

Compliance with Maine's Incidental Take Permit -TE48539B
2016 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 2016-17 trapping season, 10 lynx were incidentally captured in foothold traps set for canids. No lynx were caught in killer-type traps set for marten and fisher, in aquatic sets, or traps set by ADC agents. All 10 lynx were captured by licensed fur-trappers; none were captured by trappers enrolled in MDIFW's Predator Management program (Table 3). 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.

The USFWS issued an incidental take permit that took effect on November 17, 2014 that covers MDIFW 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. This fall, 6 of the lynx captured in foothold traps were released from traps by IFW biologists or wardens with no or minor injuries. Two lynx were released by the trapper and were reported as uninjured. Two of the 10 lynx captures are currently under investigation as the lynx were shot and killed illegally after they were captured. Since these are active open investigations, how these two trapping incidents will count towards our allocation of take will be determined by the USFWS after the cases are closed.

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: None

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 2016-17 trapping season, 10 lynx were captured in foothold traps. No lynx were captured in killer-type traps (Table 1). IFW wardens investigated all 10 lynx incidental captures and notified USFWS Special Agents of all captures and violations. The USFWS was provided copies of all 10 lynx incidental capture reports. A summary of those reports are provided below.

Of the 10 lynx captured in foothold traps this fall, 8 were alive and trappers contacted IFW prior to the release or within 24 hours of releasing the lynx as required by State law. IFW biologists or game wardens released 6 lynx. Trappers reported releasing 2 lynx with no injuries. All 8 were legal traps and no warnings or summon were issued. The circumstances surrounding the two remaining lynx caught and shot this fall are under active investigations by Federal Agents and State Game Wardens.

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
10/18/2016	10/18/2016	Foot-trap	sedation	Yes	
10/18/2016	10/18/2016	Foot-trap	sedation	Yes	
10/19/2016	10/19/2016	Foot-trap	released by trapper	Yes	
10/22/2016	10/22/2016	Foot-trap	released by warden	Yes	
10/29/2016	10/29/2016	Foot-trap	sedation	Yes	
11/16/2016	11/16/2016	Foot-trap	sedation	Yes	
11/18/2016	11/18/2016	Foot-trap	sedation	Yes	
11/18/2016	11/18/2016	Foot-trap	released by trapper	Yