW biological staff and reported to the USFWS in an annual report.

Measure in ITP: IM 1 Trapped Lynx Hotline

Compliance monitoring: IFW will track in a database the number of confirmed lynx reports, and whether the report was received prior to the animal's release. Data from each lynx capture will be entered into a database annually.

Reporting: IFW will summarize data in annual reports.

PI 2 Investigate all lynx incidental captures

Commitment: IFW Warden Service will continue to investigate all lynx incidental captures throughout the 15-year permit period to document take levels and compliance with trapping regulations.

PI 3 Cooperate with USFWS on Investigations

Commitment: IFW will continue to inform USFWS Special Agents of lynx incidental captures.

Activity this report period: During the 2015-16 trapping season, 4 lynx were captured in foothold traps. No lynx were captured in killer-type traps (Table 1). IFW wardens investigated all 4 reported lynx incidental captures and notified USFWS Special Agents of all captures and violations. The USFWS was provided copies of all 4 lynx incidental capture reports. A summary of those reports are provided below.

Of the 4 lynx captured in foothold traps this fall, trappers contacted IFW prior to the release of 3 lynx (IFW biologists released), and 1 trapper released a lynx and notified IFW after the 24 hour reporting period. The trapper was found in compliance with Maine's trapping laws, but was issued a warning for failing to report the capture within 24 hours.

Table 1. Summary of lynx captures reported by trappers as required by Maine's trapping regulations.

Date incident	Date reported	Type of Trap	How Released	Reported by trapper	Incident Comments
11/7/2015	11/7/2015	Foot-trap	sedation	Yes	
11/12/2015	11/12/2015	Foot-trap	sedation	Yes	warning for side-mounted chain
11/13/2015	11/13/2015	Foot-trap	sedation	Yes	catch circle not clear - warning
10/31/2015	11/5/2015	Foot-trap	released by trapper	Yes	Trapper reported capture when met warden in field. Issued warning failing to report w/in 24hrs

Item 4. Data on compliance with visible bait regulations, compliance based on investigations of lynx incidental capture events.

RC 3 Restrict the Use of Visible Bait

Commitment: IFW will continue to restrict the use of visible bait (e.g., meat, bones, feathers, hair) that may attract a lynx to a set.

Effectiveness monitoring: IFW will document whether visible bait was used at each lynx incidental capture to ensure compliance with this regulation. Any use of visible bait by trappers will be tracked in a database. Additional information may come from IFW's evaluation of data collected through IFW's Warden Service check commitment in lynx WMDs (see minimization measure PI4).

Reporting: IFW biological staff will compile data on use of visible bait, if any, and provide in an annual report to the USFWS.

PI 2 Investigate all lynx incidental captures

Commitment: IFW Warden Service will continue to investigate all lynx incidental captures throughout the 15-year permit period to document take levels and compliance with trapping regulations.

PI 3 Cooperate with USFWS on Investigations

Commitment: IFW will continue to inform USFWS Special Agents of lynx incidental captures.

Activity this report period: During the 2015-16 trapping season, 4 lynx were captured in foothold traps. IFW wardens investigated all 4 reported lynx incidental captures. None of the trappers were found in violation of Maine's visible bait restriction.

Table 2. For the 2015-16 trapping season 4 of 4 traps that caught lynx were set in compliance with Maine's visible bait regulations.

Report Number	Date incident	Date reported	Type of Trap	Bait visible
2015-TRP001	11/7/2015	11/7/2015	Foot-trap	No
2015-TRP002	11/12/2015	11/12/2015	Foot-trap	No
2015-TRP003	11/13/2015	11/13/2015	Foot-trap	No
2015-TRP004	10/31/2015	11/5/2015	Foot-trap	No

Item 5. Summary of updated incidental capture database and evaluation of compliance with ITP objectives.

PI 2 Investigate all lynx incidental captures

Commitment: IFW Warden Service will continue to investigate all lynx incidental captures throughout the 15-year permit period to document take levels and compliance with trapping regulations.

PI 3 Cooperate with USFWS on Investigations

Commitment: IFW will continue to inform USFWS Special Agents of lynx incidental captures.

Activity this report period:

Table 3. Summary of 2015 incidental capture of lynx from IFW's incidental capture database for compliance with ITP objectives.

Report Number	Date incident	Type of Trap	PMP trapper	Jaw spread	# Swivels	Bait visible	Reported by trapper	Legal Set	Center-mount	Catch circle clear	Disposition	Injury	Degree of injury	Injury Score	Released	Release Date	Sex
2015-TRP001	11/7/2015	Foot-trap	No	5.13	5	No	Yes	FALSE	Yes	No	Alive	Yes	minor	1	Yes	11/7/2015	Male
2015-TRP002	11/12/2015	Foot-trap	No	N/A	3	No	Yes	TRUE	No	Yes	Alive	No		0	Yes	11/12/2015	Male
2015-TRP003	11/13/2015	Foot-trap	No	N/A	3	No	Yes	FALSE	Yes	Yes	Alive	Yes	minor	1	Yes	11/13/2015	Male
2015-TRP004	10/31/2015	Foot-trap	No	5.13	3	No	Yes	TRUE	Yes	Yes	Alive	Reported uninjured		n/a	Yes	10/31/2015	Unknown

If jawsread is n/a trap was set in a WMD without jawsread restrictions.

Item 6a. Copy of updated standard operating procedures.

IM 3 Use Standard Operating Procedures

Commitment: IFW will continue to implement standard operating procedures for responding to lynx captures (see Appendix 8 of ITP) and will update these procedures in consultation with a veterinarian, every 3 years or as necessary. Any changes to these protocols will be communicated to the USFWS in annual reports.

Reporting: IFW will provide a copy of updated standard operating procedures in annual reports.

Activity this report period: IFW in consultation with a licensed veterinarian (Dr. Stewart Sherburne, DVM) developed standard operating procedures for responding, assessing, and treating lynx accidentally captured in traps in 2012. This procedure was updated in 2015 in consultation with Dr. David Cloutier, DVM (Appendix 1).

Item 6b. Copy of injury scoring system.

IM 3 NEW- Develop Injury Score System

Commitment: Within 1 year of permit issuance, IFW, in consultation with a veterinarian, will develop an injury score system that is appropriate for live animals. IFW will work with a licensed veterinarian to update the score system every 3 years or as necessary during the permit period.

Reporting: IFW will provide a copy of updated injury scoring system in annual reports.

Activity this report period: This October, prior to the trapping season, Dr. David Cloutier, DVM, in consultation with IFW, developed the following injury scoring system for live captures of lynx. The goal was to provide a standardize system for reporting injuries that were categorize based on appropriate follow-up care. The development of an injury score system this October was compliant with a permit issued last November.

Score	Criteria	Outcome
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal mentition (behavior) • No visible injuries during exam • Normal post-sedation recovery 	Release
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal mentition (behavior), During exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial visible abrasions and/or lacerations <2 inches, • Broken/dislocated toes, • Foot swelling • No major hemorrhaging, • No sign of shock , • Normal post-sedation recovery 	Treat injuries in field and release
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal mentition (behavior), • Laceration > 2" no tissue or tendon damage, • Dislocation of shoulder or hip, • No major hemorrhaging, • No sign of shock , • Normal post-sedation recovery 	Transport to veterinarian for treatment and release
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abnormal mentition (depressed, dull, poor response), • Laceration > 2" involve tissue below skin or tendon damage • Fracture of radius, ulna, tibia or fibula • Significant blood loss (e.g., severed blood vessel) • Chest trauma or difficulty breathing • Abdominal injury • Shock 	Transport to veterinarian with rehabilitation before release
4	Death Likely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crushed skull • Open chest wall • Evisceration • Multiple trauma 	Euthanize

Item 7. Updated list of cooperating veterinarians.

IM 4 Maintain List of Cooperating Veterinarians

Commitment: IFW will continue to maintain a list of cooperating veterinarians who are willing to care for lynx injured by incidental trapping.

Implementation: This list will be updated annually prior to the start of the trapping season.

Reporting: IFW will provide the list of cooperating veterinarians in annual reports.

Activity this report period:

2015-2016 List of Cooperating Veterinarians

1. Dr. David Cloutier, DVM – Veazie Veterinarian Clinic , 1522 State Street, Veazie Maine (207)941-8840
2. Dr. Andrea and Nick Pesut, DVM - Presque Isle Animal Hospital, 79 Mapleton Rd, Presque Isle, Maine
3. (207) 764-6392.
4. Dr. Ron Miles DVM, Foxcroft Veterinary Services, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine (207) 564-2144.
5. Dr. Bob Clark, DVM, Lisbon Road Animal Hospital, 1981 Lisbon Road, Lisbon, ME (207) 784-5421.

Item 8. Summary of any lynx treated for capture related injuries

IM 5 Rehabilitate Injured Lynx

Commitment: IFW will transport lynx injured from incidental trapping (when warranted as described in Appendix 8 of Maine’s ITP) to the nearest cooperating veterinarian, cover the costs of rehabilitating the animal, and, if possible, release the animal back into the wild. If a veterinarian determines that a lynx requires special medical attention or rehabilitation, the animal will be transported to a facility that can provide these services. This may include transporting the lynx out-of-state (e.g., Tufts University). As a component of effectiveness monitoring, IFW will equip rehabilitated lynx released back to the wild with radio collars to assess whether the treated injury contributes to the mortality of the animal post release.

Effectiveness monitoring: IFW will track in a database and report annually on the number of lynx that require veterinarian care, the outcome of the treatment (i.e., released, held in captivity, euthanized), and post-release monitoring. If the number of severe injuries increases and triggers changed circumstances, IFW will implement a contingency plan that is described in change circumstance #2 (see Section 5.4 of Maine’s ITP).

Reporting: IFW will provide a summary of any lynx treated for capture related injuries in annual reports.

Activity this report period: No lynx this reporting period had injuries that required veterinarian care or rehabilitation.

Item 9. Summary of staff training on injury assessment and lynx handling procedures.

IM 6 Injury Evaluation Training for Staff **NEW**

Commitment: IFW wildlife biologists will be required to attend this course at least once every 3 years if their responsibilities include responding to incidentally trapped lynx. Any new biologists will not be permitted to respond to lynx captures until they have received such training, unless they accompany trained biologists.

Reporting: IFW will provide summary of trainings in annual reports.

Activity this report period: To comply with our permit, MDIFW will provide training on injury assessment and lynx handling procedures within 1 year of permit issuance (i.e., this fall) and every 3 years thereafter. On 9/3/2015, Dr. David Cloutier, DVM provided a full day training course for IFW wildlife biological staff with the responsibility of responding to a lynx capture. The course reviewed current protocols, procedures for physical exam, triage and treatment of injuries, and provided a mock response to an incidental capture with various techniques stations. This was the fourth training offered to staff since 2012. A list of trainings, that occurred prior to and after permit issuance are summarized below.

Table 4. Summary of staff training on injury assessment and handling procedures for lynx prior to and after permit issuance.

Date	Instructor	Number of Staff	Compliance Met
10/2/2012	Dr. Sherburne, DVM	13 Regional Wildlife Biologists 5 RAS Wildlife Biologists 1 Administration Biologist	Prior to Permit
10/8/2013	Dr. Sherburne, DVM	15 Regional Wildlife Biologists 4 RAS Wildlife Biologists 3 Administration Biologist	Prior to Permit
10/23/2014	Scott McLellan – wildlife biologist ¹	17 Regional Wildlife Biologists 1 Administration Biologist	Prior to Permit
9/03/2015	Dr. Cloutier, DVM	13 Regional Wildlife Biologists 7 RAS Wildlife Biologists 1 Administration Biologist	Within 1 year of Permit

¹A half-day refresher course provided to regional biological staff at their annual section meeting with review provided by a staff biologist who has received two previous trainings and responded to lynx takes since 2004.

Item 10. Summary of veterinarian oversight at lynx handlings.

IM 7 Veterinary Oversight NEW

Commitment: IFW will have a veterinarian accompany staff on at least 3 lynx incidental captures within each 3 year period for a minimum of 15 evaluations of captured lynx during the permit period to ensure injury evaluations by IFW staff are assessed correctly.

Reporting: IFW will provide summary of veterinarian oversight in annual reports.

Activity this report period: This fall, we contacted our veterinarian prior to responding to releasing 3 lynx captured in foothold traps. However, due to inclement weather, drive time, and schedules, it was determined that waiting for our veterinarian to meet staff on site was not appropriate. Last year, veterinarians examined two lynx captured in foothold traps (see 2014-2015 report). Every effort will be made next fall, to insure a veterinarian accompanies staff to at least 1 lynx capture to be in compliance with our permit.

Item 11. Summary of any activities involving orphaned kittens (#, response, outcome).

IM 8 Radiocollar orphaned lynx kittens or hold kittens in captivity until their mother is released from rehabilitation facility NEW

Commitment: If an adult female with kittens is killed in a trap or taken by IFW for treatment at a rehabilitation center, IFW will work to capture the kittens if they are still in vicinity of the capture site (unless as described on page 94 of MDIFW ITP application). Captured kittens will either be equipped with radio collars to document their survival or held in captivity until the female can be released. In the event that rehabilitated females cannot be released back to the wild, kittens that are captured will be equipped with radio collars and released near the capture site.

Reporting: IFW will continue to immediately notify the USFWS of any incidental lynx captures (see minimization measure PI 3 in Section 5.2 of Maine's ITP). IFW will annually report to USFWS any activities involving orphaned kittens including the number, response, and outcome (e.g., collared, held in captivity).

Activity this report period: No lynx kittens were orphaned or held in captivity since all 4 lynx captured this fall in foothold traps were released on-site after capture. In addition, at least 3 of the 4 lynx captured this fall were males.

Item 12. Summary of meetings with Maine Trapping Associations and other significant interactions with licensed or otherwise authorized trappers.

O&E 1 Reinforce Compliance

Commitment: IFW wildlife biologists and game wardens will continue to promote compliance with trapping regulations through interactions with trappers at annual Maine Trappers Association (MTA) meetings, at fur rendezvous events, and during casual interactions with trappers (i.e., responding to incidental lynx captures, investigating compliance with trapping laws).

Reporting: IFW will notify the USFWS of meetings with the MTA and other significant interactions with licensed or otherwise authorized trappers in annual reports.

Activity this report period:

May 7th, 2015. Met with Central Maine Chapter of the Maine Trappers Association (MTA) to discuss upcoming regulation changes regarding foothold traps and the use of exclusion devices.

May 18th, 2015. Met with the directors of the MTA to discuss proposed regulation changes and dimensions of exclusion devices.

July 21st, 2015. Met with directors of the MTA to discuss regulation changes.

September 10th, 2015. Met with Belfast area MTA chapter to go over new regulation changes as it relates to footholds and exclusion devices. Provided Q&A regarding lynx.

September 16th, 2015. Met with Wiscasset area MTA chapter to go over new regulation changes as it relates to footholds and exclusion devices. Provided Q&A regarding lynx.

September 18th and 19th, 2015. Staffed booth at annual MTA trappers rendezvous to provide examples of new foothold and exclusion device regulations. Presented 30 minute hands on demo of foothold and exclusion device regulations.

December 6th, 2015. Attended MTA directors meeting to discuss progress of first season and provide lynx incidental capture update.

January 25th, 2016. Met with MTA leadership in Augusta to discuss how first season with new regulations went.

February 7th, 2016. Attended MTA directors meeting to provide end of season update on incidental lynx captures.

February 9th, 2016. Attended Northern Aroostook MTA chapter meeting to discuss exclusion devices, lynx related trapping regulations.

April, 1, 2016. Presented harvest data and lynx update at the annual spring furbearer meeting @ the Augusta Sportsman's Show.

April 12th, 2016. Attended the Union River Chapter MTA meeting to discuss season harvest data and Q&A regarding lynx related regulations.

Item 13. Link to MDIFW's updated annual regulation booklet and MDIFW's website providing information on lynx biology, avoiding lynx incidental captures, and current trapping regulations.

O&E 2 Update the Annual Regulation Booklet

Commitment: Each year, IFW will update a summary booklet that describes the current laws and regulations that govern hunting and trapping in Maine. This booklet includes a special lynx regulation page that describes all the current regulations to minimize and report lynx captures. IFW's Information and Education Division will annually produce the Regulation Booklet (i.e., State of Maine Hunting and Trapping Laws and Rules). Wildlife biologists will work with the Information and Education Division to annually review and update regulations that may affect the incidental take of lynx. The regulation booklet will be distributed to the public via printed copies at IFW offices and on the internet.

O&E 5 Maintain Website Information

Commitment: IFW will maintain and update one or more webpages on IFW's website that presents information on lynx biology, avoiding lynx incidental captures, and current trapping regulations during the 15-year permit period.

Reporting: IFW will provide a web link to IFW's lynx page in annual reports.

Activity this report period: This year, regulatory changes were not approved in time for printing of the annual hunting and trapping regulation booklet, therefore the lynx regulation page was excluded from the booklet. However, trappers were informed of regulatory changes in August via: 1) letter to all licensed trappers (Appendix 2), 2) updates to IFW web pages, and 3) the annual trapper booklet printed after regulatory changes and mailed on October 1st to every licensed or otherwise authorized trapper (see Item 14-page 17).

Links to web site:

Annual regulation booklet http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/laws/

Trapping page http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/index.htm

Avoiding lynx in traps http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/avoid_lynx.htm

Lynx biology http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/mammals/canada_lynx.html

The trapper information booklet was posted on the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife webpage http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/pdfs/2015-2016%20Trapping%20Booklet%20Final.pdf where trappers and other parties interested in trapping would have access.

Item 14. Confirmation of the annual trapper mailing and copy of the section of the Trapper Information Booklet mailed to all licensed trappers.

O&E 3 Update Annual Trapper Information Booklet

Commitment: IFW will annually update the Trapper Information Booklet (Appendix 4 in Maine’s ITP) and will include the section of the booklet (approximately 4 pages) that pertains to lynx avoidance in its annual trapper mailing (i.e. letter) to all licensed or otherwise authorized trappers. For landowners that trap on their own land, IFW will gather contact information through IFW’s fur registration system and include these individuals in the annual mailing. The booklet, in its entirety, will be available on IFW’s website, emailed through Gov-Delivery, or a printed copy will be mailed upon request.

Reporting: IFW will confirm that the mailing occurred and provide a copy of the section of the booklet mailed to all licensed or otherwise authorized trappers in annual reports.

Activity this report period: This year, the mailing included the trapper information booklet (Appendix 3) in its entirety, as well as, the brochure on How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx. The mailing was prepared by scanning the licensing databases for licensed trappers, the ADC database for agents, and internal department databases for warden and biologist addresses. Letters were stuffed by Central Printing and mailed through State Postal services on October 1, 2015. The numbers of individuals holding trapping licenses included in the mailing is shown in the table below. Although some individuals hold more than one license, they are mailed one copy (e.g., bear trappers are required to have a trapping license and a bear trapping permit; to avoid duplication bear trapping permit was set to 0 below).

Complimentary Disabled Veteran Lifetime Trapping	213
Nonresident Infant Lifetime Junior Trapping License	2
Resident 65 Year Old Lifetime trapping License	279
Resident 66 Year Old Lifetime Trapping License	158
Resident 67 Year Old Lifetime Trapping License	99
Resident 68 Year Old Lifetime Trapping License	77
Resident 69 Year Old Lifetime Trapping License	44
Resident Complimentary Lifetime Trapping	979
Resident Infant Lifetime Junior Trapping License	116
Resident Lifetime Junior Trapping License	78
Nonresident Bear Trapping Permit	0
Nonresident Trapping	143
Resident Apprentice Trapping	29
Resident Bear Trapping Permit	0
Resident Junior Trapping	268
Resident Serviceman Trapping	0
Resident Trapping	2,621
ADC agents	214
MIF&W Wardens and Biologists	115
Total	5,435

Item 15. Summary of update and distribution of “How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx” brochure.

O&E 4 “How to avoid the incidental take of lynx” Brochure

Commitment: Within 1 year after the permit is issued and every 5 years thereafter, or anytime when trapping regulations change that affect the methods trappers use to avoid incidentally trapping lynx , IFW will update, print, and distribute the brochure “How to avoid the incidental take of lynx”, to all license or otherwise authorized trappers. This brochure will include a description of the avoidance and minimization measures described in this Plan and will also be available on IFW’s website.

Reporting: IFW will provide information on any updates and the distribution of brochures to licensed trappers in annual reports.

Activity this report period: This fall, the “How to avoid the incidental take of lynx” brochure was updated with new regulations and distributed to all licensed or otherwise authorized trappers prior to the opening of the trapping season in our annual mailing to trappers (see Item 14). In addition, the brochure is available on our website and by request.

http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/pdfs/2015%20Lynx%20Brochure_FINAL.pdf

Item 16. Copy of trapper education course material that addresses lynx avoidance and minimization measures in the initial annual report and any updates in future annual reports.

O&E 6 Trapper Education Course

Commitment: IFW will continue to require trappers that have not previously attended a trapper education course or held a trapping license to attend a trapper education course before being licensed to trap in Maine. IFW will provide the materials and oversight needed to keep instructors in IFW's mandatory trapping education course up-to-date on techniques and regulations that minimize or avoid incidental trapping of lynx throughout the permit period as described in O&E8. Maine's trapper training course will continue to be developed in consultation with professional wildlife biologists and use the national standards developed for trapper training programs by AFWA. All trapping instructors will continue to teach from the same manual.

Compliance monitoring: Within 1 year after the permit is issued and anytime thereafter, IFW will notify the USFWS on updates to trapper education course material in annual reports.

Activity this report period: Following the regulatory changes that were filed with the Secretary of State on August 13, 2015, the Recreational Safety Section adjusted the course material for the remaining fall Trapper Safety classes. Students were provided with a copy of the Commissioner's letter sent on August 24, 2015 to all licensed trappers explaining the additional regulatory changes that went into effect during the 2015-16 trapping season to minimize the capture of lynx in foothold and killer-type traps. Students were also provided with a copy of the updated brochure "How to Avoid Lynx Incidental Captures". Each year, Maine Game Wardens attend Trapper Education Classes to review trapping regulations. This year, additional time was spent discussing the new trapping regulations to reduce capture or injury of lynx.

In December 2015 and February 2016, Recreational Safety Section staff met to review and formally update the Trapper Education Course Outline and Final Exam to reflect regulatory changes that address lynx avoidance and minimization measures.

The course includes modules and handouts on the following related to lynx avoidance measures:

Course Modules

1. Review Maine's trapping regulation book published each year –includes a section on lynx
2. Review reporting requirements for incidental captures, including lynx
3. Dilemma card exercise (break-out group) to include a scenario where the trapper finds a lynx in their trap.
4. Field Exercise – demonstrate proper use of an exclusion device for killer-type traps set on or above the ground and foothold traps configuration and regulations (e.g., catch circles, swivels and chain, jawsread, use of drags, etc.).

Handouts

1. Maine's Annual Hunting and Trapping Law book
2. How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx Brochure
3. Commissioner's letter explaining new trapping regulations to avoid lynx capture
4. How to measure inside jaw spread on foothold traps set in WMD 1-6, 8-11

Item 17. Copy of trapper video demonstrating techniques for reducing incidental captures of lynx and injuries in the second annual report and any updates in future annual reports.

O&E 7 Trapper video NEW

Commitment: In addition to printed materials, IFW will produce and distribute a video to all licensed or otherwise authorized trappers that demonstrates techniques for reducing incidental lynx captures and injuries within 2 years after a permit is issued. IFW will consult with the USFWS on the content of the video in advance of filming and producing. This video will be used in trapper educational courses (by students and instructors). ADC and PM trappers will be required to review this video during their certification/recertification training. Upon completion, this video will remain on IFW's website.

Reporting: IFW will provide the USFWS with a copy of the trapper DVD in IFW's 2nd annual report.

Activity this report period: This year, two videos on how to construct exclusion devices to prevent lynx captures in killer-type traps set on land for marten and fisher were developed and posted on our website. It will also be incorporated into our trapper education course. Trappers were notified of the videos in the Commissioner's letter that was mailed to all licensed trappers on 8/24/15 and at MTA meetings attended by IFW staff.

http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/index.htm

Item 18. Summary of MDIFW trainings and communications with trapper education instructors.

O&E 8 Continued Education for Instructors

Commitment: IFW will ensure instructors are informed of current regulations and recommendations to minimize lynx captures at IFW's Regional Safety Coordinators staff meetings held before the start of the trapping season each year, volunteer instructors training sessions held every other year, and periodic newsletters to instructors. Wildlife biologists will attend the first staff meeting of IFW's Regional Safety Coordinators following issuance of the permit to review and discuss regulatory changes in Maine's trapping laws, protocols for reporting incidental captures, and techniques for releasing trapped lynx. Any updates to lynx avoidance and minimization measures will be distributed to volunteer instructors through periodic newsletters or targeted mailings and at biannual trainings. These updates would also be incorporated into the new instructor training program.

Compliance monitoring: Every other year, all trapper education instructors participate in an instructor training update session on changes to IFW's trapping regulations that includes information on lynx avoidance and minimization measures.

Reporting: IFW will report trainings and communications with trapper education instructors in annual reports.

Activity this report period: MDIFW's Recreational Safety Section has an annual 2 day meeting each fall with the 10 Regional Safety Coordinators. This year, IFW's Bureau of Resource Management Director, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and biological staff attended. In light of regulatory changes to trapping this fall, the State's Lead Trapper Education Trainer reviewed the new regulations to minimize lynx incidental take with a classroom and field session.

Earlier in the year (prior to regulatory changes being adopted as a final rule), at voluntary trapper education instructor trainings, instructors were notified of proposed regulatory changes and how trappers (new and licensed) would be notified when rules were enacted.

In August, a mailing was sent to the 10 Regional Safety Instructors notifying them of the enacted regulatory changes. For the remaining fall 2015 classes, only the Lead Trapper Education Trainer and the State's Recreational Safety Officer or a member of the Warden Service taught sections on lynx avoidance. For 2016, new regulations will be discussed at Regional Safety Coordinator Annual Meeting and included at trapper instructor trainings held throughout the State.

List of Communications:

August 2015 – Mailing to Regional Safety instructors regarding regulatory changes

November 2015 – Annual Meeting with Regional Safety Instructors

December 2015 – Recreation Safety staff meeting to review course outline and exam

Item 19. Updated information on areas used by lynx and when regulatory changes to avoid or minimize lynx captures are put into effect.

PI 1 Extend lynx avoidance and minimization measures to new areas occupied by lynx

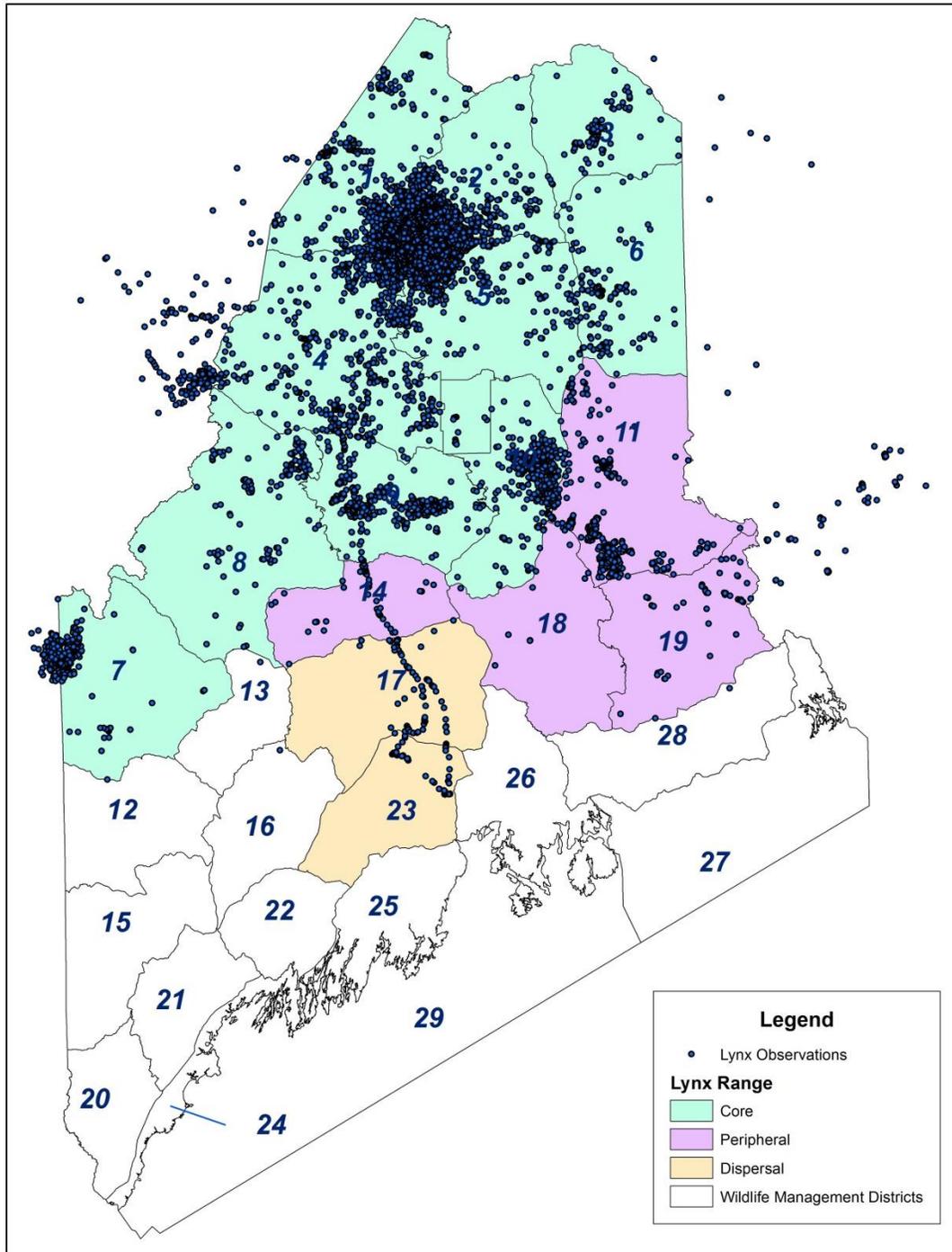
Commitment: IFW will document credible lynx observations to determine changes in the lynx range in Maine including evidence that lynx have become established in a new WMD (e.g., repeated observations, presence of kittens, etc.). To ensure that trapping regulations will offer the same level of protection for lynx in these new areas, IFW will adjust trapping regulations by WMD when verified observations are sufficient to indicate a consistent presence.

Compliance monitoring: IFW biological staff will document confirmed tracks, sightings, and takes (including road mortality) as described by the survey commitments in Appendix 5 of Maine's ITP. This information will be used to extend/rescind lynx avoidance and minimization measures by adjust trapping regulations in these areas. IFW will notify USFWS of any trapping regulatory changes during the permit period.

Reporting: IFW will include in annual reports any new information on areas used by lynx and when regulatory changes to avoid or minimize lynx captures were put in effect.

Activity this report period: We are not aware of any new credible lynx observations outside WMD's that currently provide protections to lynx from incidental trapping (WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19). We updated Maine's GIS layer of credible lynx observation through 2015 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. The distribution of Canada lynx in Maine from ecoregional snow track surveys, sightings of lynx (primarily tracks) by IFW biologists, incidental takes, and telemetry data from 2000 until 2015. Points in WMD 17 and 23 are from telemetry over a 26 and 9 day period by two radiocollared lynx that did not remain in the area. Conversely, the single observation in WMD 18 was a lynx caught in a trap that meets the criteria for extending lynx minimization measures.



Item 20. Summary of compliance with killer-type trap regulations, including such items as how many illegal sets, how many instances of non-reporting, what type of non-compliance, different categories (summons, warnings, etc.) and frequency of events.

PI 4 Conduct targeted compliance monitoring NEW (p. 102-104)

Commitment: During their routine activities, IFW Warden Service will check 20% of active trappers setting killer-type traps for fisher and marten in the lynx range each trapping season during the permit period for compliance with current regulations on exclusion devices. IFW expects the number of trappers setting killer type traps for fisher and marten to decline based on the expense and difficulty in using exclusion devices. Therefore, IFW expects that number of trappers to be checked for compliance to be about one half of the number (40), that IFW anticipated checking on for compliance with the regulations governing leaning pole sets. The fur tagging record books used to record harvested fur will be modified prior to the 2015-16 trapping season to gather information from the trapper on whether or not the fur was taken by foot hold traps or killer type traps with exclusion devices. This information will be used to calibrate whether or not IFW has met the target for compliance monitoring. IFW biologists will analyze these data and use information from compliance monitoring to inform IFW’s contingency plans (Section 5.4).

Reporting: IFW will track and report annually on compliance with killer-type trap regulations in lynx WMDs. IFW will summarize and report trapping compliance data annually to include such items as how many illegal sets, how many instances of non-reporting, what type of non-compliance, different categories (warnings, summons, etc) and frequencies. IFW will summarize trapper effort data from voluntary trapper surveys and generated from license numbers and furbearer harvest data in annual reports.

Activity this report period: During the 2015-16 trapping season, wardens checked 25 trappers in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18 and 19 that set killer-type traps for marten and fisher. IFW committed to check at least 20% of trappers setting killer-type traps for marten and fisher in the lynx zones. Based on harvest records and voluntary trapper effort cards, we estimate that there were 71 trappers setting marten and fisher traps in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19. Wardens checked an estimated 35% of the fisher and marten trappers in excess of our commitment (20%). No instances of non-reporting of lynx captures were found during these checks. The majority of traps (94%) set by 25 trappers were compliant with Maine’s trapping regulations (Table 5). None of the traps checked were found with visible bait violations. Only 4 traps (6%) were found with exclusion device violations that include minor infractions and trappers were issued a warning (Table 6).

Table 5. Summary of 2015 compliance checks by Maine Game Wardens for exclusion device and visible bait trapping violations for killer-type traps set for marten or fisher on land.

	Exclusion Device	Visible bait
Number of trappers checked	25	25
Number of legal sets	60	64
Number of illegal sets	4	0
Number of non-reporting lynx captures	0	0
Number of summons	0	0
Number of warnings	4	0

Table 6. Summary of 2015 compliance checks by Maine Game Wardens where 3 of 25 trappers set 4 of 64 traps that were not compliant with exclusion device regulations for killer-type traps set for marten or fisher on land.

Violation	# trappers	# sets	Additional details
Distance of trap from opening of exclusion device	1	1	17" instead of 18"-warning
Incorrect construction of device	1	1	Wire mesh not wrapped-warning
Opening exceeded allowable 4"X4" for a 120 conibear	1	2	Opening was 4 ½ X 4" –warning Opening was 4 ¼ X 4"-warning

Item 21. Summary of trapper effort data from voluntary trapper surveys and generated from license numbers and furbearer harvest data.

Included in reporting of compliance with minimization measure **PI 4 Conduct targeted compliance monitoring NEW (p. 102-104)**

Activity this report period:

Trapper License Sales and furbearer harvest data

This information is collected by fur tagging stations, wildlife biologists, and game wardens. All canids, fisher, and marten pelts that are sold by trappers are required to be tagged.

Canid trappers: Several regulatory changes were enacted in lynx zones (WMDs 1-11, 14, 18 and 19). During the 2015 season, 61 trappers harvested a coyote or fox in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19. This is a 26% decline from the previous season of 82 trappers harvesting a coyote or fox in these areas during the 2014 season. The harvest declined by 27% from 397 coyotes in 2014 to 288 coyotes during the 2015 season.

In addition to regulatory changes in the lynx zones, several regulatory changes were enacted statewide in 2015. This season’s statewide coyote harvest was 635 and the red fox harvest was 236. When compared to the 10 year average (prior to this season) of 1,650 coyotes and 898 red fox harvested annually, we observed a 62% decline in the coyote and 74% decline in the red fox harvest. The number of trappers pursuing these species also decreased. The primary index used to track trapping participation of these species is the number of licensed trappers each year that tagged a minimum of one bobcat, coyote, or fox. This year the number of land trappers statewide was 250 compared to 365 for the previous ten year average; a 32% decline.

Fisher and Marten trappers: WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, 19: For the 2015 season, 51 trappers harvested a marten or fisher in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19. This is a 61% decline from the 131 trappers who harvested a marten or fisher in these areas during the 2014 season. The total harvest of marten and fisher declined by 86% from 1,595 fisher and marten in 2014 to 210 fisher and marten in 2015.

The statewide marten harvest for the 2015 season was approximately 154 with a total of 37 trappers harvesting at least one marten (referred to as marten trappers). The ten year average prior to this season was 2,428 marten harvested by 284 marten trappers statewide. When comparing this season to the 10 year average, we observed a 94% decline in harvest over our 10 year average and an 86% decline in marten trappers.

Unlike marten, fisher are a species that occurs statewide in Maine. Current trapping regulations require that all body gripping traps set on dryland using bait (previously the most popular method to trap fisher) be set using a lynx exclusion device statewide. During the 2015 trapping season, the statewide total fisher harvest was approximately 118 with a total of 59 trappers harvesting a minimum of one fisher (referred to as fisher trappers). The ten year average prior to this season was 1,187 fisher harvested by 366 fisher trappers. When comparing this season to the 10 year average, we observed a 90% decline in harvest and 84% decline in fisher trappers.

While many factors come into play regarding harvest (fur prices, population fluctuations, and weather) we believe the primary factor contributing to this season's low harvest was regulation changes. This is based on feedback from trapper effort reports and public meetings with the trapping community. If the department continues to see dramatically low harvests of these species combined with a lack of participation, the Department may identify options to increase harvest through providing additional opportunity and/or making adjustments to our current regulations.

Voluntary Trapper Effort Cards

Voluntary trapper effort forms were used to estimate the number of trap nights (i.e., the number of traps multiplied by the number of nights traps were set) trappers spent pursuing fisher/marten¹ or canids in lynx WMDs (i.e., 1-11, 14, 18, and 19). This information was then used to extrapolate both the total number of trap nights trappers spent pursuing fisher/marten or coyotes in lynx WMDs and the total number of trappers pursuing these species in lynx WMDs. Although we can determine the number of trappers that caught at least one marten, fisher, or coyote from pelt tagging records, we need trapper effort data to determine the number of trappers that pursued one of these species but were unsuccessful.

Canid trappers: In 2015, we estimated 86 trappers pursued canids for an estimated 33,802 trap nights in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18 and 19. From 2015 voluntary trapper effort cards, 21 trappers indicated that pursued canids in lynx WMDs and spent a total of 8,351 trap nights pursuing canids (average 398 trap nights/trapper). Fifteen of the 21 trappers harvested at least one canid (71% success). From our fur harvest data, we know that 61 individual trappers tagged at least of one canid in the relevant WMD's. Using these data and a ratio proportion calculation, we estimate that 86 trappers pursued canids for an estimated total of 33,802 trap nights.

Fisher and Marten trappers: Following the 2015 trap season, 21 trappers that pursued fisher/marten¹ in lynx WMDs returned voluntary trapper effort forms. These trappers spent a total of 4,941 trap nights

¹ Trappers may target both fisher and marten with the same trap set; therefore, we are reporting these trappers as fisher/marten trappers.

pursuing fisher/marten. Fifteen of the 24 trappers (63%) harvested at least one fisher or marten. From our fur harvest data, we know that 51 individual trappers tagged at least one fisher or marten in the relevant WMD's. Using these data and a ratio proportion calculation, we estimated that approximately 71 total trappers pursued fisher/marten in the relevant WMDs for an estimated total of 16,705 trap nights. This is a significant reduction in estimated effort (more than half), compared to last year's estimate of 165 trappers pursuing fisher/marten for 71,156 trap nights.

Item 22. Summary of any changed circumstances that are triggered or implemented.

Activity this report period: No changed circumstance was triggered this trap season.

Item 23. Summary of all activities related to implementation of the mitigation

Mitigation Implementation Plan (see pages 120-121 of MDIFW ITP):

- By July 31st 2015, BPL will finalize the western boundary of the additional mitigation area and insure that the entire 22,046 acre mitigation area can meet the 6,200 acre HQHH requirement. Updated maps will be provided to the USFWS by July 31st 2015.
- BPL will inventory the 22,046 acre HMA and cross-walk the inventory to HQHH within 3 years of issuance;
- BPL does not currently have forest models for their ownership. However, BPL expects this capability will be available in the next few years and will implement a forest model to assess the trajectory of the existing habitat and demonstrate when, where, and how sufficient HQHH habitat will be maintained and or created when it becomes available.
- BPL will provide an updated table 5.3.3 for the 22,046 acre area demonstrating how the mitigation will achieve the net conservation benefit to compensate for the loss of at least three lynx by July 31st 2015.
- BPL will develop a detailed forest management plan (compartment exam and harvest prescription) for at least the HQHH portion of the HMA with the assistance of IFW RAS staff within 3 years of issuance of an ITP. This plan will include provisions for avoiding take of northern long-eared bats in the event that it is listed under ESA or MESA². IFW and BPL will meet at least every 3 years to review the status of the forest management plan for the HMA;
- USFWS (Maine Field Office) will review and comment on the forest management plan within 90 days of receipt of the plan;
- Within 15 years of issuance of an ITP (~2029), BPL will have implemented harvest prescriptions (e.g., overstory removal) to maintain or create forest conditions that will lead to HQHH on the HMA; and

² Examples of measures that may be taken to avoid adverse effects include but are not limited to pre-survey of harvest areas or time of year restrictions on harvest activities.

- By the end of the permit period (~2029), BPL will have increased the acreage of HQHH on the HMA to at least 6,200 acres.

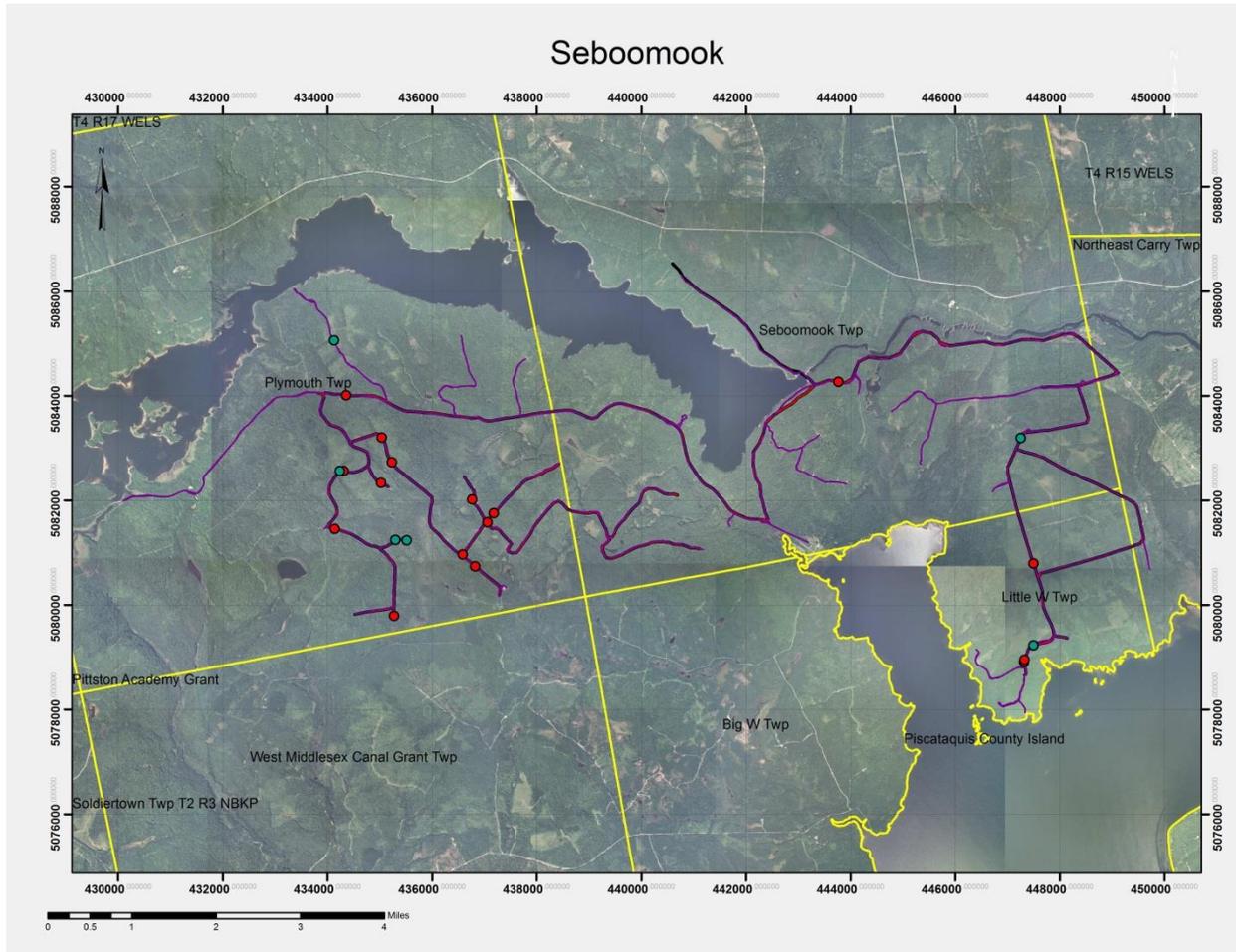
Monitoring Plan:

- Each year, for the first 5 years and every 5 years thereafter, IFW will conduct winter snow track surveys (e.g., MDIFW lynx ecoregional surveys-Vashon et al. 2010) to monitor whether lynx are present and estimate the number of lynx on the HMA. For the first 5 years, ensure surveys are conducted to estimate hare densities in HMA (e.g., participation in Continental Hare Survey).
- BPL will annually provide an update to IFW on the forest management activities conducted on the HMA and every 5 years provide an estimate of HQHH on the HMA.
- BPL will complete compartment exams (i.e., timber cruises) to update forest maps and management plans every 15 years. This inventory will be used by IFW to calculate the acreage of HQHH on the HMA at the end of the permit period to ensure the mitigation objectives are achieved. The IFW wildlife biologist assigned to BPL will be the primary contact between BPL and IFW, and the person responsible for communicating developments on the HMA to IFW's Research and Assessment Section (RAS).

Activity this report period:

1. There were no forest management activities on the HMA this report period.
2. On July 31st, BPL provided updated maps of the HMA and table 5.3.3 for the 22,046 acre area demonstrating how the mitigation will achieve the net conservation benefit to compensate for the loss of at least three lynx (Appendix 4).
3. On March 22nd, 2016, MDIFW staff conducted a snow-track survey in the Seboomook Unit to document lynx presence. However, given poor snow conditions throughout the winter, this survey did not meet criteria established for MDIFW ecoregional surveys (Appendix 5 in 2014 Annual Report). The lack of snow this winter (WSI data here) and warm temperature following snow made it extremely difficult to survey for lynx. In fact, only 1 survey in this region of the state was accomplished that met survey criteria and statewide only 7 surveys were completed compared to 25 last winter. Therefore it was considered an informal survey, where tracks could have been missed due to blowing or drifting snow or melting. Despite poor conditions, we detecting 5 lynx intercepts with a snow track quality (STQ) rating greater than 2 (Figure 2); STQ greater than 2 are considered high quality tracks where identification as lynx is considered definitive. Note these 5 intercepts do not represent 5 different lynx. Spatial data was imported into GIS shape files for analysis.
4. Dr. Dennis Murray's graduate students established hare pellet plots in 2014 on the HMA and counted pellets during the summer of 2015. They plan to return for a second count during the summer of 2016.

Figure 2. Seboomook Unit Lynx Survey 2015 (red dots-formal survey: met survey conditions) and 2016 (green dots-informal survey: poor winter conditions in 2016). Note track intercepts (red and green dots) do not denote number of lynx present as the same lynx may have left more than one track intercept.



Item 24. Provide documentation that the State of Maine Legislature has appropriated sufficient funding to implement the Plan by July 15th each year.

The Maine Legislature approved a biannual budget that covers July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017 that became law on June 30, 2015. This budget provides adequate funding to carry out minimization and mitigation measures in the Plan for the next two year's. We notified the USFWS Hadley Office of the approved budget in November (Appendix 5). The next biannual budget will be presented to the Maine Legislature before the 2018 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2017).



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Responding to Incidental Captures of Lynx

Updated October 2015

Prepared by the Wildlife Division for Distribution to Biological Staff



Lynx

- longer ear tufts (1" or longer)
- longer facial ruff,
- shorter & completely black tipped tail
- large and well furred feet
- uniform coat color
- buff colored hind foot



Bobcats

- * shorter ear tufts (absent to 1")
- * shorter facial ruff = more round face
- * tail black tipped on top & white beneath
- * smaller feet
- * less uniform coat: white underbelly
- * chocolate brown along back of hind foot

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Memorandum

To: Regional Biologists, Maine Warden Service, Cory Mosby, Randy Cross, Lee Kantar, Kyle Ravana
From: Jennifer Vashon
cc: Jim Connolly, Judy Camuso, Ryan Robicheau, Walter Jakubas, Shawn Haskell
Date: September 2, 2015
Subject: Responding to Incidental Captures of Lynx

The early coyote and fox trapping season opens on Sunday October 18th and regular season opens on November 1st. Lynx are sometimes caught in traps. In recent years, lynx have been found in areas where they have not been common in the past (eastern and central Maine). All staff should be prepared for responding to lynx in traps. Wardens are responsible for investigating each incidental lynx trapping and MIDFW's biologists are responsible for assessing lynx for injuries and releasing incidentally captured lynx. This memo and proceeding pages outlines the Department's policies for responding to the incidental capture of lynx in traps.

STATUS OF MDIFW's INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT APPLICATION

Canada lynx are listed as a Federally threatened species under the US Endangered Species Act and Maine's regulated fur trapping season has the potential to capture a lynx and qualify as a "take" of a listed species. Thus an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) is required. The Department submitted an ITP application to the USFWS that would allow regulated trapping if sufficient regulations were in place to minimize the take of lynx. An incidental take permit was issued to the Department on November 4, 2014. After the mortality of two lynx in killer-type traps last fall, we enacted an emergency closure for land trapping with killer-type traps. The emergency closure has expired and several regulatory changes were passed that will take effect this fall in compliance with our ITP.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS:

1. Killer-type traps set on land (except when set as blinds or overhanging stream banks) must be set with a lynx exclusion device.
2. Foothold traps set on land must have chains mounted to the central portion of the trap and have 3 swiveling points (1 at the base of the trap, 1 midway in the trap chain, and 1 at the anchoring point).

LYNX ZONE (WMD 1-11, 14, 18, and 19):

1. Foothold traps: Drags are prohibited and traps must be securely staked to the ground, catch circle must be clear of woody vegetation, debris, or man-made material except small sticks, rocks, or decaying material used as stepping guides or blocking.

Other Trapping Requirements related to lynx :

1. **Foothold traps in WMDs 1-6 and 8-11** set on dry ground can NOT have an inside jaw spread greater than **5 3/8 inches**.
2. Trappers are **required** to report the incidental capture of lynx in traps: ***"Any lynx caught incidentally, whether dead or alive, during any trapping season must be reported to a game warden or biologist of the Department as soon as possible and prior to removing the animal from the trap, unless a Department official cannot be reached in time to prevent injury to the lynx. Any lynx released under this provision must be reported to the Department within 24 hours from the time it was discovered."***

The intent of the "release" provision is to provide trappers the opportunity to release a lynx if it is unsafe for the lynx to remain in the trap, they cannot reach an IFW official, or it is unsafe for a Department official to travel to the site. These circumstances should be considered unusual. Trappers and Department officials should make every effort to report and respond to all incidental captures of lynx.

ROLES OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

IFW Warden Service

- Generally receive initial report,
- Collect information from the caller about the lynx to help determine the appropriate response before calling lynx hot-line to report and initiate response

Staff Check List for Reporting and Responding to an Incidental Capture of a Lynx						
1. Obtain information from CALLER						
Date	Time	IFW Staff collecting caller info:				
Trapper/Individual Reporting						
Address		Phone number:				
Town:		LYNX ID (w/o disturbing cat)				
Location:					Blacktip tail	Yes No
GPS coordinates		E N			Spotted	Yes No
GPS datum		WGS84	NAD27	NAD83	Eartufts	Yes No
Directions and meeting time:					Large feet	Yes No
					Grey legs	Yes No
<i>Circle all info that applies</i>						
Type of trap?	Foot-hold	Conibear	Cage	Animal still in trap?	Yes	No
When was trap last tended?				Alive	Dead	
Staking of Trap?	Staked	Drag		Lynx appear injured?	Yes	No
Is animal entangled?	Yes	No		Animal's Behavior	Calm	Sleeping Pacing
Disturbance at the site?	Yes	No	Other:			
Type of Disturbance:	Vehicle traffic	Hunters	Equipment operation	Animal disturbance		
<i>*advise caller to minimize disturbance to the animal *</i>						
Current weather?	Clear	Rain	Snow	Windy	Current temperature?	
Overnight weather?	Clear	Rain	Snow	Windy	Overnight temperature?	

- Advise caller to observe animal from a distance to minimize disturbing the lynx (avoid driving by the lynx, limit traffic) while waiting for IFW staff response.
- **Immediately report all incidental captures of lynx 207-592-4734 to coordinate response**
- **On site:** Although lynx are often very calm in traps, make an effort to observe the animal from a safe distance to avoid disturbing the animal and causing injury.
 1. Confirm the animal is a lynx (see cover page)
 2. Visually assess the potential for injury (animal entangled, inclement weather, human disturbance, or shows obvious sign of injury).
 3. Crowd control on site to reduce disturbance and potential for injury
- Assist biological staff on site with release of lynx as needed
- Investigate take and legality of set
- Fill out items 4-7 on STAFF CHECK LIST FOR REPORTING LYNX CAPTURES Reporting requirements (Plaintiff's in the lawsuit must be provide all reports of lynx captures within 2 weeks of the incident as agreed in court settlement). Please send reports to Jen Vashon within 10 days, so she can compile documents to submit to Plaintiffs.
 1. Warden Service Incident report,
 2. Staff check list for reporting lynx capture,
 3. Photos if available
 4. Indicate if set was legal or if trapper charged with trapping violations

IFW Biological Staff Role at Lynx Captures

In the event that biological staff receives initial call

- Complete item 1 on STAFF CHECK LIST FOR REPORTING LYNX CAPTURES (Page 3)
- **Call lynx hot-line to report capture 592-4734** and coordinate response of law enforcement and biological staff.

On site

- Visually assess lynx for injury (animal entangled, inclement weather, disturbance, or shows obvious sign of injury).
- Anesthetize lynx and physically examine animal for injury (staff will receive training)
- Complete capture datasheet
- Determine appropriate response (release, vet, euthanasia)
- With the assistance of Warden Service staff on site, fill out items 4-7 on STAFF CHECK LIST FOR REPORTING LYNX CAPTURES

IFW Lynx Biologist:

- Coordinate response
- Contact Federal agents immediately following initial report,
- On-site assistance when appropriate,
- Receive all reports of incidental captures,
- Coordinate and submit written reports to USFWS and Plaintiff's within 2 weeks of take as required by AWI v. MDIFW Settlement Decree.

REPORTING INCIDENTAL LYNX CAPTURES

Immediately contact the lynx hot-line 207-592-4734 monitored 24 hours, 7 days a week during the trapping season.

The person that answers this hot-line will help coordinate the response by:

1. Obtaining information from the caller regarding the conditions at the site (see Staff Check List For Reporting Lynx Captures – complete section 1).
2. Identifying and contacting biologists that will respond based on staff availability and travel distance.
3. Contacting district warden to investigate take (if not already notified; often the individual receiving call and reporting to lynx hot-line).
4. Contacting **USFWS Federal Agent** to notify and provide opportunity to assist with investigation. **Eric Holmes: 207-469-6842**

In the unlikely event that no one can be reached, alternate numbers are listed below.

Contact	Weekdays	Weekends/Evenings	Radio Call Number
Lynx Hotline	592-4734	592-4734	
Jennifer Vashon	941-4238	368-2481 (Home) 341-2324 (Cell)	2312
Cory Mosby	941-4473	573-270-5242 (P. Cell) 416-2037 (Work Cell)	2315
Scott McLellan	695-3756	997-3833 (Home)	2371
Randy Cross	941-4480	422-8955 (Home) 944-5215 (Cell)	2306
Lee Kantar	941-4477	825-3746 (Home) 356-5993 (Cell)	2314
Kyle Ravana	941-4472	485-1253 (Cell) 343-2584 (Home)	2317
Walter Jakubas	941-4471	862-6264 (Home)	2316

Veterinarian Contact List

Dr. David Cloutier, DVM
Veazie Veterinarian Clinic
1522 State St. Veazie, Me
(207) 941-8840 or 745-4320

Dr. Ronald Miles, DVM
Foxcroft Veterinary Services
Dover-Foxcroft, ME
(207) 564-2144

Drs. Andrea and Nick Pesut, DVM
Presque Isle Animal Hospital
79 Mapleton Rd., Presque Isle, ME
(207) 764-6392

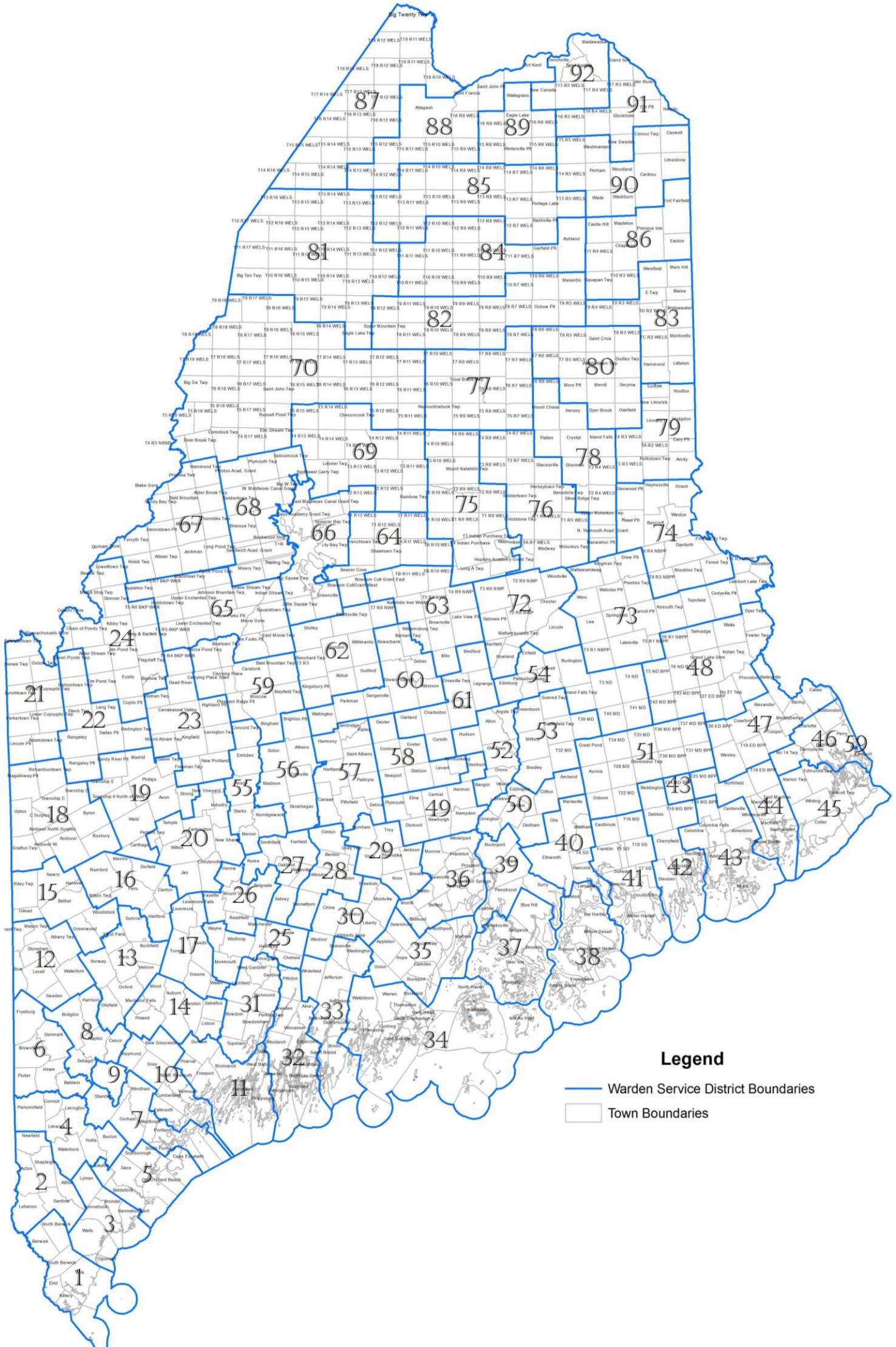
Dr. Bob Clark
Lisbon Road Animal Hospital
1981 Lisbon Road, Lisbon, Me
(207)784-5421

Rehabilitator Contact List

Dawn and Michael Brown
Second Chance Wildlife Inc.
90 Mountain Road
New Sharon, Maine 04955
(207) 778-2902

Drs. Maureen Murray/Flo Tseng, DVM
Tufts School of Veterinarian Med.
Grafton, Ma
(508)839-7918

Warden Service District Map



EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES:

Recording Equipment

- Protocols/Response Binder
- Datasheet
- Pencil
- Contact Sheet/Phone Numbers
- Flashlight/Pen Light/Head Lamp
- GPS/Batteries

Warming Equipment

- Sleeping Bag
- Wool Blanket
- Heat Pads
- Towel
- Tarp/Space Blanket

Sedation Equipment

- Syringes (1cc, 12cc, 35cc, 60cc)
- Moniject 3cc Leur-Lock Syringes
- 20 gauge needles
- 18 gauge needles (metal hub)
- Syringe Pole

Handling Equipment

- Thermometer
- Vaseline
- Rubbing Alcohol wipes
- Eye Lubricant
- Ear tags
- Ear tag applicator
- Leather Punch
- Desiccant tubes for ear plug
- Tweezers
- Rubber gloves
- Blood tubes
- Vacutainer needles
- Envelope for hair samples
- Tape measure
- Scale and Towel for weighing

Supportive/Injury Care

- Saline IV bags
- IV tubes
- Saline Irrigation Solution
- SAM Splint
- Vet Wrap
- Cold Packs
- Glutire
- Stapler and Staples
- Staple Remover
- Clippers
- Surgical Lube
- Topical Antibiotic
- Silver Nitrate

Radio Collars

- Radio collar
- Receiver
- Magnet
- Nut Driver
- Extra Collar Fasteners

GRAB GONG OUT THE DOOR

- Ketamine/Xylazine
- Yobine
- Convenia (in cooler)
- Sterile Water
- Radio
- Camera
- Cell Phone
- Dog Crate
- Noose pole
- Lynx Response Bags/Kits

MDIFW Guidelines for Assessing & Evaluating Injuries of Lynx Captured in Traps

MDIFW Guidelines for Assessing & Evaluating Injuries of Lynx Captured in Traps (Updated 10-15-08 & 10-12-10)

Objective: The objective of this protocol is to provide guidance to Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) personnel on assessing the physical condition of lynx incidentally captured by trappers. This includes the identification and evaluation of injuries and their severity. This assessment will determine if a lynx requires veterinarian treatment or can be released on site.

A MDIFW employee will respond on-site to all reports of a lynx captured in a trap, unless: 1.) conditions are such (e.g., high disturbance, bad weather (**avoid hypothermia**)) that it would be unsafe for the animal to remain in the trap for the period of time it would take Department staff to travel to the site, 2.) it is dangerous for Department staff to travel to the site (e.g., extreme weather), 3.) a trapper has released the lynx because circumstances made it impossible for the trapper to contact the Department and not jeopardize the welfare of the lynx, or 4.) if Department staff **can not** get to the site **before dark**.

The public and MDIFW staff are asked to immediately contact the 24 hr/7 day a week **lynx hotline (207) 592-4734** to deploy MDIFW staff trained and skilled in chemical immobilization of lynx. The trapper/observer will be advised on what they can do to minimize additional injury (e.g., minimize disturbance) in the interim until Department staff arrive. The closest MDIFW staff member (biologist or warden) will go to the site for additional assessment and to secure the site while awaiting the arrival of staff trained in chemical immobilization.

In the unlikely event that a person can not be reached at the hot-line, please contact *Jennifer Vashon (MDIFW lynx biologist) at: 207-941-4238 (work), 341-2324 (cell), or 368-2481 (home).*

Notification and Response

Before going to the scene, ask the individual reporting the capture to provide the following information:

- condition of animal (appears injured or uninjured);
- weather conditions (current and overnight temperatures, and precipitation);
- disturbance at site (e.g., vehicle traffic levels, equipment operation, and human or animal disturbance);
- type of trap (conibear or foothold);
- how is trap secured (i.e., foothold-trap staked or set with a drag, or conibear on ground or on a tree / pole);
- is the animal entangled or hanging from the trap;
- amount of time since trap was last tended to; estimate the maximum amount of time animal has been in the trap; and
- directions to the capture site and a meeting time.

MDIFW Guidelines for Assessing & Evaluating Injuries of Lynx Captured in Traps

Advise the reporting individual to keep disturbance to a minimum (do not approach the animal, do not photograph the animal, limit vehicle traffic) until MDIFW staff arrives on scene and secures the site.

Assessment of chemically restrained lynx

All incidentally captured lynx will be chemically immobilized by MDIFW staff trained, certified, and skilled in the use of chemical immobilizing drugs and their delivery systems, following MDIFW lynx chemical immobilization protocols. All injuries will be documented on capture forms and photographed. Lynx with major injuries will be taken to a veterinarian for treatment (see contact list below).

IFW personnel will further evaluate the animal to identify injuries and severity of injuries.

- Body temperature obtained with a rectal thermometer.
- Examine the mouth (swelling, redness, broken teeth, chipped teeth, bleeding gums).
- Signs of shivering
- Signs of bleeding
- Feel all bones for compound or non-compound fractures
- Extremities cold to touch
- Body condition score (see datasheet: SOAP (subjective, objective, assessment, plan))

Lynx with minor injuries will be treated with antibiotics, minor wounds will be cleaned, and the animal will be released on site.

Lynx with major injuries will be taken to veterinarian for treatment and held at approved and licensed wildlife rehabilitator at the advisement of the veterinarian.

MDIFW Guidelines for Assessing & Evaluating Injuries of Lynx Captured in Traps

Injury Assessment by MDIFW personnel

Major Injuries requiring veterinarian care

- **Broken bones** -- This is any bone that sustains a compound fracture (bone protrudes through skin) or any fracture of long bones (femur, ulna, radius, tibia)¹.
- **Tooth injuries** -- Prior to anesthesia, a lynx that is visibly drooling or salivating indicates a tooth injury that deeply disturbs the roots and nerves.
- **Mouth injuries** -- excessive bleeding, swelling, redness, odor
- **Unresponsive to stimulus** -- lynx are often observed sleeping in a trap but will respond to being touched. Prior to anesthesia, a lynx that does not move when touched, but is breathing should be evaluated by a veterinarian.
- **Severe bleeding** -- i.e., pulsing, spraying bright red blood (arterial blood)
- **Laceration** -- that gape open or have loose hanging skin or tissue; are located over a joint or tendon and involve tissues below the skin; are over 2" in length; are occupied by a penetrating foreign body (stick, wire, etc.)
- **Puncture wound** -- Wounds that extend into the body cavity. A puncture wound can be differentiated from a laceration by the lack of clean edges and the triangular or v-shaped appearance of the wound.
- **Frozen digits** -- When temperatures are below freezing, the foot/toes/appendage below the trap are susceptible to frostbite. Digits or tissues that are cold and stiff may be indicative of frostbite.
- **Dislocation of shoulder or hip**

Injuries **not** requiring veterinarian care that can be treated on site:

- **Edema** -- Swelling of capture foot
- **Tooth injuries** -- tooth chipping, broken teeth without drooling or salivation
- **Mouth injuries** -- minor bleeding
- **Laceration** -- that are less than 2 inch, do not involve tissue below the skin, do not gape open or have loose hanging skin; are not located over a joint or tendon
- **Broken toes** -- Broken toes most likely will not be detectable in the field.
- **Minor bleeding** -- slow bleeding or drying blood
- **Puncture wounds** -- in limb
- **Hypothermia** -- (e.g., body temperature < 95° F, shivering) **Note:** a lynx that's coat is wet and/or the animal is shivering, but has no other signs of injury should be released without chemical immobilization, as these drugs will further depress the animal's body temperature.

¹ Non-compound fractures of smaller bones were not included as requiring veterinary attention because of the difficulty of assessing (or inability to assess) these breaks in the field.

MDIFW Guidelines for Assessing & Evaluating Injuries of Lynx Captured in Traps

Situations when lynx should be euthanized on site.

The decision to euthanize a lynx having the injuries described below was based on the low probability that the animal would survive the injury and corresponding treatments. These injuries would likely occur secondarily to the animal being trapped (e.g., predation attempt on the trapped animal).

- ***Evisceration***- i.e., intestines are protruding from abdominal cavity
- ***Massive tissue/limb trauma***
- ***Broken back or neck***
- ***Cranial vault***

Acceptable methods for euthanasia (Kreeger 1999, AVMA 2001)

- ***Gunshot*** (.22 caliber bullet is sufficient)
 - For physically or chemically restrained lynx: place muzzle of gun between the intersection of two imaginary lines drawn between the eyes and the ears of the lynx.
 - For unrestrained lynx: Head and neck shots are preferred to lung or heart shots.
- ***Beuthanasia D or Fatal Plus***
 - Only IFW staff trained and certified in the use of these euthanasia drugs will deliver these chemicals.
 - Administered intravenously or through the peritoneal cavity (IP). An IP injection can be delivered by a dart to an unanesthetized animal as the therapeutic value is sufficient.
- ***Supersaturated solution of KCl₂***: Note this is only administered to an animal that has been anesthetized.

Guidelines when MDIFW staff cannot travel to the capture site on whether an injured lynx should be released or euthanized

The most likely circumstance that would prevent MDIFW staff from responding on-site to an injured lynx caught in a trap would be extreme weather conditions (e.g., freezing rain, heavy snow). These extreme weather conditions may also jeopardize the survival of the trapped animal to a greater extent if the animal is left in the trap, than if it were released. In circumstances where the nature of the injury is such that the lynx has a low probability of survival, even if it were released from the trap, the animal should be euthanized to minimize any pain and suffering.

In the rare event that MDIFW staff cannot respond in person to a lynx capture,

Staff will interview the trapper/observer to determine the potential for injury and/or extent of injury (see pages 2 and 3).

Obvious visible signs of injury

- Compound fracture (i.e., observe bone protruding through skin)
- Blood
- Limping, dragging limb
- Unresponsive to touch/noise

Potential for injury

- Capture leg is contorted (may indicate a break or dislocation)
- Animal is caught at or above the ankle
- Animal is entangled in vegetation
- Weather: Cold ambient temperatures (below freezing) or precipitation in combination with cold temperatures (< 32° F)
- An injured lynx with a wet, soaked pelt
- All lynx caught in conibears

Staff will advise the trapper to release the lynx if a verbal assessment of the conditions of the capture indicates that the lynx is likely uninjured or has minor injuries not requiring veterinary attention.

Staff will discuss with the trapper methods for releasing the lynx using the methods described in the next section "*Acceptable methods for physically restraining a lynx to release the trap from the animal's foot*".

If the animal has an injury that requires veterinary care and extreme weather conditions or other circumstances make it impossible for Department staff to travel to the capture site, the trapper will be asked to either release or dispatch the lynx following the guidelines below.

In cases where a trapper will be asked to euthanize a lynx, permission to euthanize the animal will first be requested from a USFWS special agent or a Maine Warden². If a USFWS special agent cannot be reached for this request, they will be notified as soon as possible after the Maine Warden Service gives permission for the euthanization.

² All Maine Wardens are deputized Federal Agents.

Procedures for releasing lynx from traps when MDIFW biologists cannot respond

All information listed below must be applicable to **release lynx on site without chemical immobilization** and additional health assessment by MDIFW staff.

- Animal is caught at the foot below the ankle.
- Animal is sitting calmly in trap when not disturbed by people or vehicles.
- Animal moves without sign of injury when approached by people/vehicles.
- Lynx is not entangled in vegetation or other obstruction on the site.
- There is no visible sign of injury.
- The lynx was in the trap ≤ 28 hrs.
- Current and overnight temperatures were above freezing.
- There has been limited disturbance at the site (e.g., low or no vehicle or human traffic).

Acceptable methods for physically restraining a lynx to release the trap from the animal's foot

- **Noose pole** -- The catch loop should only be tightened sufficiently to hold the lynx without restricting the animal's ability to breathe (i.e., do not choke the lynx). The end of the pole (closest to the loop) should then be pinned to the ground to restrain the head. Once the head is restrained, lightly place your foot on the lynx's hind legs to secure the hindquarters. Once the animal is secured to the ground, remove the trap from the animal's foot.
- **Forked stick** -- A forked stick can be placed over the neck to hold the animal head and shoulders to the ground. After the animal's head is immobilized lightly place your foot on the hindquarters to further restrain the lynx. Once the animal is secured, remove the trap from the animal's foot.
- **Plywood** -- To hold a lynx to the ground, a piece plywood can be placed lightly over the animal. Light pressure should be applied to the plywood to immobilize the animal. Once the animal is immobilized, remove the trap from the animal's foot.

Guidelines when MDIFW staff CANNOT travel to the capture site on whether an injured lynx should be released or euthanized.

Release on site:

- **Laceration** -- The direction and depth of the laceration should be assessed; length of laceration is of less importance. A laceration that is at least the full thickness of the skin (i.e., exposes layers of skin) requires cleaning and sutures. A horizontal laceration (i.e., across the limb) is more dangerous than a vertical laceration and should be assessed by a veterinarian.
- **Tooth Injuries** -- A lynx that is visibly drooling or salivating indicates a tooth injury that deeply disturbs the roots and nerves.
- **Mouth Injuries** -- excessive bleeding, swelling, redness, odor
- **Frozen digits** -- When temperatures are below freezing, the foot/toes/appendage below the trap are susceptible to frostbite. Digits or tissue that are cold and stiff may be indicative of frostbite.
- **Hypothermia** -- (e.g., body temperature < 95° F, shivering) **Note:** a lynx that's coat is wet and/or the animal is shivering, but has no other signs of injury should be released without chemical immobilization, as these drugs will further depress the animal's body temperature.
- **Puncture wound** -- Wounds that extend into the body cavity or puncture wounds with swelling and edema. A puncture wound can be differentiated from a laceration by the lack of clean edges and the triangular or v-shaped appearance of the wound.
 - ✓ **The animal can be released with this injury, unless the wound exposes a major body cavity (e.g., abdominal).**

If IFW can't get to site, the animal should be euthanized rather than released if:

- **Broken bones** -- Any bone that sustains a compound fracture (bone protrudes through skin) or any fracture of long bones (femur, ulna, radius, tibia)
- **Dislocation of shoulder or hip**
- **Unresponsive to stimulus** -- Lynx are often observed sleeping in a trap but will respond to being touched. Prior to anesthesia, a lynx that does not move when touched, but is breathing likely has an underlying life threatening injury.
- **Severe bleeding** -- i.e., pulsing, spraying bright red blood (arterial blood)

IMMOBILIZATION PROTOCOL FOR LYNX

Lynx are normally very calm when trapped. The captured animal should provide you with ample time to: 1) review the handling and immobilization protocol, and
2) plan your work.

On Site:

- Take control of the scene immediately upon arrival. Clear the area of any nonessential personnel and onlookers, and establish a quiet, level area to work on the immobilized lynx.
- Describe your planned handling activities to all personnel and onlookers.
- If possible, establish telephone contact with Jen or other biological staff available to assist you during the handling.
- Read through handling and immobilization protocols before beginning to handle the animal.
- Wear rubber gloves to avoid contaminating genetic samples and to protect personnel.

1. Identify cat species



Lynx

- longer ear tufts (1" or longer)
- longer facial ruff,
- shorter and completely black tipped tail
- large and well furred feet (>3" track)
- uniform coat color
- buff colored hind foot



Bobcats

- * shorter ear tufts (absent to 1")
- * shorter facial ruff = more round face
- * tail black tipped on top and white underneath
- * smaller feet (2" track)
- * less uniform coat: white underbelly, spotted,
- * chocolate brown along back of hind foot

2. Assess lynx for injury or potential for injury and estimate weight

- Approach all traps quietly to minimize stress.
- Assess the animal for any apparent injuries or potential for injury (e.g. blood, entanglement, wet, bearing weight on legs/feet, etc.).
- Estimate the trapped animal's weight to determine proper dosage rate.
 - a. A large cat, typically a male will weigh between 25 and 30 lbs, and
 - b. Females and subadult males will weigh around 15 and 20lbs.
 - c. A kitten born the previous spring will weigh between 6 and 10 lbs.

Chemical immobilization

- Prepare immobilization equipment from a distance (preferably out of sight of captured animal).
- Lynx will be immobilized with a 5:1 ketamine hydrochloride and xylazine hydrochloride with a syringe pole.
 - a. Use 18-gauge needle with aluminum hub and
 - b. 3 cc leur-lock syringe for injections.
- Lynx Dosage Chart (**5 ketaset :1 xylanzine**) (Kreeger 1990).

	Ketaset	Xylazine
Concentration	100 mg/ml	100mg/ml
Kitten ~ 10 lbs	0.45cc	0.09 cc
Adult Female 20 lbs	0.90 cc	0.18 cc
Adult Male 30 lbs	1.35 cc	0.27 cc

- Draw ketaset with a 1cc syringe and 20 gauge needle and then deposit dose in pole syringe.
- With a fresh needle and syringe draw the xylazine from the bottle and deposit in pole syringe.

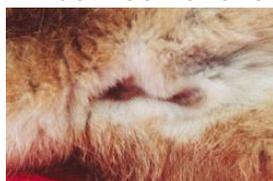
- These drugs and doses are very safe. It is better to overdose than underdose.
- The lynx will likely remain calm in the trap if you approach very slowly and quietly, periodically stopping as you approach.
- Slowly extend the syringe pole towards the cat's hind quarter and slowly insert the needle in the large muscle mass of the hind quarter. You may also administer the drug in the front shoulder if the hind leg is not visible.
- Record time of delivery and delivery method on data sheet.
- Move out of sight and check the animal 8 minutes from delivery time to determine if the animal is fully anesthetized.
- If the animal does not appear to have any drug, prepare a second dose and deliver as described above.
- If the animal is partial dosed wait a few more minutes to allow the drug more time to take effect.
- In the event that the animal begins recovering from the drug during the handling or appears lightly dosed, you can provide additional dose of ketaset (100mg/ml) by hand injection:
 - a. kitten 0.05 cc,
 - b. Adult Female=0.1 cc,
 - c. Adult Male=0.15cc.

Handling and Care of animal

- Minimize noise during handling and recovery to reduce stress.
- Find appropriate work site (flat ground preferable; shade if hot, sun if cold, etc.);
- To maintain lynx body temperature, place lynx on a tarp, blanket, or sleeping bag
- Straighten neck and check nose and mouth to make sure airway is clear and position animal so their head is slightly lower than their body to avoid aspiration of fluids
- After visual inspection, administer eye lubricant and cover eyes through recovery.
- Check animals body temperature and observe breathing and heart rhythm.

Biological data collection

- Because testicles may not be developed in young males, use the distance between anal and urethra openings to determine the sex of each animal.



Adult Female



Adult Male



Female kitten



Male kitten

Ear tagging

- Each lynx will be equipped with numbered ear tags in each ear (male portion on outside of ear).
- Record tag numbers and tag color on data sheet.
-

Radio collaring

- Ten lynx will be equipped with a radiocollar prior to release and any lynx with major injuries or kittens of captured lynx with major injuries as described in IFW's incidental take application (July 2013).
- Lynx weighing more than 10 pounds can be equipped with a Sirtrack GPSArgos radio collar.

Turn-on the vhf

1. Program the frequency into the receiver and turn the receiver on
2. Place the magnet over the silver dot marked vhf on the collar for 1-2 seconds
3. You should hear a tone when placing a magnet over the silver dot.
4. Once the magnet is removed, listen for the vhf signal on the receiver.

Turn-on the GPS

1. Place the magnet over the silver dot marked GPS for 1-2 seconds
 2. The red LED will flash 10 times to confirm it is on.
 3. The LED will continue to flash, but the flashes will slow down to 1 flash per second as it attempts to get a GPS location.
 4. Five fast flashes indicates it has obtained a location
 5. The LED will flash once to transmit the location and then it will stop flashing (the collar is still working).
- To properly fit the collar for each *subadult/adult* lynx (>10 lbs),
 - Measure the neck circumference of the lynx and add **35-40 mm** to your neck circumference to determine the collar circumference.
 - You should be able to place 3 fingers comfortably between the collar and neck of the lynx.
 - **Always be certain that the label is pointed towards the rear of the animal.**
 - Be careful that hair does not get pinched between the leather belting before tightening hardware. Once tight, spin the collar to confirm that it is not attached by hair.
 - Do not overtighten the nuts and bolts (snug is best).
 - Cut any excess leather off loose ends of collar before releasing animal. Leave at least one extra set of holes (beyond hardware) in the event that the collar is used later on another animal.

Biological data collection

Morphological measurements:

- Weight is the only required measurement for adequate dosage of reversing agent and antibiotics. If times allows, additional measurements will be taken
- Neck, chest, total length and weight are important for assessing condition of animal
- Ear tuft length, shoulder height, tail length, hind foot length (hock to tip of middle toe pad), are important for species identification (see graphic)
- Shoulder height is measured by extending the front leg and placing tape on tip of shoulder blade to rear edge of foot pad

Miscellaneous

- Examine female animals for sign of lactation, estrus, etc.
- Age will be estimated by examining dentition. Comments about tooth coloration, wear, and broken teeth will be recorded. Photographs can further aid in age determination.
- Describe pelage color and unique markings (i.e. toe coloration)

DNA-Tissue Samples

- Hair and tissue samples will be taken for genetic analysis.
- Clean tweezers, leather punch, and thermometer with antiseptic wipes before and after use
- Before administering ear tags remove a tissue sample from the ear using leather punch
- Ear tag will be administered through this hole (only necessary to obtain a tissue sample from one ear, but collect both if possible).
- Sterilized forceps (rubbing alcohol) will be used to remove ear plug from leather punch or ear
- Ear plug will be placed in small tubes containing desiccant for storage
- Label each tube with eartag number, sex, date of capture, capture town.

DNA- Hair Samples

- Hair will be collected by pulling a small clump of hair, that should ensure that hair follicles (contain skin cells and DNA) are attached.
- Hair will be placed in the supplied envelopes for storage. If hair is wet, let air dry in envelope before sealing.
- Each envelope will be marked with animal's eartag number, sex, date of capture, and capture location (town).

Antibiotics Administer **antibiotic (Convenia)** SQ or IM (use a 20 gauge needle for drawing antibiotic from vial and administering the antibiotic).

Store antibiotic (Convenia) in refrigerator. Do not mix until ready to use since it has a short shelf life. Add 10 cc of sterile water to powder to reconstitute to liquid form. Shake until well mixed. Label with date and your initials. Keep cool and when possible refrigerated. Once in liquid form, Convenia has a shelf life of 56 days.

To deliver subcutaneously pull the skin up (it should look like a tent) and insert the needle under the skin (i.e. through the front tent door). Alternatively, inject needle at 30 degree angle.

Remember:

Recovery

- Allow the animal to fully recover in a dog box away from hazards such as roads, waterways or puddles, or set traps.
- Place animal in position that assures an open airway, with head at slightly lower elevation than body to prevent aspiration of fluids.
- Retain eye covering loosely, so animal can remove as it begins to recover.
- Reversing agent (Antagonil, Yohimbine, etc.) can be given IV or IM using a 20-gauge needle 45 minutes after lynx is given xylazine. Use a fresh needle and syringe (see dosage chart).
- Observe animal from a distance until it recovers fully, and record time when it stands. Do not attempt to hasten recovery by using loud noises or bright lights.
- If animal appears debilitated transport to a vet for further evaluation.

	Reversing agent for Xylazine (i.e. Yobine) Concentration: 2mg/ml	Antibiotic Convenia Reconstitute w/10 cc of sterile water
Kitten ~ 10 lbs	0.25 cc	0.50 cc
Adult Female 20 lbs	0.5 cc	1.0 cc
Adult Male 30 lbs	0.75 cc	1.50 cc
Needle size	20 gauge	Draw: 20 gauge
Delivery time	≥45 minutes after sedation	Delivery: 20 gauge
Delivery site	IM or IV (slowly)	Any time Subcutaneous or IM

Literature cited

American Veterinary Medical Association. 2001. 2000 report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 218:669-696.

T.J. Kreeger, DVM. 1999. *Handbook of Wildlife Chemical Immobilization*. Wildlife Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Fort Collins, Co.

Objective Exam of Sedated Wildlife (SOAP): Dr. Stewart Sherburne, DVM

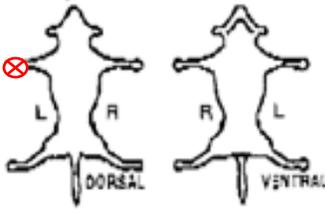
SOAP – Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan

- Quickly run hands along body to note changes in temperature, fluids, swelling
- **Start at nose and work to tail (use same procedure every time):**
 1. **Nose:** blood, fluid, foreign objects
 2. **Mouth:** blood, tooth fractures/avulsions, tongue lacerations, mandibular fracture
 - a. Mandibular fracture: lightly squeeze lower canines and watch lower jaw for separation; or fracture will be obvious
 3. **Eyes:** Lids, conjunctiva, cornea are clean of foreign material
 4. **Ears:** fluid, blood, debris, lacerations
 5. **Neck:** asymmetry, swelling, hair loss, edema, lacerations, subcutaneous emphysema
 6. **Chest and abdomen:** lacerations, abrasions, subcutaneous fluid, body wall hernia, asymmetry, bloat, rib fractures
 7. **Extremities:** lacerations, hair loss, swelling, fractures, digital pulse, nail bed perfusion (compare color to opposite foot), deviations from normal orientation/flexion and extension of claws/digits. (use the opposite leg/foot to identify normal)
 8. **Anus/perineum:** bleeding diarrhea, temperature

Note: For animals with obvious non-recoverable injuries (e.g. evisceration) nose to tail assessment is not necessary and the animal should be euthanized immediately to minimize suffering.

Additionally, wet, soaked animals with no obvious/evident wounds/trauma should be released without chemical restraint.

Example: Lynx has swelling on capture foot and minor laceration

<p>Subjective Body Condition: Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Objective</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Normal</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Abnormal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Eyes/Ears</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nose/Mouth</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neck/Torso</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skin</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extremities</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Assessment: <i>Left front foot – abnormal, capture foot is swollen and has shallow and small laceration.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Plan: Release/no sedation, Euthanize <i>Sedation: Treat in field, or Transport to Vet; Applied compression, exam foot, admin antibiotic and fluids</i></p>	Objective	Normal	Abnormal	Eyes/Ears	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nose/Mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neck/Torso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extremities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Mark abnormal area below:</p>  <p>Normal – 101-102.5</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Body Temp</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>102.5 F</td> <td>11:00 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>102.0 F</td> <td>11:10 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>102.0 F</td> <td>11:20 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101.8 F</td> <td>11:45 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">F</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Body Temp	Time	102.5 F	11:00 am	102.0 F	11:10 am	102.0 F	11:20 am	101.8 F	11:45 am	F	
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F																															

Note: although the animal has a minor injury on capture foot, body condition is excellent because animal is well fleshed and body weight is appropriate for age and gender.

Supportive care of sedated lynx: Dr. David Cloutier, DVM update 2015

1. Monitor body temperature (Normal is **101-102.5 degrees**)
 - a. Monitor immediately following sedation and every 10 minutes thereafter.
 - b. Frequency is determined by whether body temp is stable or fluctuating.
2. Monitor breathing/pulse during sedation and assure airway is open and unobstructed.
3. Lubricate eyes after examining eyes for injuries
4. Administer Antibiotic: (Convenia 1 cc/20lbs)
 - a. Draw 10cc of sterile water and add to dry antibiotic (Convenia)
 - b. Shake bottle vigorously to mix
 - c. Label bottle with mix date and initials
 - d. Administer subcutaneously by tenting the skin 20 g needle
 - e. Note: Convenia must be refrigerated and has a shelf life of 56 days after mixed.

5. Administer Subcutaneous Fluids: **100 ml/10 lbs (normal hydration)**
200 ml/10 lbs (dehydrated)

Note: Consider warming saline (lactating ringers) over heat vents in truck if body temperature is low (see treatment of hypothermia below).

IV-BAG – Method 1-

- a. Remove the blue or white plastic/rubber tab from the bottom of the lactating ringers fluid bag.
- b. Insert the pointed end of the drip chamber into the bag where the tab was removed.
- c. Prime/fill the IV line with fluid and insert the 18 gauge needle into the subcutaneous tissue on the dorsal aspect of the animal.
- d. Pressure can be applied to the bag to increase the speed of the fluid administration. You can safely and easily administer **200 ml** of fluid per location on an average 20lbs animal.
- e. Can use IV line and bag on multiple cats within 48 hours of assembly. After 48 hrs. discard.

Syringe – Method 2- if no IV bag available

- a. Using a 60 ml syringe with an 18 g needle draw fluids by inserting the needle in the beige port on the bag of lactating ringers
- b. Tent the skin (shoulder blade, neck) and administer fluids into the subcutaneous space.
- c. Repeat the process 3-4 times, always replace animal needle with saline needle to avoid contaminating the saline bag when drawing fluids.

Treatment of sedated lynx: Dr. David Cloutier, DVM update 2015

Compression to alleviate swelling on capture foot

- a. Tightly apply vet wrap to capture foot starting from the toe
- b. Remove vet wrap after 10-15 minutes of compression
- c. Examine foot for injuries (compare with opposite foot for normal/abnormal assessment).

CARE OF ABRASIONS/LACERATIONS

No additional dose of antibiotic is needed since already given as supportive care

Minor abrasions (hair loss, not through the full thickness of skin)

- a. If necessary, irrigate with saline (see below)
- b. No closure required

Minor lacerations (1/4 inch or less)

- a. Clip fur, irrigate wound, close with glue

Moderate lacerations (1/4- 2 inch laceration, full thickness of skin, no tendon, ligament, or tissue below the skin involved).

- a. Clip fur and irrigate with saline (see below)
- b. Close laceration with staples (see below)

Major lacerations(> 2" and/or involve tendons, ligaments, or tissue below skin)

- a. Clip, and irrigate wound with saline
- b. Bandage and transport to veterinarian

Irrigation of wounds: (saline bottles)

- a. Apply k-y jelly to wound and clip fur around wound (no more than necessary)
- b. Use an 18 g needle on a 12 cc syringe to draw solution from bottle.
- c. Hold needle above wound and depress plunger on syringe quickly to flush dirt/debris from wound.
- d. Repeat until wound is clean (lift skin edges to be certain all pockets are clear)

Note: Do not use a syringe smaller than 12 cc as it can apply too much force and drive debris/dirt into the wound.

Closing minor/moderate lacerations:

- a) After cleaning wound (see above), close wound with gluture and/or staples
- b) For gluture, make sure wound is dry after irrigation. You can dry wound by holding several pieces of gauze to wound to soak up moisture. Once dry, apply a bead of gluture to both edges of wound. Join the skin and hold for 2 minutes. The laceration should not open when pulled.
- c) For staples, hold skin together and starting at one end, place staples approximately 1/16 inch apart.
- d) Apply topical antibiotic once closed

Note: Avoid getting gluture in wound, if you do, wipe it out with gloved finger. Aluspray on the external skin only –not into the wound. Don't close older wounds.

Treatment of sedated lynx (continued): Dr. David Cloutier, DVM update 2015

Administering SAM Splint on dislocations/fractures for transport to veterinarian

- a. Mold the SAM splint on the opposite uninjured leg
- b. Cut the SAM splint to the appropriate length, should extend from tip of paw as far up the limb as possible.
- c. SAM Splint should extend beyond the joint that is above and below the fracture or dislocated joint (can't splint a femur or humerus fracture, since cant immobilize joint above)
- d. Wrap with vet wrap (using a SAM splint will stabilize the injury) moving up the limb.
- e. To prevent wrapping the leg too tightly, pull a section of vet wrap off the roll before wrapping.
- f. Can also add padding between the SAM splint to prevent wrapping too tightly.
- g. Overlap the wrap by 50%.

Hyperthermia (elevated body temp)

1. Start cooling when body temperature reaches **102.5-103 degrees by:**
 - a. Uncovering animal from sleeping bag
 - b. Moving animal into shade
 - c. Consider putting animal in direct contact with ground
2. Body temperature **104 degrees**
 - a. Above procedures and
 - b. Place ice packs on inside of legs (armpit/groin) near blood vessels

Hypothermia (low body temperature)

1. Dry animal if wet and place in sleeping bag to prevent hyperthermia
2. Body temp **≤100 degrees**
 - a. Start warming with heat pads/hot water bottles wrapped in thin cloth placed on inside of legs near blood vessels (armpit/groin).
 - b. Wrap animal in space blanket
 - c. Consider moving animal into heated vehicle especially in adverse weather.
 - d. Administer warm saline subcutaneously as part of supportive care

Lynx Anesthesia Dosage Chart

(5:1 ketaset/xylazine; adapted from Kreeger 1990).

	Ketamine	Xylazine	Reversing agent for Xylazine	Antibiotic Convenia
Concentration	100 mg/ml	100mg/ml	Yobine 2mg/ml	Add 10 cc sterile water
Kitten ~ 10 lbs	0.45 cc	0.09 cc	0.25 cc	0.50 cc
Adult Female 20 lbs	0.90 cc	0.18 cc	0.50 cc	1.0 cc
Adult Male 30 lbs	1.35 cc	0.27 cc	0.75 cc	1.50 cc
Delivery needle	18 gauge, 1" needle		20 gauge	Draw: 20 gauge Delivery: 20 gauge
Delivery site	IM hind quarter		IM or IV (slowly)	subcutaneous /IM
Delivery	Pole syringe		Hand syringe	Hand syringe

Draw ketaset with a 1cc syringe and 20 gauge needle and then deposit dose in pole syringe
 With a fresh needle and syringe draw the xylazine from the bottle and deposit in pole syringe



2015 Trapping Regulations to Avoid Lynx Capture

Regulations

FOOTHOLD TRAPS set on land

STATEWIDE

- Must have 3 swiveling points on trap chains: 1 at the base of the trap, 1 at the anchor, and 1 midway in the chain
- Chain must be mounted to the central portion of the trap

LYNX ZONES: WMD 1-11, 14, 18 and 19

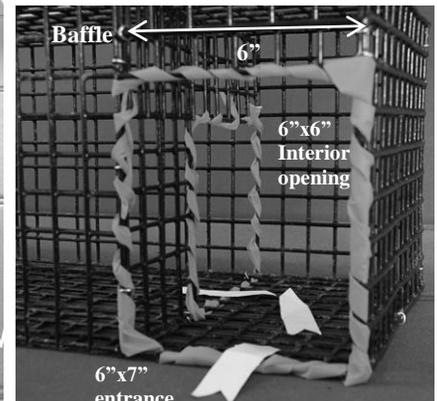
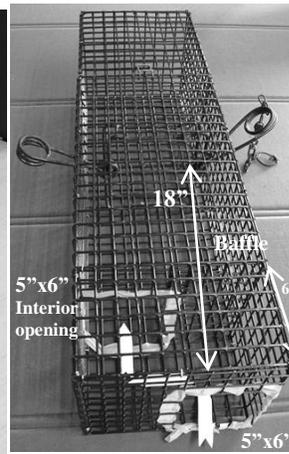
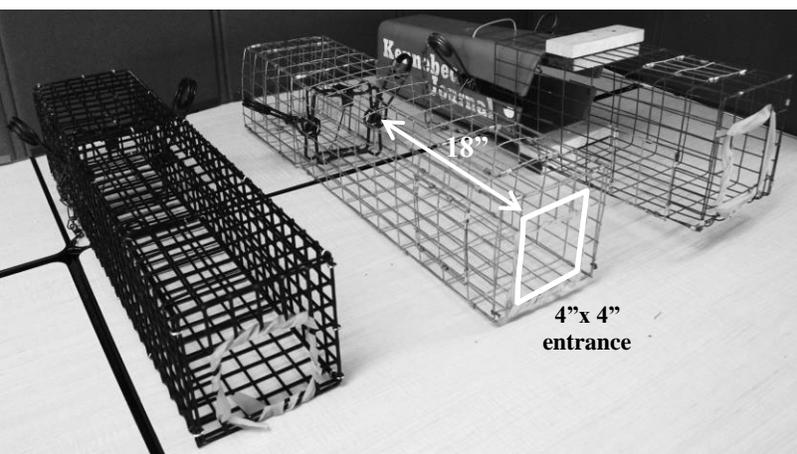
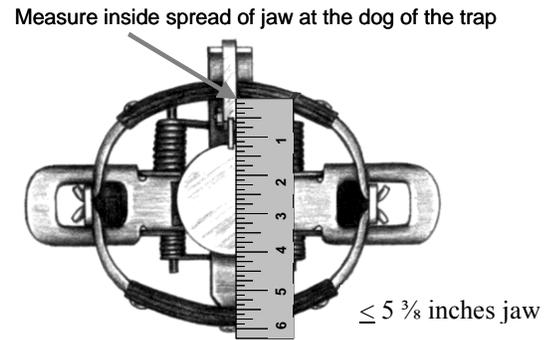
- Use of drags are prohibited
- Traps must be securely anchored
- Catch circle must be clear of woody vegetation or debris except small sticks and rocks or rotten wood used as backing, guides, or blocking.
- Catch circle is defined as the area marked by the outer edge of the trap when the trap and the chain are fully extended in a circle around the anchor point

Foothold traps set on land in WMDs 1-6 and 8-11 can NOT have an inside jaw spread greater than $5 \frac{3}{8}$

KILLER-TYPE TRAPS set on land (except blinds and sets under overhanging banks (see Trapping and Hunting Laws for details).

STATEWIDE: Must have a lynx exclusion device

- Can be made of wire, wood, and/or plastic.
- Must be constructed to withstand pulling & prying
- If wire mesh is used it must be 16 gauge or larger and 1.5x1.5 and 1x2 inch size wire is allowed
- The trap must be a minimum of 18 inches from the nearest edge of the entrance hole
- If the entrance hole is greater than 4x4 inches, the device must include a baffle



Design:2

Reporting Requirements:

Trappers are required to report the capture of lynx to a Game Warden or Department biologist as soon as possible and prior to removing the animal from the trap, unless a Department official cannot be reached in time to prevent injury to the lynx. Any lynx released under this provision must be reported to the Department within 24 hours from the time it was discovered. **Report Lynx Captures to (207) 592-4734** (24 hours a day and 7 days a week). In remote areas, phones are available at NMW checkpoints, custom gates, sporting camps, and logging operations.

Bait Regulations:

- During the early canid and muskrat trapping season, it is illegal to set a trap using exposed bait or visual attractor.
- During the regular trapping season, traps cannot be set with 50 yards of bait that is visible from above.

Appendix 2. Commissioner's letter to trappers notifying trappers of several regulatory changes to minimize lynx captures or injuries.



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT SECTION
650 STATE STREET
BANGOR ME 04401

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK
COMMISSIONER

August 24, 2014

Dear Trapper:

I am sure that you have heard about changes being made to Maine's trapping regulations to decrease the chances of another Canada lynx being incidentally injured or killed in a legally set trap. These new regulations replace the emergency rules set in place last fall. **Please be aware that even if you do not trap in the lynx zone (WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19) there are new regulations that will likely apply to you.** We are providing you information on regulatory changes as soon as we can, to give you as much time as possible to prepare for the upcoming trapping season. IFW developed these new regulations in consultation with the Maine Trapper's Association and with trappers at public forums.

*The new **statewide** trapping regulations are as follows:*

- The use of killer-type traps is **not** allowed unless
 - the trap is placed within a lynx exclusion device and the jaw spread does not exceed 8 inches. When used in a lynx exclusion device killer-type traps may be used on or above ground level. (Note: **the design specifications for lynx exclusion devices have changed.** Please see the included legal designs).
 - Or the trap has an inside jaw spread 5 inches or less AND is
 - set so as to be partially covered by water at all times, or
 - set under overhanging stream banks, or
 - used at a blind set (without the use of bait, lure or visible attractor). Bait, lure and visible attractor do not include animal droppings (scat) or urine.
- Killer-type traps **can be** set without an exclusion device if when set, placed, and tended, they are completely underwater, however killer type traps with a jaw spread greater than 8 inches can only be used during the beaver trapping season
- All foothold traps set on dry land must have three swiveling points and the chain must be centrally mounted at the base of the trap. On all foothold traps, one swiveling point must be at the base of the trap, one mid-way in the chain, and one at the trap's anchoring point. These restrictions do not apply to foothold traps that when set, placed, or tended are fully or partially covered by water, those that are set on a muskrat "float", or dog-proof raccoon traps.
- Steel foothold traps must not be set above ground or snow level.

Note: There have been no changes to the size restriction on foothold traps that was in place last year, in WMDs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11, no foothold trap may be used that has an inside jaw spread of more than 5 3/8 inches.

*The new trapping regulations for **WMD's 1-11, 14, 18, and 19** are as follows:*

Appendix 2. Commissioner's letter to trappers notifying trappers of several regulatory changes to minimize lynx captures or injuries.

- Foothold traps must be securely anchored to the ground. **The use of drags is prohibited** in these WMDs.
- Foothold traps must have the catch circle cleared of woody vegetation, debris and manmade material that could cause entanglement of a trapped animal. Small sticks and rocks, and rotten/decaying woody material may be used for stepping guides, blocking, and backing for trap sets, if they are not rooted to the ground. A catch circle is defined as the area that can be circumscribed by the outer edge of a trap when the trap and trap chain are fully extended and moved in a circle (360°) around the anchoring point. These restrictions do not apply to foothold traps that when set, placed, or tended are fully or partially covered by water, those that are set on a muskrat “float”, or dog-proof raccoon traps.

IFW recognizes that these new trapping regulations will place additional constraints on how furbearers in Maine can be trapped. However, in our consultations with the trapping community and with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we feel these new regulations provide the most balanced approach for protecting Canada lynx and protecting Maine’s trapping program now and into the future. Please visit IFW’s website <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/pdfs/Trap%20regs%20clean%20version.pdf> to see the exact wording of the new trapping regulations, and keep an eye out for additions to our website (http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/index.htm) that illustrate the construction of lynx exclusion devices. Again, information on these new trapping regulations will be included in the Trapper Information Booklet and the booklet “How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx”, which will be mailed to all licensed trappers prior to this year’s trapping season. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Cory Mosby, our furbearer biologist, at 941-4473 or your Regional wildlife biologist. We hope to have examples of exclusion devices in every regional office soon.

Sincerely,



Wally Jakubas
Mammal Group Leader

New Design Requirements for Lynx Exclusion Devices

Note: the design specifications for lynx exclusion devices have changed. This is a legal description of the design specifications with photos. IFW will be posting photos, drawings, and a video on how to make a lynx exclusion device on our website (http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/index.htm). In addition, we will provide this information in our annual Trapper Information Booklet which will be mailed to all licensed trappers in September.

For all exclusion devices, the jaws of the killer-type trap must be completely within the exclusion device; however, trap springs can be outside of the device.

Exclusion devices will have the following designs:

(1) For traps with a jaw spread less than or equal to 5 inches (primarily used for marten trapping), the device must have an opening of 4 x 4 inches or less. The entrance hole may be placed either on the end or on the side of the device, and the set trap must be a minimum of 18 inches from the closest edge of the entrance hole (Figure 1).

(2) For traps with a jaw spread greater than 5 inches but less than 8 inches, two designs may be constructed.

- a. The first design has an entrance hole on the end of the device that must not exceed 5 x 6 inches. A baffle must be placed no more than 6 inches back from the entrance hole and must not have an opening greater than 5 x 6 inches. With the baffle in place, the entrance hole and interior opening may not overlap to create an unobstructed view to the interior of the exclusion device (Figure 2a).
- b. For the second design the entrance hole must not exceed 6 x 7 inches and must be placed on the side of the device. A baffle must be placed at the edge of the entrance with the baffle opening opposite of the entrance hole, and the hole must not exceed 6 x 6 inches (Figure 2b).

For both devices the trap must be placed no closer than 18 inches from the closest edge of the entrance hole.

The exclusion device can be constructed of wood, plastic, or wire mesh. If using wire mesh, the mesh cannot exceed 1 ½ by 1 ½ inches, or 1 inch by 2 inch openings, (side to side). The wire mesh has to be 16 gauge or less (wire diameter of 0.05 inches or greater). The opening slot in the exclusion device that allows the trap springs to extend outside the device can be no more than 7 ½ inches wide and a height of no more than 1 ½ inches. The back of the device must be secured to withstand heavy pulling; if using wire mesh with a wood or plastic box, the wire mesh must wrap around two opposite sides of the box and be secured. There must be at least 1 attachment point for each side of the device where a joint or panels come together. The trap must be anchored outside of the exclusion device. Bait must not be visible from above. When enclosed in an exclusion device, killer-type traps can be set directly on the ground, or elevated in trees or on poles, with no specific requirements as to the height above ground or diameter of the tree or pole.

Figure 1. A photo showing 3 legal lynx exclusion devices made out of different materials: (from left to right) a) 1x1 inch wire, b) 1x2 inch wire, and c) 1x2 inch wire with a plastic newspaper box. All exclusion devices have a 4 x 4 inch opening and are constructed for a killer-type trap with a jaw spread less than or equal to 5 inches (primarily used for marten trapping).

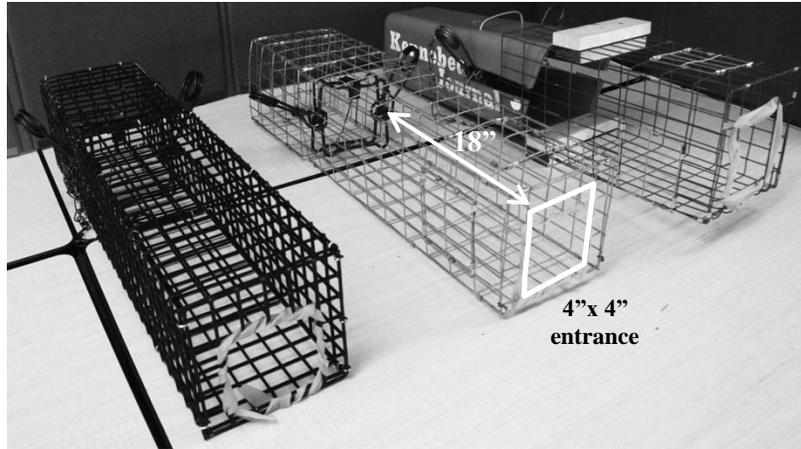
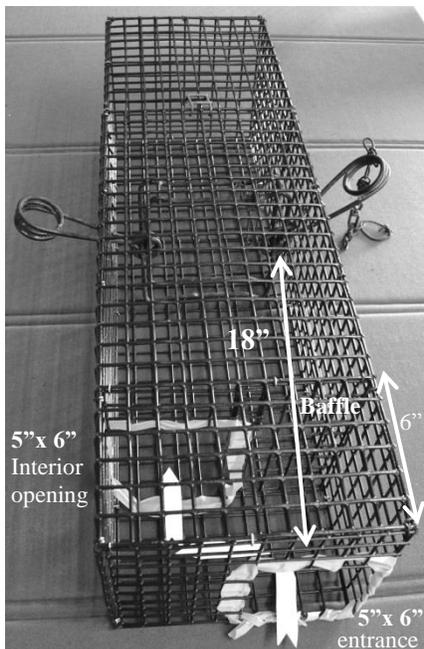
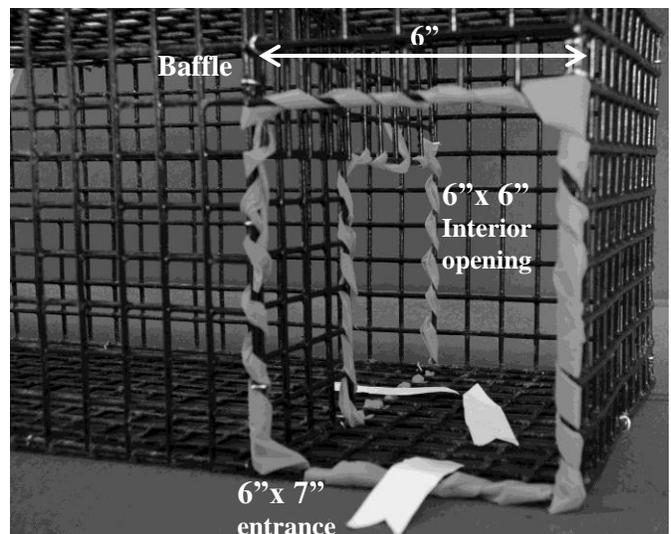


Figure 2. Legal exclusion devices for killer-type traps having a jaw spread between 5 and 8 inches. **2a.** is an example of a device with an entrance hole on the end of the device. The entrance hole must not exceed 5 x 6 inches. A baffle must be placed no more than 6 inches back from the entrance hole and must not have an opening greater than 5 x 6 inches. With the baffle in place, the entrance hole and interior opening may not overlap to create an unobstructed view to the interior of the exclusion device. **2b.** is an example of a device where the entrance hole is placed on the side of the device and must not exceed 6 x 7 inches. A baffle must be placed at the edge of the entrance with the baffle opening opposite of the entrance hole, and the hole must not exceed 6 x 6 inches.

a.



b.



Flagging in these photo are used to illustrate the location of the entrance and is not a requirement.



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

284 STATE STREET
AUGUSTA ME 04333

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK
COMMISSIONER

August 5, 2015

United State Fish and Wildlife Service
Maine Field Office
Dr. Mark McCollough
17 Godfrey Drive, Suite 2
Orono, Maine 04473

Dear Mark,

This letter is to provide updated documents that relate to IFW and BPL's mitigation commitments in IFW's October 23, 2014 Incidental Take Plan. Initially, IFW and BPL committed to manage a 10,411 acre habitat management area (HMA) on State owned land (i.e., Bureau of Parks and Land: Seboomook Unit) for lynx and provide at least 4,785 acres of sapling conifer dominated forest (i.e., high quality hare habitat (HQHH)) by 2029. At your request, we increase our mitigation to encompass a larger area (22,046 acres) and provide at least 6,200 acres of HQHH by 2029. To meet this request, the following commitments were made in our October 23, 2014 Incidental Take Plan:

- BPL will provide an updated table 5.3.3 for the 22,046 acre area demonstrating how the mitigation will achieve the net conservation benefit to compensate for the loss of at least three lynx by July 31st 2015.
- By July 31st 2015, BPL will finalize the western boundary of the additional mitigation area and insure that the entire 22,046 acre mitigation area can meet the 6,200 acre HQHH requirement. Updated maps will be provided to the USFWS by July 31st 2015.

On the original 10,411 acres HMA, harvest maps and aerial photos indicate that baseline (current) conditions included at least 3,798 acres of sapling conifer dominated forest (HQHH). This summer, BPL foresters and IFW's biologist assigned to BPL conducted multiple site visits to determine how much additional acreage of HQHH was on this larger HMA. The updated table (attached) reflects the additional 600 acres of HQHH currently on the HMA of which 480 additional acres are anticipated to remain as HQHH through 2029. The acreage has increased to 23,589 acres so existing roads can mark the western boundary of the HMA (see attached Figure 5.3.2 -5.3.4).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'James M. Connolly'.

James Connolly
Bureau Director

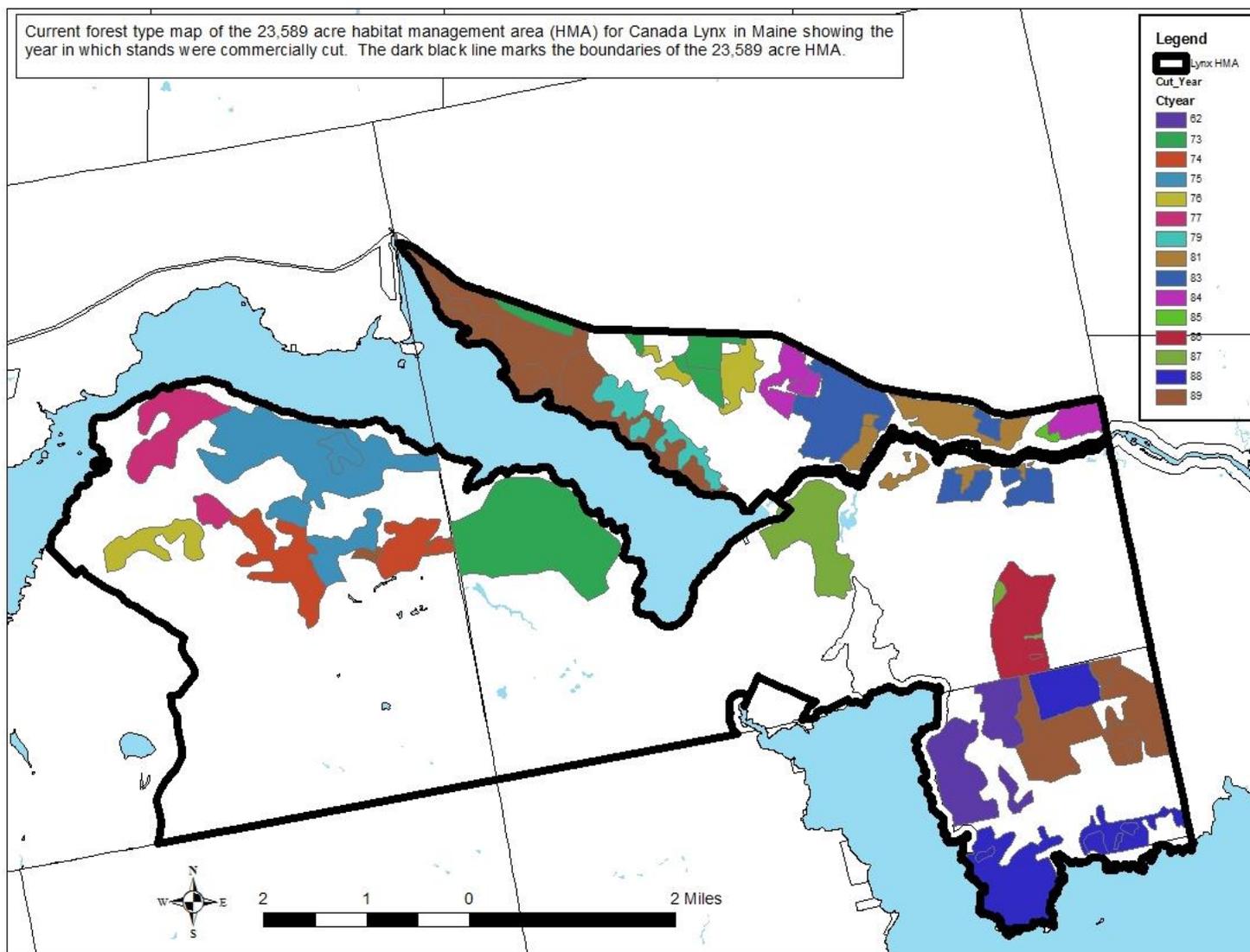
Table 5.3.3 Baseline and projected future amounts (acres) of high quality hare habitat (HQHH; dense conifer dominated sapling stands or understories) on the 23,589 acre HMA with and without mitigation updated July 29, 2015.

	Baseline (2015)	2018 (acres)	2023 (acres)	2029 (acres)
Without Mitigation^a				
Estimated Acres	4,398	4,398	2,670	2,670
Adult lynx	≥2	≥2	≥1	≥1
With Mitigation^b				
Estimated Acres	4,398	4,398	≥5,200	≥6,200
Adult lynx	≥2	≥2	≥3	4-5

^a Management goal is to promote shorter time to mature forest conditions through harvest (e.g., pre-commercial or commercial thinning).

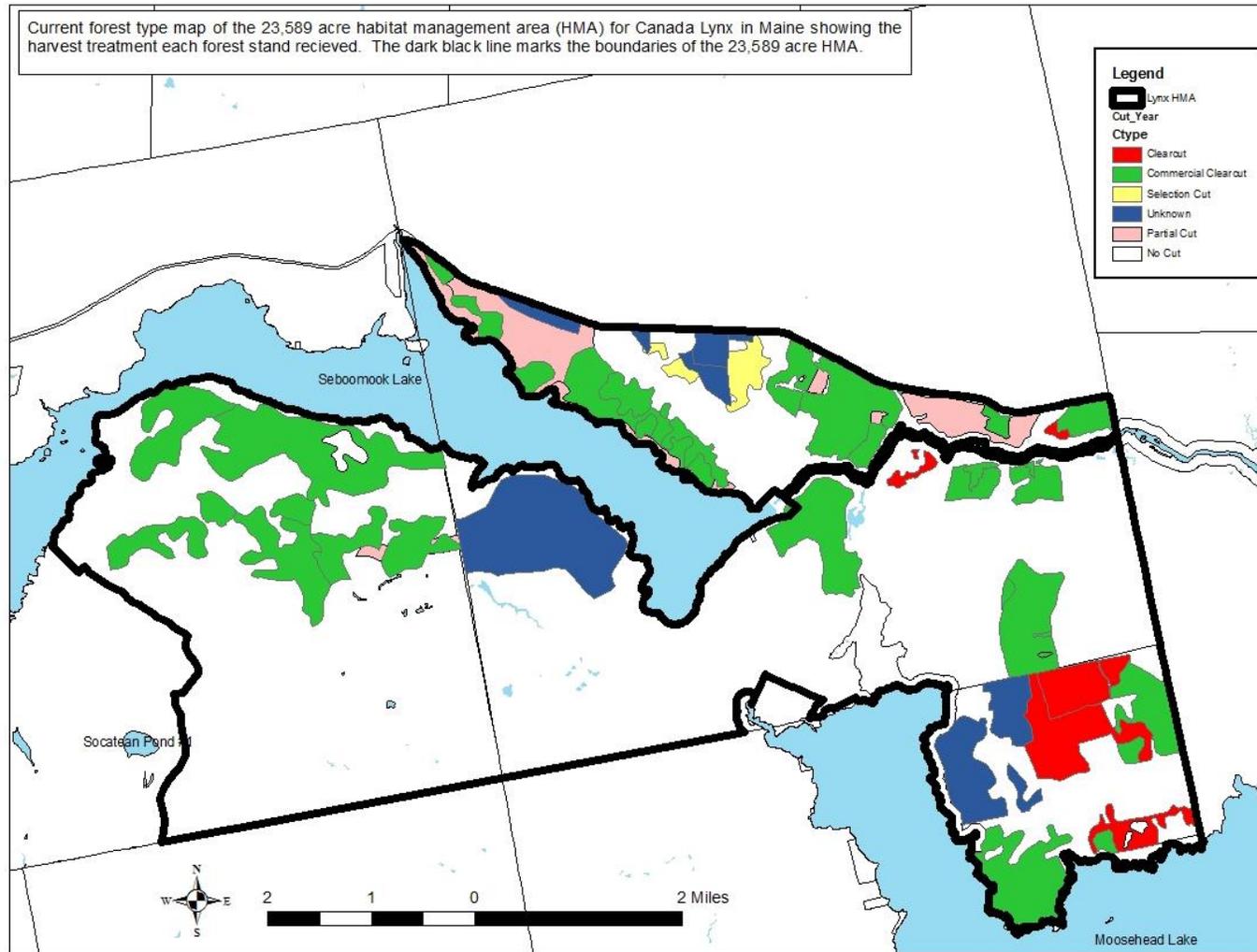
^b Management goal is at a minimum no net loss of HQHH and increase to 6,200 acres HQHH by 2029.

Figure 5.3.2 Updated map of the 23,589 acre¹ HMA (solid black line) for Canada Lynx in Maine showing the year in which stands were commercially cut. The harvest treatment for each stand is given in Figure 5.3.3.



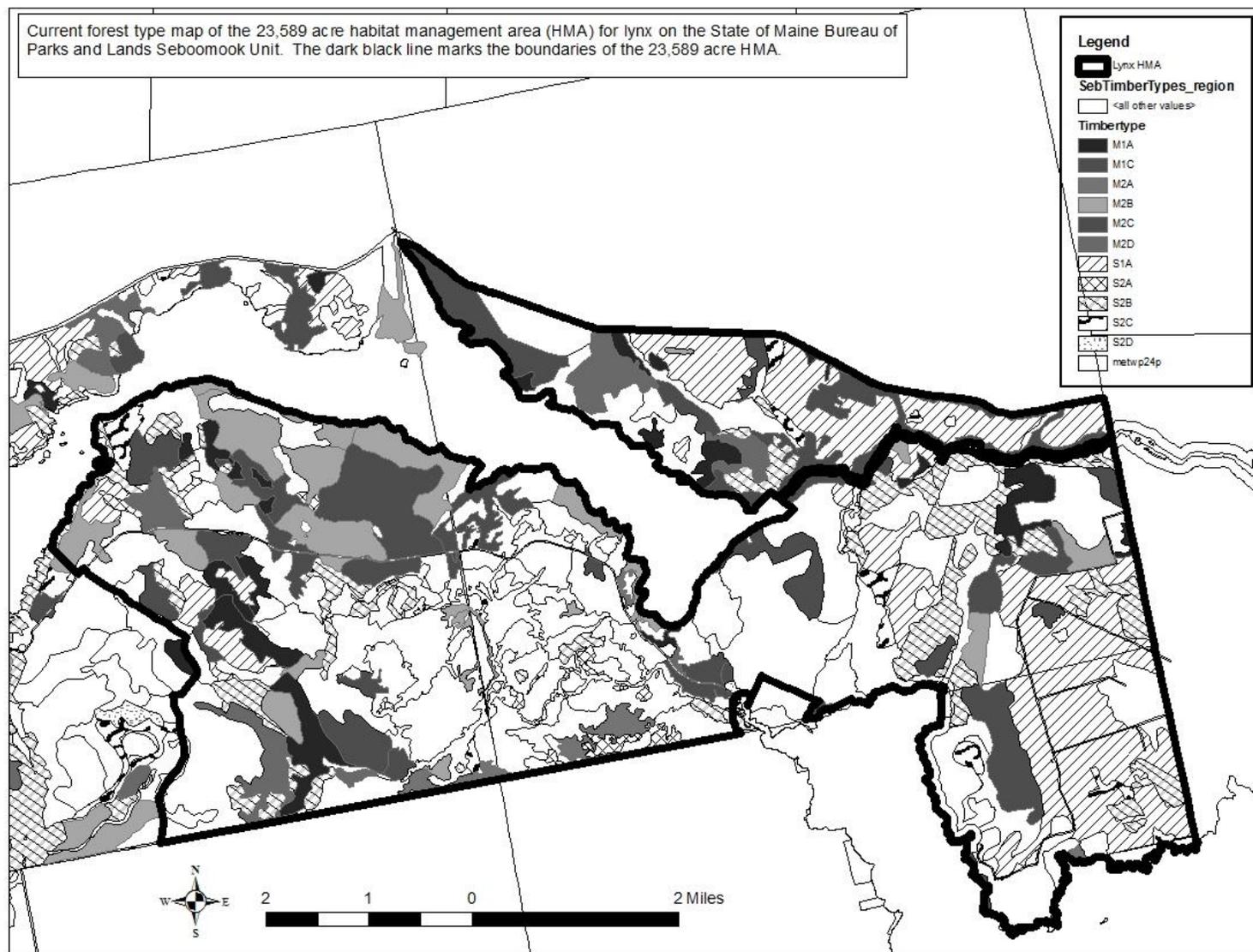
¹ The acreage has increased from 22,046 to 23,589 acres so existing roads can mark the western boundary of the HMA.

Figure 5.3.3 Updated map of the 23,589 acre¹ HMA (solid black line) for Canada Lynx in Maine showing the harvest treatment each forest stand received. The year in which the stand was cut is given in Figure 5.3.2.



¹ The acreage has increased from 22,046 to 23,589 acres so existing roads can mark the western boundary of the HMA

Figure 5.3.4. Current forest type map of the 23,589¹ acre habitat management area (HMA) for lynx on the State of Maine Bureau of Parks and Land's Seboomook Unit in northern Maine. The black line marks the boundaries of the 22,046 acre HMA.



¹ The acreage has increased from 22,046 to 23,589 acres so existing roads can mark the western boundary of the HMA.

Appendix 4. Letter to the USFWS on July 31, 2015 to provide updated maps and tables of the HMA as mitigation for the lethal take of lynx during the permit period.



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
284 STATE STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK
COMMISSIONER

November 3, 2015

Dr. Paul R. Phifer
Northeast Regional Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9587

RE: Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit TE48539B-0

Dear Dr. Phifer:

The permit issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) for the incidental take of Canada Lynx contains permit condition "I" that requires the Department to provide assurances that adequate funding exists to implement the first year of the plan. This letter is to confirm that adequate funding exists within the current budget to cover all activities outlined in Section 6.2 of the Incidental Take Plan for Maine's Trapping Program during the first year of permit coverage. The Department prepared and submitted a biennial budget (FY 16 and 17) for the July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016 and July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017 budget years that covers the work outlined in the plan. The budget was accepted by the Legislature (H.P.702 – L.D. 1019) and became law June 30, 2015 as Public Law Chapter 267. A copy of the budget that relates to the operations of IFW (Section A-42) is attached but is also available online at <http://legislature.maine.gov/bills>. The amounts appropriated for the pertinent programs in all cases meet or exceed the previous year's appropriations.

The following actions have already been completed as part of the plan:

The Department conducted training programs for its Regional Biologists on releasing incidentally captured lynx earlier this fall.

Fourteen Predator Management Program trappers attended the training class put on by IFW's regional staff on how to avoid capturing lynx and appropriate protocols if a lynx was captured. Eight trappers who had participated in the program last year traveled to an IFW Regional office and participated in a conference call with regional staff covering the same subject material. Lynx Biologist Jennifer Vashon and Furbearer Biologist Cory Mosby participated in both sessions.

The Department has reached agreement with Dr. David Cloutier of Veazie Veterinary Clinic for his practice to once again provide veterinary services for examinations, training of IFW staff and field visits for training or evaluating incidentally captured lynx.

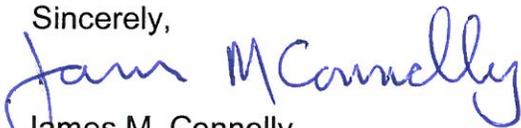
In October a direct mailing to all licensed trappers was done with the complete 2015-16 Trapper Information booklet that contains the 2015-16 beaver trapping regulations, the updated booklet "How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx While Trapping or Hunting Bobcats and other Furbearers" and information on lynx avoidance measures. The cover letter also contained information on how to access the online version of all the documents.

The trapper compliance check form that will be used by Maine Warden Service has been updated and reflects the changes made in the final plan submission. Warden Service personnel will make the checks outlined in the plan using this form.

The Lynx Hotline for reporting incidental captures has been staffed as required with two staff members assigned the responsibility for maintaining full coverage as outlined in the plan.

Please feel free to contact me at 207-287-5259 should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



James M. Connolly
Director, Bureau of Resource Management

GOVERNOR'S VETO OVERRIDDEN	CHAPTER 267
JUNE 30, 2015	PUBLIC LAW

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN

—
H.P. 702 - L.D. 1019

An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, certain obligations and expenses incident to the operation of state departments and institutions will become due and payable immediately; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

PART A

Sec. A-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Accident - Sickness - Health Insurance 0455

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$777,497	\$793,497
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$777,497</u>	<u>\$793,497</u>

INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES, MAINE COMMISSION ON DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2015-16	2016-17
GENERAL FUND	\$19,080,110	\$16,308,513
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$777,497	\$793,497
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$19,857,607</u>	<u>\$17,102,010</u>

Sec. A-42. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF
Administrative Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0530**

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4,000	4,000
Personal Services	\$309,781	\$305,099
All Other	\$805,822	\$805,822
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,115,603</u>	<u>\$1,110,921</u>

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$639,465	\$639,465
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$639,465</u>	<u>\$639,465</u>

Administrative Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0530

Initiative: Transfers funding from the Administrative Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program to the Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	(\$627,806)	(\$627,806)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$627,806)	(\$627,806)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE 0530

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4,000	4,000
Personal Services	\$309,781	\$305,099
All Other	\$805,822	\$805,822
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,115,603	\$1,110,921

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$11,659	\$11,659
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$11,659	\$11,659

ATV Safety and Educational Program 0559

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$23,170	\$23,170
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$23,170	\$23,170

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$145,188	\$145,188
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$145,188	\$145,188

ATV SAFETY AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 0559

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$23,170	\$23,170
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$23,170	\$23,170

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$145,188	\$145,188
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$145,188	\$145,188

Boating Access Sites 0631

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$43,616	\$43,616
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$43,616	\$43,616

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
Personal Services	\$57,266	\$56,156
All Other	\$97,233	\$97,233
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$154,499	\$153,389

Boating Access Sites 0631

Initiative: Provides funding to purchase and improve land for boat launch facilities throughout the State.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$575,000	\$575,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$575,000	\$575,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$175,000	\$175,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$175,000	\$175,000

Boating Access Sites 0631

Initiative: Provides funding for improvements and maintenance activities at publicly owned boat launch facilities on inland waters.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$90,000	\$90,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$90,000	\$90,000

Boating Access Sites 0631

Initiative: Provides funding to improve and maintain publicly owned boat launch facilities.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$25,000	\$25,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$25,000	\$25,000

BOATING ACCESS SITES 0631

PROGRAM SUMMARY

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$43,616	\$43,616
Capital Expenditures	\$575,000	\$575,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$618,616	\$618,616

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$57,266	\$56,156
All Other	\$122,233	\$122,233
Capital Expenditures	\$265,000	\$265,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$444,499	\$443,389

Endangered Nongame Operations 0536

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$22,372	\$22,446
All Other	\$4,731	\$4,731
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$27,103	\$27,177

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$367,225	\$367,565
All Other	\$516,029	\$516,029
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$883,254	\$883,594

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	6.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$264,374	\$262,589
All Other	\$128,077	\$128,077
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$392,451	\$390,666

Endangered Nongame Operations 0536

Initiative: Provides funding to increase All Other costs in the Endangered Nongame Operations program to align expenditures with anticipated revenues.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$106,505	\$106,505
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$106,505	\$106,505

**ENDANGERED NONGAME OPERATIONS 0536
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$22,372	\$22,446
All Other	\$4,731	\$4,731
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$27,103	\$27,177

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$367,225	\$367,565
All Other	\$622,534	\$622,534
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$989,759	\$990,099

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	6.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$264,374	\$262,589
All Other	\$128,077	\$128,077
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$392,451	\$390,666

Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	123.000	123.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.500	0.500
Personal Services	\$11,046,096	\$10,948,018
All Other	\$2,556,860	\$2,556,860
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$13,602,956	\$13,504,878

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	1.540	1.540
Personal Services	\$587,092	\$584,748
All Other	\$583,227	\$583,227
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,170,319	\$1,167,975

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$330,032	\$329,016
All Other	\$283,738	\$283,738
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$613,770	\$612,754

Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537

Initiative: Provides funding for Personal Services overtime costs for Operation Stonegarden, funded by the United States Department of Homeland Security.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$227,052	\$228,650
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$227,052	\$228,650

Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537

Initiative: Continues one Game Warden Specialist position in the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program that was previously authorized by Financial Order 002470 F5. This initiative also eliminates one Office Specialist I position in the Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$98,509	\$96,821
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$98,509	\$96,821

Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537

Initiative: Provides funding for increased fees from the Department of Public Safety for dispatch services.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$73,017	\$76,348
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$73,017	\$76,348

Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537

Initiative: Transfers 2 Game Warden positions from the Enforcement Operations - Lake and River Protection Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds to the General Fund within the same program and reduces funding in related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$167,789	\$167,373
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$167,789	\$167,373

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(2.000)	(2.000)
Personal Services	(\$167,789)	(\$167,373)
All Other	(\$1,896)	(\$1,891)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$169,685)	(\$169,264)

**ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS - INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE 0537
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	126.000	126.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.500	0.500
Personal Services	\$11,312,394	\$11,212,212
All Other	\$2,629,877	\$2,633,208
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$13,942,271	\$13,845,420

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	1.540	1.540
Personal Services	\$814,144	\$813,398
All Other	\$583,227	\$583,227
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,397,371	\$1,396,625

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$162,243	\$161,643
All Other	\$281,842	\$281,847
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$444,085	\$443,490

Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	59.000	59.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.577	0.577
Personal Services	\$3,048,070	\$3,027,394
All Other	\$1,163,901	\$1,163,901
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$4,211,971	\$4,191,295

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$1,931,264	\$1,912,402
All Other	\$1,048,929	\$1,048,929
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,980,193	\$2,961,331

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$45,612	\$46,492
All Other	\$157,054	\$157,054
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$202,666	\$203,546

Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535

Initiative: Reorganizes one Biology Specialist position to a Biologist I position as well as transfers and reallocates the costs of the position from 100% Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, Other Special Revenue Funds to 25% General Fund and 75% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services in the General Fund to fund the position changes.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$14,872	\$15,080
All Other	(\$14,872)	(\$15,080)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
Personal Services	\$44,621	\$45,249
All Other	\$890	\$903
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$45,511	\$46,152

Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535

Initiative: Reorganizes one Public Service Executive I position to a Public Service Executive II position and reduces General Fund All Other to fund the reorganization.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$1,337	\$1,408
All Other	\$27	\$28
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,364	\$1,436

Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Promotional Coordinator position and related All Other from 33% General Fund and 67% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program to 16.5% General Fund and 33.5% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations

program and 16.5% General Fund and 33.5% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Bureau of Resource Management - Wildlife Management program.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	(\$13,702)	(\$13,389)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>(\$13,702)</u>	<u>(\$13,389)</u>

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	(\$27,824)	(\$27,180)
All Other	(\$555)	(\$542)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>(\$28,379)</u>	<u>(\$27,722)</u>

Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535

Initiative: Transfers funding from the All Other line category to the Capital Expenditures line category for the replacement of 2 one-ton fish stocking trucks, 2 2-ton fish stocking trucks, 2 fish stocking truck beds and 2 sets of fish stocking tanks.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	(\$125,000)	(\$125,000)
Capital Expenditures	\$125,000	\$125,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535

Initiative: Provides funding for the replacement of 8 snowmobiles, one boat, 2 boat motors and one all-terrain vehicle with trailer.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$8,756	\$11,405
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$8,756</u>	<u>\$11,405</u>

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$26,264	\$34,215
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$26,264</u>	<u>\$34,215</u>

FISHERIES AND HATCHERIES OPERATIONS 0535

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	59.000	59.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.577	0.577
Personal Services	\$3,049,240	\$3,029,085
All Other	\$1,024,029	\$1,023,821
Capital Expenditures	\$133,756	\$136,405
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$4,207,025	\$4,189,311

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$1,949,398	\$1,931,879
All Other	\$1,049,291	\$1,049,318
Capital Expenditures	\$26,264	\$34,215
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$3,024,953	\$3,015,412

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$45,612	\$46,492
All Other	\$157,054	\$157,054
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$202,666	\$203,546

Landowner Relations Fund Z140

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$3,930	\$3,957
All Other	\$62,262	\$62,262
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$66,192	\$66,219

Landowner Relations Fund Z140

Initiative: Provides funding to increase 2 Recreational Safety Coordinator positions from 920 hours to 1,040 hours annually and one Recreational Safety Coordinator position from 950 hours to 1,040 hours annually. This initiative also transfers and reallocates the costs of 10 Recreational Safety Coordinator positions from 26% Division of Public Information and Education program, General Fund, 40% Division of Public Information and Education program, Federal Expenditures Fund, 32% Division of Public Information and Education program, Other Special Revenue Funds and 2% Landowner Relations

program, Other Special Revenue Funds to 26% Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund, 72% Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, Federal Expenditures Fund and 2% Landowner Relations program, Other Special Revenue Funds and reduces funding in related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$96	\$98
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$96	\$98

**LANDOWNER RELATIONS FUND Z140
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$4,026	\$4,055
All Other	\$62,262	\$62,262
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$66,288	\$66,317

Licensing Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0531
Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	16,000	16,000
Personal Services	\$1,046,796	\$1,043,567
All Other	\$501,704	\$501,704
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,548,500	\$1,545,271

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$76,328	\$76,328
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$76,328	\$76,328

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$237,380	\$237,380
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$237,380	\$237,380

Licensing Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0531

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology to perform maintenance and enhancements to the Maine Online Sportsman's Electronic System application.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$133,868	\$133,868
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$133,868</u>	<u>\$133,868</u>

**LICENSING SERVICES - INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE 0531
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	16,000	16,000
Personal Services	\$1,046,796	\$1,043,567
All Other	\$501,704	\$501,704
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,548,500</u>	<u>\$1,545,271</u>

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$76,328	\$76,328
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$76,328</u>	<u>\$76,328</u>

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$371,248	\$371,248
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$371,248</u>	<u>\$371,248</u>

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund 0829

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$1,144,926	\$1,144,926
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$1,144,926</u>	<u>\$1,144,926</u>

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund 0829

Initiative: Adjusts funding for per diem costs for the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board members.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$1,500	\$1,500
All Other	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**MAINE OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND 0829
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$1,500	\$1,500
All Other	\$1,143,426	\$1,143,426
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$1,144,926</u>	<u>\$1,144,926</u>

Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0529

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$448,705	\$439,938
All Other	\$1,776,548	\$1,776,548
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$2,225,253</u>	<u>\$2,216,486</u>

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$179,381	\$183,477
All Other	\$109,759	\$109,759
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$289,140</u>	<u>\$293,236</u>

Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0529

Initiative: Continues one Game Warden Specialist position in the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program that was previously authorized by Financial Order 002470 F5. This initiative also eliminates one Office Specialist I position in the Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1,000)	(1,000)
Personal Services	(\$63,760)	(\$65,259)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$63,760)	(\$65,259)

Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0529

Initiative: Transfers funding from the Administrative Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program to the Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$627,806	\$627,806
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$627,806	\$627,806

Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0529

Initiative: Transfers one Accounting Associate II position and incumbent personnel from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Financial and Personnel Services - Division of program, Financial and Personnel Services Fund to the Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries Wildlife program, Other Special Revenue Funds and provides funding for related All Other costs. The employee retains all rights as a classified employee as well as all accrued fringe benefits, including but not limited to vacation and sick leave, health and life insurance and retirement benefits.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
Personal Services	\$63,220	\$64,592
All Other	\$5,260	\$5,379
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$68,480	\$69,971

Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0529

Initiative: Transfers one Inventory and Property Associate II Supervisor position and incumbent personnel from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Central Services - Purchases program, Postal, Printing and Supply Fund to the Office of the Commissioner - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, Other Special Revenue Funds and provides funding for related All Other costs. The employee retains all rights as a classified employee as well as all accrued fringe benefits, including but not limited to vacation and sick leave, health and life insurance and retirement benefits.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$63,760	\$65,259
All Other	\$5,354	\$5,474
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$69,114	\$70,733

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER - INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
0529**

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$384,945	\$374,679
All Other	\$1,776,548	\$1,776,548
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,161,493	\$2,151,227

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$306,361	\$313,328
All Other	\$748,179	\$748,418
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,054,540	\$1,061,746

Public Information and Education, Division of 0729

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	9.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	4.841	4.841
Personal Services	\$647,358	\$644,529
All Other	\$257,441	\$257,441
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$904,799	\$901,970

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$150,684	\$149,931
All Other	\$147,857	\$147,857
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$298,541	\$297,788

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$324,289	\$324,879
All Other	\$569,152	\$569,152
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$893,441	\$894,031

Public Information and Education, Division of 0729

Initiative: Provides funding to increase 2 Recreational Safety Coordinator positions from 920 hours to 1,040 hours annually and one Recreational Safety Coordinator position from 950 hours to 1,040 hours annually. This initiative also transfers and reallocates the costs of 10 Recreational Safety Coordinator positions from 26% Division of Public Information and Education program, General Fund, 40% Division of Public Information and Education program, Federal Expenditures Fund, 32% Division of Public Information and Education program, Other Special Revenue Funds and 2% Landowner Relations program, Other Special Revenue Funds to 26% Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund, 72% Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, Federal Expenditures Fund and 2% Landowner Relations program, Other Special Revenue Funds and reduces funding in related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	(4.841)	(4.841)
Personal Services	(\$51,094)	(\$51,469)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$51,094)	(\$51,469)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	(\$78,591)	(\$79,169)
All Other	(\$2,199)	(\$2,215)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	(\$80,790)	(\$81,384)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	(\$62,882)	(\$63,342)
All Other	(\$1,069)	(\$1,069)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$63,951)	(\$64,411)

Public Information and Education, Division of 0729

Initiative: Transfers one Recreational Safety and Vehicle Coordinator position and one Office Associate II position from the Division of Public Information and Education program to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program and reduces funding in related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(2.000)	(2.000)
Personal Services	(\$74,179)	(\$72,761)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$74,179)	(\$72,761)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	(\$72,093)	(\$70,762)
All Other	(\$2,017)	(\$1,980)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	(\$74,110)	(\$72,742)

Public Information and Education, Division of 0729

Initiative: Transfers funding for All Other costs from the Division of Public Information and Education program to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	(\$143,641)	(\$143,662)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	(\$143,641)	(\$143,662)

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION, DIVISION OF 0729

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	7.000	7.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$522,085	\$520,299
All Other	\$257,441	\$257,441
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$779,526	\$777,740

Appendix 4. Letter to the USFWS on July 31, 2015 to provide updated maps and tables of the HMA as mitigation for the lethal take of lynx during the permit period.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$261,407	\$261,537
All Other	\$568,083	\$568,083
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$829,490	\$829,620

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	9.000
Personal Services	\$1,247,729	\$1,243,785
All Other	\$380,225	\$380,225
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,627,954	\$1,624,010

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	36.000	36.000
Personal Services	\$2,608,370	\$2,588,635
All Other	\$642,878	\$642,878
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$3,251,248	\$3,231,513

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$320,376	\$318,729
All Other	\$313,342	\$313,342
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$633,718	\$632,071

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Provides funding for operating expenses for land management.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$230,000	\$230,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$230,000	\$230,000

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Provides funding for operating expenses related to the research and management of moose.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$15,000	\$15,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$15,000	\$15,000

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Reorganizes one Biology Specialist position to a Biologist I position as well as transfers and reallocates the costs of the position from 100% Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, Other Special Revenue Funds to 25% General Fund and 75% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services in the General Fund to fund the position changes.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1,000)	(1,000)
Personal Services	(\$59,493)	(\$60,329)
All Other	(\$1,187)	(\$1,204)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$60,680)	(\$61,533)

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Provides funding to increase 2 Recreational Safety Coordinator positions from 920 hours to 1,040 hours annually and one Recreational Safety Coordinator position from 950 hours to 1,040 hours annually. This initiative also transfers and reallocates the costs of 10 Recreational Safety Coordinator positions from 26% Division of Public Information and Education program, General Fund, 40% Division of Public Information and Education program, Federal Expenditures Fund, 32% Division of Public Information and Education program, Other Special Revenue Funds and 2% Landowner Relations program, Other Special Revenue Funds to 26% Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund, 72% Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, Federal Expenditures Fund and 2% Landowner Relations program, Other Special Revenue Funds and reduces funding in related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$52,538	\$52,925
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$52,538	\$52,925
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$145,482	\$146,552
All Other	\$2,902	\$2,924
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$148,384	\$149,476

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Transfers one Recreational Safety and Vehicle Coordinator position and one Office Associate II position from the Division of Public Information and Education program to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program and reduces funding in related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$74,179	\$72,761
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$74,179	\$72,761
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$72,093	\$70,762
All Other	\$1,438	\$1,412
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$73,531	\$72,174

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Transfers funding for All Other costs from the Division of Public Information and Education program to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$143,641	\$143,662
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$143,641	\$143,662

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Provides funding for an increase to align expenditures with anticipated revenues.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$1,467,348	\$1,467,348
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,467,348	\$1,467,348

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Reorganizes one Public Service Executive I position to a Public Service Executive II position and reduces General Fund All Other to fund the reorganization.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$1,251	\$1,321
All Other	(\$1,251)	(\$1,321)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$1,586	\$1,674
All Other	\$32	\$33
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,618	\$1,707

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Promotional Coordinator position and related All Other from 33% General Fund and 67% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program to 16.5% General Fund and 33.5% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program and 16.5% General Fund and 33.5% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Bureau of Resource Management - Wildlife Management program.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$13,704	\$13,388
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$13,704	\$13,388

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$27,822	\$27,181
All Other	\$555	\$542
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$28,377	\$27,723

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Provides funding for the replacement of 8 snowmobiles, one boat, 2 boat motors and one all-terrain vehicle with trailer.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$5,625	\$1,875
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,625	\$1,875

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$16,875	\$5,625
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$16,875	\$5,625

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Provides funding for one trailer and one off-road utility vehicle.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$5,750	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,750	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$17,250	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$17,250	\$0

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES - INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE 0534

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	11,000	11,000
Personal Services	\$1,389,401	\$1,384,180
All Other	\$378,974	\$378,904
Capital Expenditures	\$11,375	\$1,875
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,779,750	\$1,764,959

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	36,000	36,000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	5,000	5,000
Personal Services	\$2,855,353	\$2,834,804
All Other	\$2,258,794	\$2,258,799
Capital Expenditures	\$34,125	\$5,625
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$5,148,272	\$5,099,228

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3,000	3,000
Personal Services	\$260,883	\$258,400
All Other	\$557,155	\$557,138
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$818,038	\$815,538

Search and Rescue 0538

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	\$227,518	\$222,538
All Other	\$120,220	\$120,220
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$347,738	\$342,758

Search and Rescue 0538

Initiative: Provides funding for an increase in overtime costs for search and rescue operations for the Search and Rescue program.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Personal Services	\$158,800	\$158,800
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$158,800	\$158,800

SEARCH AND RESCUE 0538

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$386,318	\$381,338
All Other	\$120,220	\$120,220
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$506,538	\$501,558

Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management 0561

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$1,525,000	\$1,525,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,525,000	\$1,525,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$23,085	\$23,085
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$23,085	\$23,085

Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management 0561

Initiative: Provides funding to purchase land for wildlife habitat.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Expenditures	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000

Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management 0561

Initiative: Provides funding for operating expenses for the Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$60,000	\$60,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$60,000	\$60,000

**WATERFOWL HABITAT ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT 0561
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$1,525,000	\$1,525,000
Capital Expenditures	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$3,325,000	\$3,325,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$83,085	\$83,085
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$83,085	\$83,085

Whitewater Rafting - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0539

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.308	0.308
Personal Services	\$115,969	\$113,659
All Other	\$43,508	\$43,508
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$159,477	\$157,167

WHITewater RAFTING - INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE 0539

PROGRAM SUMMARY

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.308	0.308
Personal Services	\$115,969	\$113,659
All Other	\$43,508	\$43,508
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$159,477	\$157,167

Whitewater Rafting Fund 0533

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$10,904	\$10,904
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$10,904</u>	<u>\$10,904</u>

Whitewater Rafting Fund 0533

Initiative: Provides funding for additional whitewater rafting grants to affected municipalities and unorganized townships.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$7,500	\$7,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$7,500</u>	<u>\$7,500</u>

WHITewater RAFTING FUND 0533

PROGRAM SUMMARY

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$18,404	\$18,404
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$18,404</u>	<u>\$18,404</u>

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2015-16	2016-17
GENERAL FUND	\$26,090,979	\$25,936,754
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$14,580,299	\$14,521,308
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$6,186,044	\$6,185,989
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$46,857,322</u>	<u>\$46,644,051</u>

Sec. A-43. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

2015-2016 Trapper Information



Important Changes to Regulations

New – Foothold Regulations

New – Exclusion Devices Statewide

New – Beaver Seasons

New – Tending Time Requirements

New – Weasel Box Restrictions



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Caring for Maine's Outdoor Future



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
284 STATE STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK
COMMISSIONER

September 30, 2015

Dear Trapper:

This year has been a challenging year for both the trappers and IFW staff. With the incidental death of two lynx by legal trapping during last year's trapping season, we have been diligently working to minimize the chances that an additional lynx would be accidentally killed or injured. The changes we've made to our trapping regulations are substantial and likely affect most every trapper in the state. Please read through the changes in the trapper information booklet to ensure that you are familiar with them. In addition to these lynx related regulatory changes, we have made changes to beaver seasons, tending time requirements, and to the use of weasel boxes. In the bullets below I've highlighted these changes.

- All foothold traps set on dryland must have three swiveling points and the chain must be centrally mounted at the base of the trap. One swiveling point must be at the base of the trap, one mid-way in the chain, and one at the trap's anchoring point.
- The use of drags are prohibited in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19. Foothold traps set on dryland in these WMDs must have the trap anchored to the ground and the catch circle cleared of woody vegetation, debris, and manmade material that could cause entanglement of the trapped animal.
- Exclusion devices are now required for all body gripping traps set on dry land statewide, with the exception of 5x5 inch killer-type traps and smaller sets, blind sets, traps partially covered by water at all times, and traps set under overhanging banks.
- The beaver season has been lengthened by two weeks during the fall in multiple WMDs. Please see page 10 for complete list of beaver seasons by WMD.
- For foothold traps set as drowning sets in organized townships, the tending time requirement has been lengthened from 1 to 3 days except for drowning sets within ½ mile of a built-up section of the town; they must be checked every 24 hours.
- There was an **error** in the *Maine Hunting and Trapping 2015-2016 Laws and Rules* Book. On page 35 in the section for Rat Snap Traps, it should state that it is now legal to use wooden based snap traps in weasel boxes **Statewide** if the trap is recessed in a wooden box with a hole no larger than 2 inches in diameter.

I would like to remind everyone to please complete the trapper effort reporting forms included with this letter. Trapping effort information is used to monitor trends in furbearer populations, and can be used to describe Maine's trapping program. The information provided in these trapper effort forms was crucial in developing Maine's incidental take plan for lynx. We appreciate your participation in this effort.

Please remember that if you trap a lynx you must report the catch to a Department Warden or Wildlife Biologist as soon as possible. You must report the catch prior to removing the lynx from the trap, unless there is a good chance that the lynx would be injured by the time you could get a message to a Department official. If you must release a lynx, you will need to report the event to the Department within 24 hours from the time the lynx was discovered. If you catch a lynx, please call the lynx hotline (207) 592-4734, or contact your local Warden.

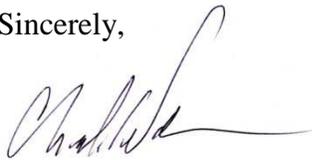
As usual, fur must be tagged within 10 days of the end of the season for that particular species. All bobcats taken by hunting must be tagged within 72 hours. Only Department personnel can tag otter and bobcat. Telephone numbers for Department offices can be found on page 2 of the 2015-2016 Hunting & Trapping Laws and Rules summary booklet.

Trapping season dates for the 2015-2016 trapping season:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| • General trapping season | November 1 - December 31 |
| • Early fox and coyote trapping season | October 18 – October 31 |
| • Early muskrat season in WMDs 1-6, and 9-11 | October 25 – October 31 |
| • Fisher season in WMDs 12, 13, & 15-29 | November 15 - December 15 |
| • Fisher season in WMDs 1-11, & 14 | November 1 - December 31 |

We thank you for your patience with these substantial changes that have been made for this trapping season. If you have questions regarding any of these regulations or the furbearer program in general, please feel free to contact your Regional Wildlife Biologist, or Cory Mosby, Furbearer and Small Mammal Biologist, at our Bangor Office (941-4473). I wish you a good trapping season.

Sincerely,



Chandler E. Woodcock
Commissioner



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT SECTION
650 STATE STREET
BANGOR ME 04401

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK
COMMISSIONER

September 30, 2015

Dear Trapper:

Hello, my name is Cory Mosby and I started with the department in February as the new Furbearer Biologist. As the new guy, I would like to use this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm originally from Missouri and have pursued wildlife biology for both my undergraduate and master's degrees. In addition to having much of my professional background focused on furbearers, I am also an avid trapper. It was this activity of pursuing the different furbearers that made me want to become a wildlife biologist. Now with this great opportunity to serve as the furbearer biologist Maine, I plan to serve the state and its resources well.

This year marks several large changes to the trapping regulations that are in effect statewide so it is very important to go over the new regulations provided in this trapper information booklet. Just as the commissioner mentioned in his letter, it is especially important to read through this year's trapper information booklet to ensure that all of your trapping activities are in compliance with the new regulations.

As always, thank you to all the trappers who sent in their Trapper Effort Report forms last season. This is the single best tool a trapper can use to share what they are seeing on their trapline. Please take the time to look at the forms enclosed in this mailing before the start of the trapping season so you know what kind of information we are asking for. Please record the information as accurately as possible and we greatly appreciate you taking the time to participate in this effort.

Finally, please be diligent in your efforts to follow the new regulations and recommendations to reduce the chance of incidentally capturing a lynx outlined in our updated booklet "How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx." The willingness of trappers to report incidentally caught lynx and abide by regulations will go a long way towards ensuring trapping will continue in Maine for future generations.

Sincerely,



Cory Mosby
Furbearer/Small Mammal Biologist

PHONE: (207) 941-4466
FAX: (207) 941-4450

FISH AND WILDLIFE ON THE WEB:
www.maine.gov/ifw

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FOOTHOLD TRAP RULES

The new **statewide** foothold trapping regulations are as follows:

- All foothold traps set on dry land must have three swiveling points and the chain must be centrally mounted at the base of the trap. On all foothold traps, one swiveling point must be at the base of the trap, one mid-way in the chain, and one at the trap's anchoring point.
- Foothold traps must not be set above ground or snow level.

Note: There have been no changes to the size restriction on foothold traps that was in place last year -- in WMDs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 no foothold trap may be used that has an inside jaw spread of more than 5 3/8 inches.

The new foothold trapping regulations for **WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19** are as follows:

- Foothold traps must be securely anchored to the ground. **The use of drags is prohibited** in these WMDs.
- Foothold traps must have the catch circle cleared of woody vegetation, debris and manmade material that could cause entanglement of a trapped animal. Small sticks and rocks, and rotten/decaying woody material may be used for stepping guides, blocking, and backing for trap sets, if they are not rooted to the ground. A catch circle is defined as the area that can be circumscribed by the outer edge of a trap when the trap and trap chain are fully extended and moved in a circle (360°) around the anchoring point.
- These restrictions do not apply to foothold traps that when set, placed, or tended are fully or partially covered by water, those that are set on a muskrat "float", or dog-proof raccoon traps.

Foothold Regulation Examples

There have been some questions associated with the interpretation of the foothold trap regulations. In this portion of the trapper information booklet we attempt to provide some clarification regarding these questions.

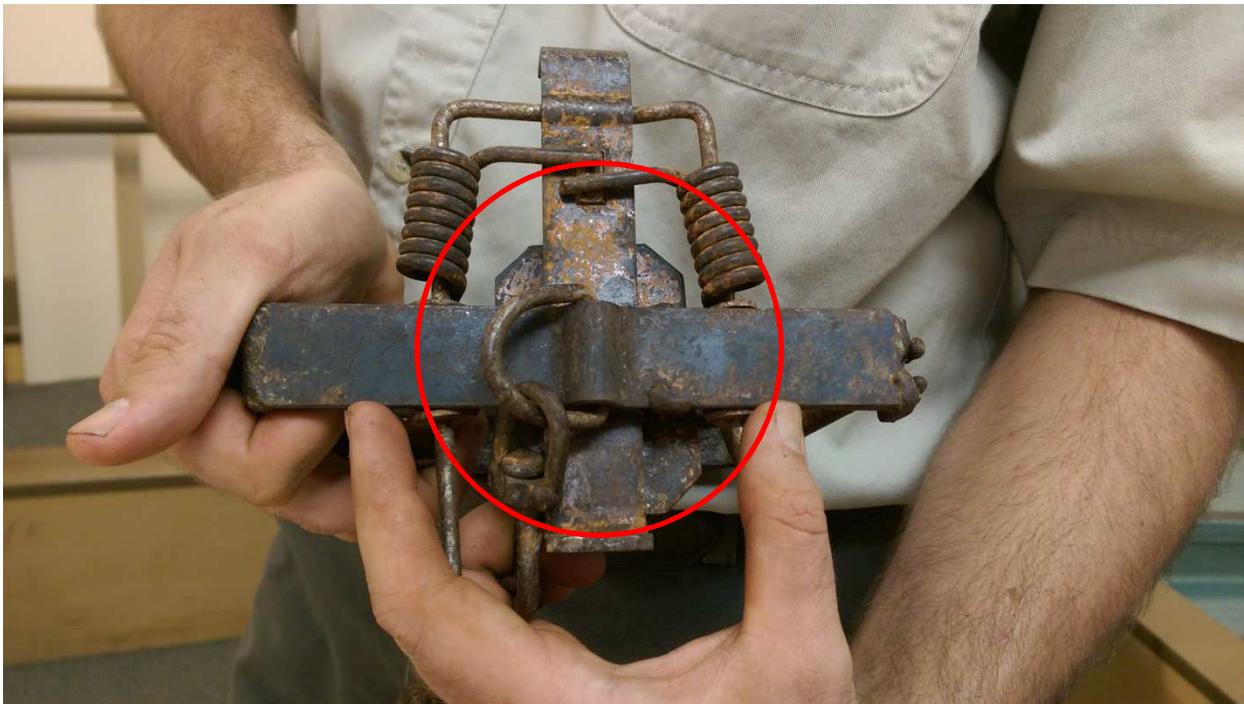
The new statewide regulation for foothold traps is written as follows:

“All foothold traps set on dry land must have three swiveling points and the chain must be centrally mounted at the base of the trap. On all foothold traps, one swiveling point must be at the base of the trap, one mid-way in the chain, and one at the trap’s anchoring point. These restrictions do not apply to foothold traps that when set, placed, or tended are fully or partially covered by water, those that are set on a muskrat “float”, or dog-proof raccoon traps”

We will go through this regulation one component at a time to clarify some of the questions that have come up as a result of this new rule.

1) Centrally mounted at the base of the trap,

Think of this as the central third of the base of the trap (anywhere within the circle area).



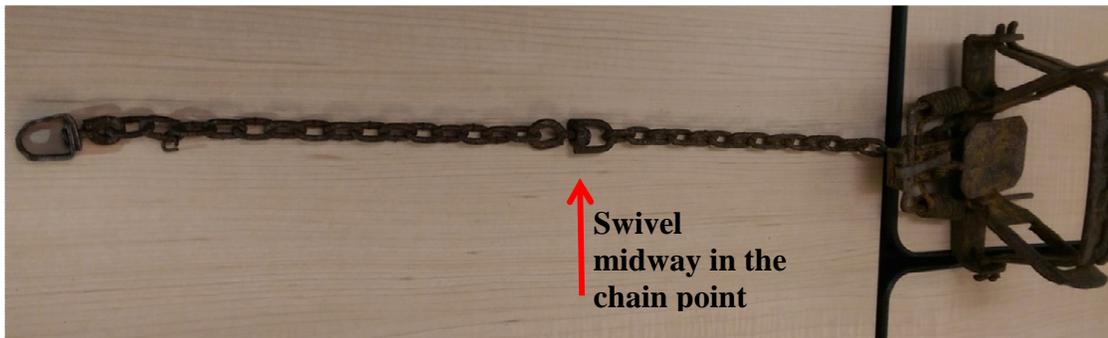
2) Swiveling point at the base of the trap

This is the swiveling point where the chain is attached to the base of the trap. This can be a J-hook coming directly from the base of the trap or a swivel attached to the trap with D-ring, lap link or link of chain.



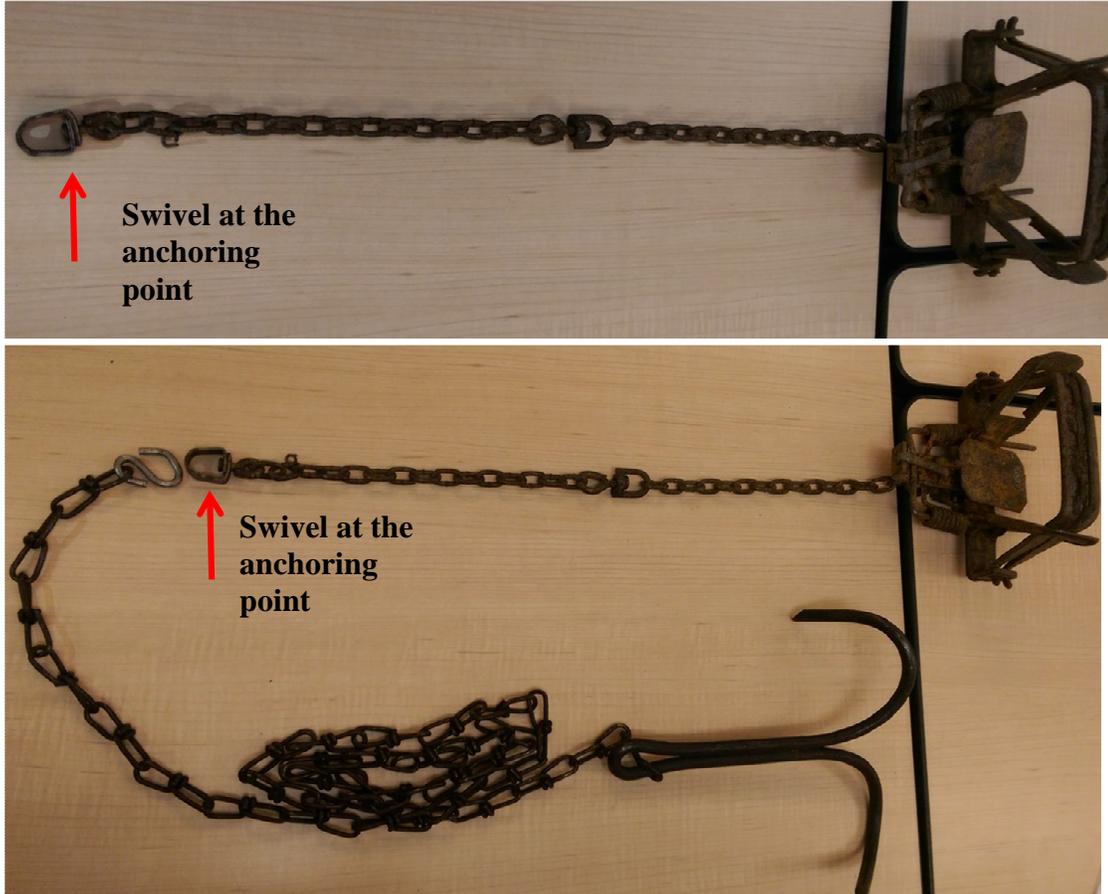
3) Swiveling point midway-in the chain.

This is halfway between the base of the trap and the anchoring point. A double swivel (which technically has two swiveling points) is commonly used here, but another swiveling point is still required at the anchoring point and at the base of the trap.



4) The anchoring point.

The anchoring point is defined where the trap chain attaches to your anchoring device. You must have at least one swiveling point at this location. An anchoring device may be a rebar stake, disposable or cable stake, or a drag. When using a drag, the anchoring point can be considered where the chain associated with the drag attaches to the trap chain. Remember that the use of drags is prohibited in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19.



5) The catch circle.

The catch circle is defined as the area that can be circumscribed by the outer edge of a trap when the trap and trap chain are fully extended and moved in a circle (360°) around the anchoring point. A picture below provides a visual example of this rule.



LYNX EXCLUSION DEVICE RULES

Killer-type traps **can be** set without an exclusion device if 1) when set, placed, and tended, they are completely underwater, or if 2) the trap has an inside jaw spread 5 inches or less AND is

- either set so as to be partially covered by water at all times, or
- set under overhanging stream banks, or
- used at a blind set (without the use of bait, lure or visible attractor). Bait, lure and visible attractor do not include animal droppings (scat) or urine.

For all exclusion devices, the jaws of the killer-type trap must be completely within the exclusion device; however, trap springs can be outside of the device.

Exclusion devices will have the following designs:

(1) For traps with a jaw spread less than or equal to 5 inches (primarily used for marten trapping), the device must have an opening of 4 x 4 inches or less. The entrance hole may be placed on the end or on the side of the device, and the trap must be set a minimum of 18 inches from the closest edge of the entrance hole (Figure 1).

(2) For traps with a jaw spread greater than 5 inches but less than 8 inches, two designs may be constructed. For both devices the trap must be placed no closer than 18 inches from the closest edge of the entrance hole.

- a. The first design has an entrance hole on the end of the device that must not exceed 5 x 6 inches. A baffle must be placed no more than 6 inches back from the entrance hole and must not leave an opening greater than 5 x 6 inches. With the baffle in place, the entrance hole and interior opening must not overlap to create an unobstructed view to the interior of the exclusion device (Figure 2a).
- b. For the second design the entrance hole must not exceed 6 x 7 inches and must be placed on the side of the device. A baffle must be placed at the edge of the entrance with the baffle opening opposite of the entrance hole, and the interior opening must not exceed 6 x 6 inches (Figure 2b).

Exclusion devices can be constructed of wood, plastic, or wire mesh. If using wire mesh, the mesh cannot exceed 1 ½ by 1 ½ inches, or 1 inch by 2 inch openings (side to side). The wire mesh has to be 16 gauge or less (wire diameter of 0.05 inches or greater). The opening slot in the exclusion device that allows the trap springs to extend outside the device can be no more than 7 ½ inches wide and a height of no more than 1 ½ inches. The back of the device must be secured to withstand heavy pulling; if using wire mesh with a wood or plastic box, the wire mesh must wrap around two opposite sides of the box and be securely fastened. There must be at least 1 attachment point for each side of the device where a joint or panels come together. The trap must be anchored outside of the exclusion device. Bait must not be visible from above. When enclosed in an exclusion device, killer-type traps can be set directly on the ground, or elevated in

trees or on poles, with no specific requirements as to the height above ground or diameter of the tree or pole.

Figure 1. A photo showing 3 legal lynx exclusion devices made out of different materials: (from left to right) a) 1x1 inch wire, b) 1x2 inch wire, and c) 1x2 inch wire with a plastic newspaper box. All exclusion devices have a 4 x 4 inch opening and are constructed for a killer-type trap with a jaw spread less than or equal to 5 inches (primarily used for marten trapping).

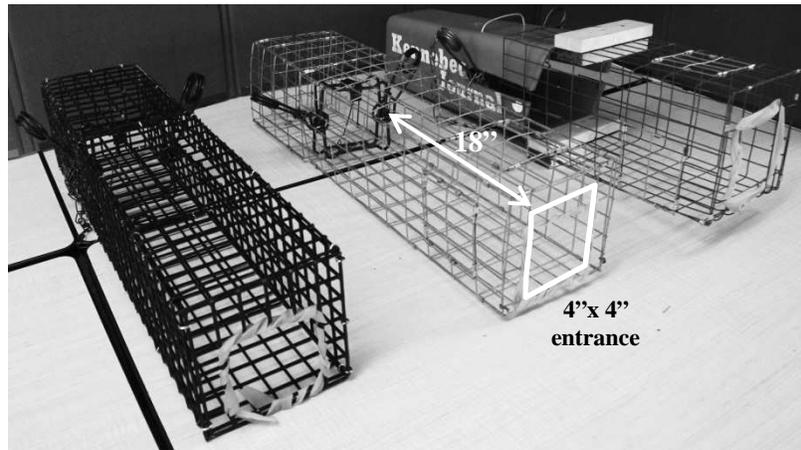
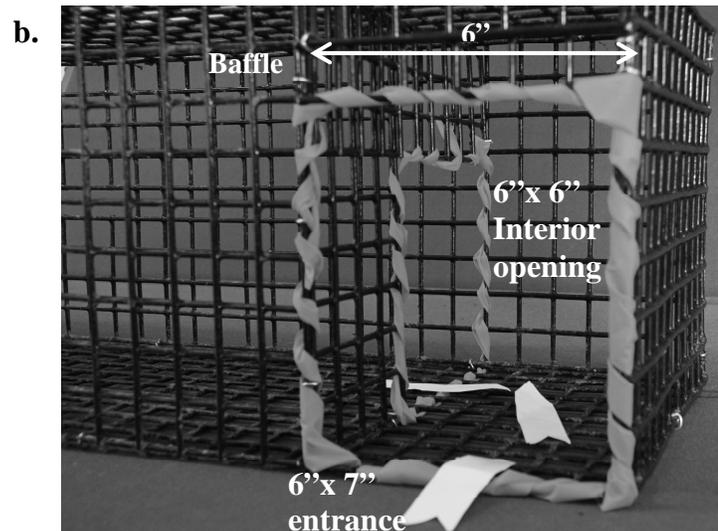
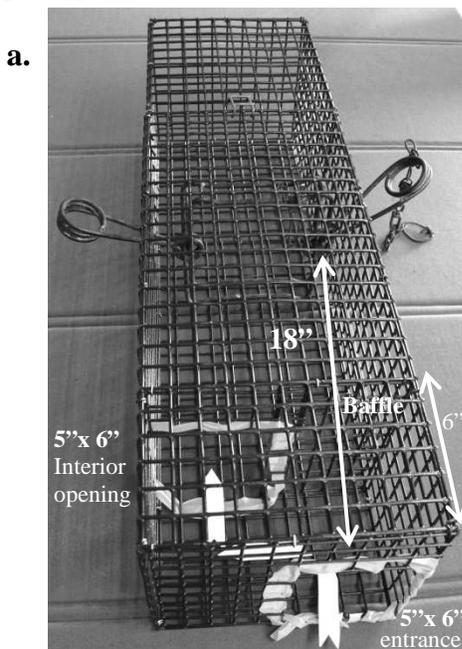


Figure 2. Legal exclusion devices for killer-type traps having a jaw spread between 5 and 8 inches. **2a.** is an example of a device with an entrance hole on the end of the device. The entrance hole must not exceed 5 x 6 inches. A baffle must be placed no more than 6 inches back from the entrance hole and must not leave an opening greater than 5 x 6 inches. With the baffle in place, the entrance hole and interior opening may not overlap to create an unobstructed view to the interior of the exclusion device. **2b.** is an example of a device where the entrance hole is placed on the side of the device and must not exceed 6 x 7 inches. A baffle must be placed at the edge of the entrance with the interior opening opposite of the entrance hole, and the interior opening must not exceed 6 x 6 inches.



Flagging in these photo are used to illustrate the location of the entrance and is not a requirement.

IF YOU CATCH A LYNX OR EAGLE

Trappers catching either a lynx or eagle are required to notify the Department as soon as possible. If you accidentally trap a lynx or eagle during the trapping season, please notify a biologist or game warden immediately, before releasing the animal. **For quickest response, phone 207-941-4466 during regular office hours (8 AM - 5 PM Monday-Friday), or 207-592-4734 outside of business hours. You may also contact the nearest regional office at one of the numbers listed in the back of this booklet.**

Department personnel are available to help release lynx or eagles caught in traps. Lynx and eagles are protected by federal and state laws, and cannot be kept if caught in a trap. An eagle caught in a trap will likely require rehabilitation. An eagle caught in a trap by one of its legs may show little if any signs of injury at the time of capture. What may appear to be a very minor bruise at the time of capture can quickly develop into a fatal injury. This is because of the unique way that blood circulates in an eagle's leg. A bruise may result in a loss of blood flow in the leg; this in turn can lead to an infection that causes the death of the bird. **Please contact MDIFW as soon as possible if you catch an eagle in a trap.** Ideally, an eagle should spend as little time in a trap as possible. Safely releasing an eagle from a trap will require covering the eyes or head of the animal, controlling the talons (e.g., tether the feet together), and putting the released eagle in a holding container that has adequate ventilation and that restricts wing movement (e.g., burlap bag). Once the eagle is secure it can be held for a biologist or warden or be transported to the nearest MDIFW regional office.

Remember that **IFW regulations require all incidentally trapped lynx be reported** to either a biologist or game warden, prior to releasing the animal. In most circumstances a biologist will tranquilize, examine, and release the animal. However, there may be rare circumstances where it is impossible for a biologist to get to the trap site within a reasonable amount of time. In those incidences or when a lynx is in immediate danger of injury if it remains in the trap, trappers are permitted to release the lynx. However, the incidental capture of a lynx must be reported to a MDIFW game warden or biologist within 24 hours. If you would like more information on lynx biology or the Department's lynx research efforts, please contact Jennifer Vashon or Wally Jakubas or at 941-4466.

If you catch a cat and are uncertain whether it is a bobcat or a lynx, please contact a wildlife biologist or warden immediately. It is better to err on the side of caution than to accidentally kill a lynx.

TRAPPING REGULATION CLARIFICATIONS

General Trapping

- No person shall stake, hook, fasten or position a trap at any trap site location in the fields, forests or waters of the State prior to the opening day of the trapping season.
- Steel foothold or killer-type traps must not be set within 50 yards of bait that is visible from above. Bait may be used for trapping if it is completely covered to prevent it from being seen from above, and it must be covered in such a way as to withstand wind action and other normal environmental conditions. Bait is defined as animal matter including meat, skin, bones, feathers, hair or any other solid substance that used to be part of an animal. This includes live or dead fish. For the purposes of this paragraph, bait does not include animal droppings (scat), urine or animals, dead or alive, held in a trap as the result of lawful trapping activity.

Muskrat Trapping

- After the close of the Regular Trapping Season, muskrats may still be trapped, but only in those areas that are open to beaver trapping. After February 28, in those Wildlife Management Districts that remain open to beaver trapping, muskrat trapping is restricted to 1) killer-type traps, foot-hold traps, and colony traps, which must be set to remain underwater at all times; or 2) foothold traps on “covered floats.” A covered float is defined as a float completely covered on the sides and top with hardware cloth, screen, or other similar material, having a mesh size no greater than 1/2 inch square. Access to the float must be limited to openings at the extreme ends of the float and the openings must not exceed 7 inches in height, or 14 inches in width. The use of exposed bait or visible attractor on covered floats is prohibited. Only one trap may be placed per float; the trap must be recessed 3 inches or greater from any opening in the cover; the trap chain or wire must be at least 3 feet long; and the maximum foothold trap size for covered floats sets is No. 1 ½.

Beaver Trapping

- Traps set for beaver in October, November and April are restricted to killer-type traps and drowning sets.
- No person shall use meat or fish as bait in trapping for beaver.
- No person shall make advanced preparation on the trapping grounds for the taking of beaver or muskrat prior to the open season on these animals.
- Except as provided herein, no person, except an agent of the Commissioner, shall place, set or tend any traps (i) within 10 feet of a beaver house, muskrat den or house, (ii) within 5 feet of a beaver dam, or (iii) within 4 feet of a beaver trap that has been set by another trapper. However, in Wildlife Management Districts 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 10 there is no required setback distance from an active beaver dam, and in Wildlife Management Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 there is no required setback distance from a beaver house.

Regulations and Definitions

1. **Beaver Dam** - The Department, for enforcement purposes, has modified its definition of a “beaver dam,” such that the term does not include the remains of an inactive or breached beaver dam that is in disrepair and is no longer being maintained by beaver. This provides a standard definition of what is considered a beaver dam for law enforcement purposes.
2. **Tributary** - means a brook, stream or river flowing directly or indirectly into a lake, pond or another brook, stream or river. A lake or great pond shall not be construed to mean tributary. The tributary to a great pond shall not be considered a tributary to the outlet of that great pond.
3. **Setback Distance** - Setback distance requirements specified in existing regulation shall apply to the trapping of all species at all times. You are required to set your traps at least 4 feet away from another person’s beaver traps; however, as a matter of common courtesy you should always set your traps a reasonable distance away from any trap which has been set by someone else.
4. **Beaver House** - The term beaver house shall be interpreted to include any cavity in the bank which is capped by beaver with mud and sticks. The above definition addresses the question of whether or not a bank den is considered to be a beaver house, as well as the question of what is considered to be a bank den. Holes in the bank not capped with mud and sticks shall not be considered beaver houses.
5. **Muskrat Den** - A muskrat den is any cavity, which is capped by muskrats with vegetative matter including but not limited to hollow stumps and bank cavities. Holes in the bank not capped with vegetative matter shall not be considered muskrat dens.
6. **Distance Measurements** - For dams, dens, and houses, all measurements should be made from the trap itself. Sticks and poles used to construct the set are not considered part of the trap. The setback distance shall be measured as follows:
 - House** - Measured from where the nearest edge of the house meets water or ice. In the case of capped cavity on the bank, distance will be measured from where the nearest intersection edge of the cap meets the ground, water, or ice.
 - Dens** - Measured from the nearest opening.
 - Dams** - Beaver dams should be measured from the where the nearest edge of the dam meets ground, water, or ice.
7. **Advanced Preparation on "Trapping Grounds"** - There shall be no installation or placement of trapping implements, associated materials, or supplies or preparation of the site **IN the water or ON the ice** including the associated flowage, marsh, bog, brook, stream, river, pond, or lake prior to the beginning of the trapping season on beaver and muskrat. For species other than muskrat or beaver, you are allowed to go out before the season and prepare the area you want to trap. However, you are never allowed to fasten a trap (set or unset) at any trap site location before opening day.

8. Nuisance Beaver Removal - Every effort shall be made to minimize the out-of-season removal of nuisance beaver by agents of the Commissioner. This shall be accomplished by: (1) maintaining in-season trapping opportunity in problem areas, and (2) restricting the removal of nuisance beaver by agents of the Commissioner prior to the beaver trapping season. Except in emergency situations, no nuisance beaver will be removed within 30 days of the opening day of the beaver trapping season in that area. A list of locations where beaver have been removed within 30 days of the opening of the beaver trapping season will be maintained at regional offices. The above provisions will maintain a greater level of beaver trapping opportunity.
9. "Drowning Set" – A drowning set is a trap, including colony traps, killer-type traps, and foothold traps, that is set completely underwater and rigged in such a way as to reasonably ensure the drowning of any species of trapped furbearer that would reasonably be expected to visit the set location and be held in the type of trap used at the set. (**Note:** You are allowed to trap in shallow water where a trapped animal is **not** likely to drown, but traps set in this manner are not considered to be drowning sets and are **not** allowed within ½ mile of the built up section of a city or town.)

10. Trap Tending Laws - The trap tending laws are as follows:

All traps set in organized towns must be tended daily, except for killer-type traps, drowning sets, and under-ice drowning sets. Each killer type trap or drowning set, except under-ice drowning sets, in organized towns must be tended at least once every three calendar days except if the drowning set is within ½ mile of the built up section of town, then it must be checked every 24 hours.

All traps set in unorganized towns must be tended daily, except for killer-type traps, drowning sets, and under-ice drowning sets. Each killer-type trap or drowning set, except under-ice drowning sets, in unorganized towns must be tended at least once in every 5 calendar days.

This subsection does not apply to under-ice drowning sets for beaver and muskrat.

11. Under ice drowning sets - For enforcement and information purposes, all drowning sets for beaver and muskrat during January and February will be considered "under ice drowning sets" as far as trap tending requirements are concerned.

During November, December, March and April if a drowning set is under-ice there will be no tending requirement. However, if a trap is set in open water the trap tending requirements are: 1) 3 days for killer-type traps and drowning sets, except if the drowning set is within ½ mile of the built up section of town it must be checked every 24 hours, and 2) 5 days for killer-type traps and drowning sets in unorganized towns.

Note: It is legal to use snares set completely under water for beaver during the open season on beaver.

2015-2016 BEAVER TRAPPING SEASON & CLOSURES

WMDs	Season Dates
1, 2, 3, 4,	October 19 – April 30
5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11	November 1 – April 30
18, 19, 28	November 1 – April 15
7, 12, 13, 14, 17, 27	November 1 – March 31
15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29	November 15 – March 31

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 1 **(Open October 19 – April 30)**

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Allagash, except Little Falls Pond and outlet.

Allagash, except Fall Brook Lake.

T18 R10 WELS, except Connors Pond and Connors Brook.

T18 R10 WELS, except Hafey Pond.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 2 **(Open October 19 – April 30)**

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with no part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following town shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

T13 R10 WELS, except Sag Pond.

T13 R10 WELS, except Pete's Pond.

T14 R8 WELS, except Moccasin Pond.

T14 R9 WELS, except North Pond.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 3

(Open October 19 – April 30)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 4

(Open October 19 – April 30)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

T8 R16 WELS, except Desolation Pond.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 5

(Open November 1 – April 30)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following town shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

Trout Brook Twp., except north of Trout Brook.

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Ashland, except unnamed brook on land owned by Artemus and Rosemary Coffin located north of Goding Road and west of Rt. #11.

Moro Plt., except Bradford Pond and Bradford Brook northwest of Rt. 11.

Moro Plt., except Green Pond.

T8 R9 WELS, except Brown Pond.

T8 R11 WELS, except Bluffer Pond.

T9 R9 WELS, except Brown Brook Pond.

T10 R11 WELS, except Upper Deadwater Pond.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 6

(Open November 1 – April 30)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Ashland, except section of Nowland Brook on land owned by Ronald Rushinal adjacent to the Nowland Road.

Castle Hill, except unnamed tributary to North Branch Presque Isle Stream on land owned by Melvin Johnson. Land located on east side of Haystack Mountain and south of Rt. 163.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 7

(Open November 1 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Phillips, except Adley Pond.

Phillips, except Cottle Brook Pond and that portion of Cottle Brook from the Dill Road, upstream to the un-named, unimproved road which connects from the Bang Road to the Dill Road.

Twp. 6 North of Weld, except Mud Pond and outlet.

Upton, except section of B Brook from the confluence with B Pond, downstream to the first road crossing.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 8

(Open November 1 – April 30)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Blake Gore, except Capehorn Pond.

Carrying Place Town Twp. (T2 R3 BKP WKR), except Black Brook Pond, flowage, and outlet downstream to the first gravel road.

Forsythe Twp., except Turner Pond.

Holeb Twp., except Fish Pond and tributaries.

Johnson Mountain Twp., except Markham and outlet to Rt. 201.

Pierce Pond Twp., except Black Brook Pond, flowage, and outlet downstream to the first gravel road.

Prentiss Twp., except Capehorn Pond.

Tomhegan Game Sanctuary, the Pittston Farm Game Sanctuary, the Moosehead Lake Game Sanctuary and Somerset Game Sanctuary shall all be open.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 9

(Open November 1 – April 30)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 10 (Open November 1 – April 30)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 11 (Open November 1 – April 30)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 12 (Open November 1 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely closed with no part of the town open:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be closed but with the excepted part of the town open:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be open but with the excepted part of the town closed:

Gilead, except Carlton Brook.

Hartford, except part of the west tributary to Little Bear Pond that runs through the property owned by Sylvia Mahoney. The closed beaver flowage is located on the northeast side of the Mahoney Road.

Twp. 6 North of Weld, except Mud Pond and outlet.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 13 (Open November 1 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely closed with no part of the town open:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be closed but with the excepted part of the town open:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be open but with the excepted part of the town closed:

Concord Twp., except Owen's Marsh and outlet to Rt. 16.

Temple, except unnamed flowage on an unnamed brook immediately west of the Iisalo Road and immediately north of the Dean Mountain Road.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 14 (Open November 1 – March 31)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 15 (Open November 15 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Brownfield, except Shuther Brook from Peary Mt. Road downstream to Shepards River.

Cornish, except that portion of “the heath”, and eastern tributary of Brown Brook, one-half mile eastward from Watson Hill Road.

Porter, except Thurston Brook from Kennard Hill Road to Bickford Pond and Mill Brook from Maine/New Hampshire border to Bickford Pond.

Waterford, except portion of Kedar Brook upstream of Rt. 37.

Otisfield, except Coon Swamp and tributaries.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 16 (Open November 15 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Mercer, except the land of David P. Van Burgel and Kathy J. Scott, which is located between the Hampshire Hill Road and the Rome Road, and includes a portion of Hilton Brook.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 17

(Open November 1 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Atkinson, except the flowage located on the east side of the Dorr Road and within the Bud Leavitt Wildlife Management Area.

Charleston, except the land of R. Christopher Almy, which includes a portion of South Gate Brook and a tributary to Hudson Brook.

Charleston, except the wetland located down the hill from the Charleston Correctional Facility and bordered by Route 15 and the Whiting Road, and completely within the Bud Leavitt Wildlife Management Area.

Hartland, except tributaries to Thompson Brook west and north of Rt. 23 that are on the property owned by John Studt.

Hermon, except the land of Herbert Bates bordered on the north by the Fuller Road, on the east by the New Boston Road, on the south by Rt. 2/100, and to the west by the Billings Road.

Skowhegan, except an un-named bog located on the land of Sally Knight, east of the East Ridge Road and south of the Notch Road. It is south of Loomis Hill, west of Whittemore Hill, and north of Foster Hill.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 18

(Open November 1 – April 15)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 19

(Open November 1 – April 15)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Princeton, except Slime Meadow Brook.

T3 ND, except Duck Lake Brook.

T4 ND, except Duck Lake Brook.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 20

(Open November 15 – March 31)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 21

(Open November 15 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Pownal, except tributary to Chandler River, between Allen Road and Chadsey Road, and Chandler River between Poland Range Road and Lawrence Road.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 22

(Open November 15 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

Perkins Twp. **(Swan Island)**

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Pittston, except the property owned by Judith Schuppien and Philip Brzozowski located on the west side of the Eastern River and south of the Caston Road.

Woolwich, except area encompassed by Walker Road to the south, the Mountain Road to the east, and the Old Stage Road to the north and west.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 23

(Open November 15 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

China, except the property of H.C. Dillenbeck very large flowage located on Clark Brook. Town map 32 Lots 37 and 38.

Etna, except wetland located east of the Rt. 143, south of I-95, west of the Etna/Carmel town line, and north of the South Etna Road.

Etna, except for the property of Cindy McKay and the wetlands located east of the Plymouth/Etna town line, north of Route 69, west of the West Etna Road, and south of Interstate 95.

Freedom, except wetlands located east of the North Palermo Road, south of the Sibley Road, west of Bennett Lane, and north of Hutchins Corner.

Montville, except the parcel of land owned by the Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance located north of the Burnham Hill Road, west of the Howard Road, south of the Penny Road, and east of the Halldale Road.

Montville, except land owned by the Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance located north of the Burnham Hill Road between Herb Jackson Road and the Mountain Road.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 24

(Open November 15 – March 31)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 25

(Open November 15 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Alna, except north of Rt. 194 to the Alna Town Line, east of Hollywood Blvd, and west of the Egypt Road.

Boothbay, except Meadow Pond located southeast of the Back Narrows Road and north of Route 96.

Bristol, except unnamed tributary to the Pemaquid River that passes through the land owned by James Deucher, north of the Rock Schoolhouse Road. (Fire Road. B 31-1).

Bristol, except Johnson's Meadow on Trout Brook, so called, to the Chamberlain Post Office.

Edgecomb, except area south of Lawrence Road (formerly Mill Road.), east of Parson's Creek, and west of Parson's Point Road and Rt. 27.

Edgecomb, except the wetland known as Hourglass Pond located east of Rt. 26, north of the Middle Road, south of the Town Hall Road, and west of the CMP powerline right-of-way, property of Betty Twarog.

Edgecomb, except Charles & Constance Schmid Land Preserve, a private land preserve that encompasses 766 acres located off of the Middle Road, Old County Road and Mount Hunger Road East, and Mount Hunger Road North.

Hope, except the land east of the junction of Route 17 and Hope Street, north of the junction of Route 17 and Park Street to the Camden town line, south of the Rockport/Camden town line headed west to the Hope town line, south of the Hope town line to Hope Street, and east of Hope Street to the junction of Route 17.

Jefferson, except south of the Atkins Road, west of Rt. 215 to the town line, and west of the Egypt road to the Jefferson /Whitefield town line.

Northport, except the land of Ovid Santoro located east of State Route 52, north of the Northport/Lincolntonville town line, north of Pitcher Pond, west of the thread of Sucker Brook, and south of Pitcher Road.

Rockport, except the land east of the junction of Route 17 and Hope Street, north of the junction of Route 17 and Park Street to the Camden town line, south of the Rockport/Camden town line headed west to the Hope town line, south of the Hope town line to Hope Street, and east of Hope Street to the junction of Route 17.

South Thomaston, except the land of C. M. Waterman, so called Towers Brook, west and north of Route 73, and south of the Grierson Road.

Whitefield, except the land owned by Paul and Mary Fournier located north of the Jewett Road in the Jefferson-Whitefield Sanctuary.

Whitefield, except the land owned by Lisa Tuttle, including the beaver flowage located along the west side of Weary Pond Road, just inside the boundary of the Jefferson-Whitefield Sanctuary.

Whitefield, except east of the Weary Pond Road to the Jefferson/Whitefield Town line, east of Hollywood Blvd to the Jefferson/Whitefield Town Line, and south of the Hilton Road.

Note: Land in the Jefferson-Whitefield Sanctuary that is in the town of Whitefield will be open to beaver trapping except for the area described above.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 26

(Open November 15 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Eddington, except Merrill Road Brook which crosses the Merrill Road in East Eddington.

Searsport, except flowage on the property of Richard and Joyce Stevens located south and east of the junction of the Mt. Ephraim road and the Nickels Road.

Stonington, except Ames Pond and its inlet.

Swanville, except flowage located on the northwest corner of Swan Lake on the property owned by Alfred Miliano.

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 27

(Open November 1– March 31)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 28

(Open November 1 – April 15)

No closures within this Wildlife Management District

Closed areas for Wildlife Management District 29

(Open November 15 – March 31)

The following towns shall be completely **closed** with **no** part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **closed** but with the excepted part of the town **open**:

(No towns in this category in this District)

The following towns shall be **open** but with the excepted part of the town **closed**:

Frenchboro, except Long Island.

AVOIDING INCIDENTAL CAPTURES

Bald Eagles

In past years, the single biggest factor leading to the incidental capture of bald eagles was the use of exposed bait. It is required for trappers to cover exposed bait that is within 50 yards of a trap. Bait must be covered so that it is not visible from above and be covered in such a way that the covering will not easily be blown off in the wind. Bait that must be covered includes feathers or other animal parts used as attractants, such as might be used to trap bobcat. Examples of trap sets where exposed bait resulted in an incidental eagle capture are fisher and marten sets, float sets for muskrats where more than one trap is set on the float (if multiple traps are set, eagles may get caught in one of the remaining traps), pocket sets along stream banks, and traps set near carrion. Bald eagles are particularly attracted to sets where fish are used as bait. Several eagles have been caught in traps baited with fish when water levels dropped leaving the fish exposed, so do not depend on water to hide bait.

TRAPPING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

The Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Landowner Relations Program is working towards enhancing the relationship between landowners and land users. With approximately 94% of the land in Maine in private ownership, everyone must respect all landowners and their rights as landowners. All landowner wishes have to be followed by all outdoor recreational participants to help ensure access and use of private property in the years to come.

Trappers are expected to abide by a higher standard of landowner permission than any of the other outdoor recreational participants. This standard is a law that requires written permission from the landowner before going on someone else's land to set traps, except for beaver.

Trappers as a whole have done a great job in abiding by this requirement. The end result has been a better understanding of trapping by the landowners and the public in general. Contacting the landowners for permission does put an extra burden on the trapper. However, the one-on-one communication between the trapper and landowner plays a vital role in improving landowner relations -- not only for trappers -- but for all outdoor recreational participants.

Although you are not required to get written permission before trapping beaver on land you do not own, you are not allowed to go on another person's land to trap beaver if the landowner has asked you not to go there, either verbally or by posted notice.

We receive several complaints each year where trappers have set up on a beaver colony that the landowner does not want removed. Please make every effort to avoid this type of conflict. You can do that by communicating with landowners prior to the opening of the trapping season as to what their wishes or concerns may be.

The law covering abuse of another's property contains several prohibited acts, but the one most likely to be encountered by a trapper is the cutting of trees or branches on the land of another. Cutting is not allowed without landowner permission.

We would like to thank all trappers for the excellent efforts they have displayed in helping us improve landowner relations. What you do does make a difference.

OTHER MATTERS OF ATTENTION

New England Cottontail Rabbits

If you are trapping in southern Maine, IFW would like to know if you accidentally trap or see New England cottontail rabbits. Cottontail rabbits are smaller than snowshoe hare, have hind feet less than 4 inches in length, and do not turn white in the winter. Their coat remains brown all year round. Please let us know about any rabbits you see. This is Maine's only native rabbit and IFW is actively trying to restore its population. Identifying new areas where the rabbit occurs could greatly benefit restoration efforts. If you accidentally capture a cottontail rabbit, please contact a biologist in your region or Wally Jakubas at walter.jakubas@maine.gov or 941-4471.

Nuisance Beaver

A list of nuisance beaver sites **may** be available for your area. Please contact your regional wildlife office if you are interested in the location of recent nuisance beaver removal sites or the location of any current nuisance sites. Regional wildlife offices are listed at the back of this booklet.

Temporary Marten and Fisher Tags

Please remember that a temporary tag must be signed, dated, and attached to captured marten or fisher at the time the animal is removed from the capture site. Fur tagging agents are to retain the temporary tag from each marten or fisher after they attach the permanent fur tag to the pelt.

Pelt Tagging Requirements

Trappers must have all their fall fur tagged within 10 days after the season ends. The Department will be collecting the fur tagging books 20 days after the close of the season of the fall trapping season (i.e., around January 20). The Department uses fur tagging information to monitor the population trends of furbearers. If fur remains untagged, the accuracy of our furbearer management systems is diminished. Collecting fur tagging books earlier in the year will allow sufficient time to determine furbearer population levels and to discuss these findings with trappers and regional biologists prior to formulating trapping regulations.

Collared and Ear-tagged Animals

If you catch a collared or ear-tagged animal in one of your traps, that is NOT a lynx, you may take the animal for fur. However, you will need to return the collar and tags, and we would appreciate knowing where you caught the animal. Please call the nearest regional MDIFW office to report the location of the catch to a wildlife biologist and arrange to return the radio collar and tags.

IDENTIFYING RARE MAMMALS

Lynx vs. Bobcat Know the Difference

The most notable difference between a lynx and a bobcat is paw size. Lynx paws are about twice the size of bobcat paws. Lynx can also be distinguished from bobcats by the tip of their tail, which is completely black (bobcat tail tips are black on the upper side [dorsal side] and white underneath). Lynx have more prominent ear tufts, paler coloration, less spotting, and longer legs than a bobcat. Please know the difference between bobcat, lynx, and fisher tracks (Table 3, Figure 5).

If you trap a bobcat that looks like a cross between a lynx and a bobcat, we would like to know about it. We have recovered several lynx-bobcat hybrids in north central Maine and are interesting in documenting other specimens. Remember, if you are uncertain whether you have trapped a lynx or a bobcat please call a biologist or warden before dispatching the animal. If you have already dispatched the animal, and think it has unusual characteristics for a bobcat, we are still interested in seeing it.

Wolves

Please let us know about any animals you encounter that are wolf-like in appearance.

Large coyotes (50 + pounds) are very rare. Any canid 50 pounds or greater may be a wolf, wolf-hybrid, or domestic dog (See Table 3, Figure 4). Maine law protects all wildlife from hunting or trapping when there is not a specific hunting or trapping season for the species. It is also illegal to indiscriminately shoot domestic dogs or wolf-hybrids. We have documented several wolves and wolf hybrids over the last 20 years. In most cases, we believe these animals were released from captivity. However, we also know that wild wolves have been trapped in southern Quebec and it would have been possible for these animals to travel into Maine. Wolves are considered a federally endangered animal in the Northeast and it is illegal to kill them.

Please use care in identifying any large canids you encounter. If you suspect you have a canine in a trap that is over 4.5 ft. in length (from tip of tale to nose) or over 50 pounds it may be a wolf. Please contact your regional biologist before dispatching the animal.

If you see tracks, hear howling, or find other sign that indicates that a wolf is nearby, please contact our Department. Wolves of the Laurentides Reserve of Quebec (the nearest established wolf population to Maine) range from 55 - 105 pounds. Wolves have proportionately longer legs, frame, and larger feet than coyotes. Compared to coyote tracks, wolf tracks are larger and rounder (Table 3, Figure 4). Wolf coloration ranges from black to very light beige. Many wolves are tan with grizzled black and gray - similar to Maine's coyotes.

TRACK AND TRACK PATTERNS FOR COUGAR, LYNX, AND WOLF; WITH COMPARISONS TO MORE COMMON SPECIES

Table 3. Distinguishing track characteristics

Species	General Shape	Walking Stride	Print Size (Front Foot)	Track Pattern
Bobcat	General round appearance. Heel points in slightly different direction than toes. No nail marks, but if present, attached to toe marks.	6" to 14"	Length - 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Width - 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " to 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ "	Direct or double register walking pattern. Trail pattern zigzags right-left-right-left.
Lynx	Same as bobcat but tracks show a lot more hair. Smaller pads than a cougar.	11" to 18"	Length - 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Width - 3" to 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " Outline of hair impression Length - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " Width - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Same as bobcat
Cougar	Same as bobcat	20" to 32"	Length - 3" to 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " Width - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 3 $\frac{9}{16}$ "	Walking pattern similar to other cats. Deep snow may show belly and tail drag marks.
Coyote	4 toes, oval shaped track, Front nails often close together. Side nails often do not register.	Eastern: 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 26"	Eastern: Length - 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Width - 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Trail pattern usually is in a straight line. Walking pattern is usually direct registering
Dog	Similar to wolves and coyotes. Inner toes often splayed outwards.	Varies with breed	Varies with breed	Trail pattern sloppy, wandering, not usually in a straight line. Walking pattern is often double register.
Wolf	4 toes, symmetrical track, longer than wide, more rounded than a coyote, nail marks not attached to toe mark (same as coyote), 4 nails register.	Algonquin: 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Algonquin: Length - 4" - 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Width - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " Other: Length - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ " - 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Width - 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " - 5"	Trail pattern usually is in a straight line. Walking pattern is usually direct registering.

Terminology:

Direct register - a walking pattern where the animal's forefoot is overprinted by the hind foot.



Double or Indirect register - a walking pattern where the animal's hind foot does not fall directly on the front track.

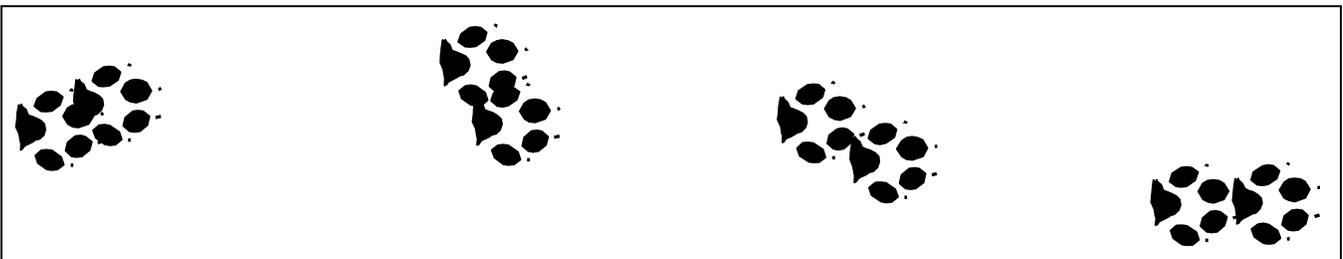


Figure 4. Comparison of wolf, coyote, and dog tracks. Illustrations follow those in Rezendes (1992).

Wolf Track Pattern



3" to 7"



20 1/2"
to
28 1/2"



Coyote Track Pattern



2 1/2" to 5 1/2"



17 1/2"
to
26"



Dog Track Pattern



Note for Coyotes and Wolves

If you have an animal in hand and wish to determine whether it is a coyote or wolf, measure its total length (Tip of nose to tip of tail). An animal over 4 ft. in length may be a wolf.

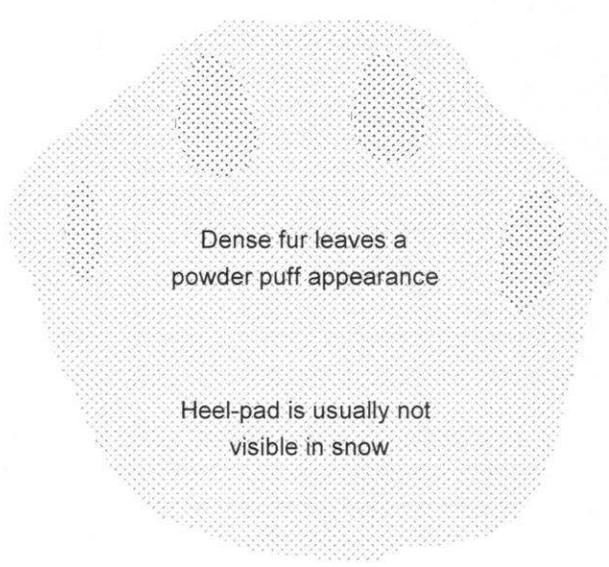
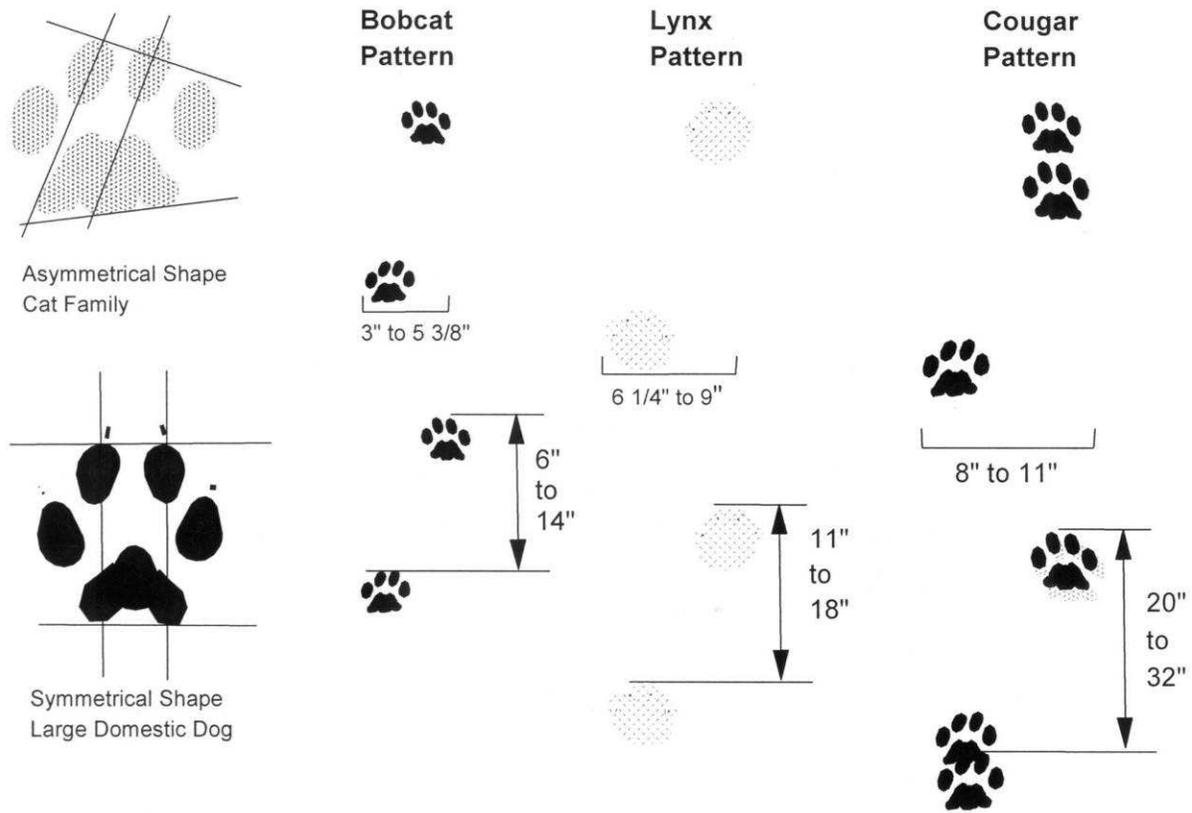


WOLF PRINT, ACTUAL SIZE



COYOTE PRINT, ACTUAL SIZE

Figure 5. Comparisons of canine and cat tracks, and bobcat, lynx, and cougar tracks. Illustrations follow those in Rezendes (1992) and Elbroch (2003).



LYNX PRINT, ACTUAL SIZE



COUGAR PRINT, ACTUAL SIZE

2015-2016 FUR TAGGING STATIONS

(fur may also be tagged at MDIFW regional offices)

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Allagash	Allagash Outfitters 1070 Allagash Road, ME 04774	398-3277
Alton	Northland Taxidermy 260 Alton Tannery Road, Alton, ME 04468	394-2031
Athens	William Thompson Route 43, PO Box 55, Athens, ME 04912	431-3158
Atkinson	Snow's Saw Shop 101 South Stagecoach Road, Atkinson, ME 04426	564-7763
Belgrade Lakes	Day's Store 180 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918	495-2205
Bethel	Bethel Bait Tackle and More 7 Mechanic Street, Bethel, ME 04217	357-4400
Bridgton	Doug Taft 135 Kimball Road, Bridgton, ME 04057	647-8280
Brownville	Guy Green 62 Main Road, Brownville, ME 04414	965-8369
Brunswick	Johnson's Sporting Goods Inc. 206 Bath Road, Brunswick, ME 04011	725-7531
Buckfield	Bill's Fur 289 Paris Hill Road, Buckfield, ME 04220	376-6406
Cape Elizabeth	Yankee Trapper Bait and Lure 200 Fowler Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107	799-6858
Carmel	Alaska To Maine Taxidermy 43 Marcho Rd, Carmel, ME 04419	848-2926
Chesterville	The Chesterville Mall 2 Dutch Gap Road, Chesterville, ME 04938	779-0700
Cornville	Howard Bros Custom Firearm 1074 Beckwith Road, Cornville, ME 04976	474-4632
Dayton	Wild Wings Taxidermy 728 Goodwins Mills Rd, Dayton, ME 04005	339-6012
Eagle Lake	Bald Eagle Store Inc. 3318 Aroostook Road, Eagle Lake, ME 04739	444-5115
East Waterboro	Peter Sterling Taxidermy 601 Deering Ridge Road, East Waterboro, ME 04030	247-3989
Fayette	D&C Taxidermy 2530 Main St. Rt. 117, Fayette, ME 04349	215-7527

2015-2016 FUR TAGGING STATIONS

(fur may also be tagged at MDIFW regional offices)

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Fort Kent	Quigley's 35 West Main Street. Fort Kent, ME 04743	834-3102
Gardiner	Carlton Trip 15 Capen Road, Gardiner, ME 04345	582-7775
Hampden	JC's Variety 995 Western Ave., Hampden, ME 04444	862-3334
Holden	Stevens Fur Company PO Box 1159, Holden, ME 04429	843-5052
Houlton	MACS Trading Post 54 North Street, Suite 1, Houlton, ME 04730	532-9700
Jackman	Bishop's Store Inc. 464 Main Street, Jackman, ME 04945	668-3411
Kenduskeag	Jerry Braley 559 Clark Road North, Kenduskeag, ME 04450	944-9029
Lagrange	Lagrange General Store 2 Mill Street, Lagrange, ME 04453	943-0999
Lincolnville	Four Aces Arms 926 Beach Road, Lincolnville, ME 04849	763-4570
Lisbon	Big Dag's 675 Lisbon St, Lisbon, ME 04250	407-1417
Litchfield	Arnold St. Claire 1313 West Road, Litchfield, ME 04350	268-3490
Litchfield	Litchfield Country Store 1908 Hallowell Road, Litchfield, ME 04350	268-9910
Magalloway	Sporting Camp 171 Sturtevant Pond Rd. Magalloway, ME 04216	486-9308
Minot	Village Trading Post PO Box 94, Minot, ME 04258	966-2631
Moose River	Melynda's Bait Shop 38 Pleasant Street, Moose River, ME 04945	668-4417
Morrill	Adrienne Simmons 261 Weymouth Road, Morrill, ME 04952	342-2444
Mount Vernon	Ayotte's Fur, 238 Sadie Road, Mount Vernon, ME 04352	907-9381
Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon Country Store 16 Main Street, Mount Vernon, ME 04352	293-2202

2015-2016 FUR TAGGING STATIONS

(fur may also be tagged at MDIFW regional offices)

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Naples	Naples Bait and Tackle 38 Harrison Road, Naples, ME 04055	693-3638
Nobleboro	Nobleboro Village Store 255 Center Street, Nobleboro, ME 04555	563-3639
Norway	Farrar's Deer Processing 1 Grove St, Norway, ME 04268	739-6045
Oakland	Northeast Trapping Supply 21 High Street, Oakland, ME 04963	649-5084
Old Town	Old Town Trading Post 1681 Bennoch Road, Old Town, ME, 04468	827-7032
Oxbow Plt.	The Homestead Lodge 871 Oxbow Road, Oxbow Plt., ME 04764	435-6357
Parsonsfield	B and D Furs 416 Moulton Hill Road, Parsonsfield, ME 04047	776-3430
Phippsburg	Reginald Read 178 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562	442-8421
Poland	Poland Spring Trading Post 481 Main Street, Poland, ME 04274	998-2806
Pittsfield	Trafton's Fur Company 515 Hartland Avenue, Pittsfield, ME 04967	487-3938
Porter	Fred Iler 25 Porter Springs Road, Porter, ME 04068	625-7019
Presque Isle	Ben's Trading Post 719 Main Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769	768-3181
Princeton	George Blaney 667 Main Street, Princeton, ME 04668	796-2470
Richmond	Peary's Trading Post 1079 Brunswick Rd, Richmond, ME 04357	346-7621
Rockland	Johnson's Sporting Goods 51 Park Street, Rockland, ME 04841	594-2916
Rumford	Rumford Fire Department 151 Congress Street, Rumford, ME 04276	364-2901
Sanford	Dennis Theriault Taxidermy 13 Taxidermy Lane (Off Whichers Mill Rd), Sanford, ME 04073	324-8025
South Berwick	Ray's Auto Repair 16 Junction Road, South Berwick, ME 03908	384-9908

2015-2016 FUR TAGGING STATIONS

(fur may also be tagged at MDIFW regional offices)

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Standish	Andi Syemor 154 River Road, Standish, ME 04084	642-4649
Stow	Stow General Store 590 Stow Road, Stow, ME 04037	697-2255
Sumner	J & J Variety 823 Main Street, Sumner, ME 04292	388-2086
Topsham	Whitetail Taxidermy 22 Beedle Road, Richmond, ME 04357	751-7942
Turner	Fur Trapping Supplies and Lures 11 Lard Pond Rd. Turner, ME 04282	225-5940
Van Buren	Ouellette's Trading Post 200 Champlain Street, Van Buren, ME 04785	868-2727
Wesley	Fox Hill General Store 4525 Airline Road, Wesley, ME 04686	255-3700
West Minot	Village Trading Post PO Box 94, West Minot, ME 04288	966-2631
Windsor	Hussey's General Store 510 Ridge Road, Windsor, ME 04363	445-2511
Wiscasset	Mike Log Cabin Inc. 475 Gardiner Road., Wiscasset, ME 04578	350-0994
Woolwich	Mrs. Gloria Kenney 1505 Middle Road, Woolwich, ME 04579	442-7833

MDIFW REGIONAL OFFICES

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Ashland	PO Box 447 (63 Station Hill), Ashland, ME 04732	435-3231
Enfield	73 Cobb Road, Enfield, ME 04493	732-4132
Gray	358 Shaker Road, Gray, ME 04039	657-2345
Greenville	PO Box 551 (Village Street), Greenville, ME 04441	695-3756
Jonesboro	PO Box 220 (Rt. 1A), Jonesboro, ME 04648	434-5927
Sidney	270 Lyons Road, Sidney, ME 04330	547-5300
Strong	689 Farmington Road, Strong, ME 04983	778-3324

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

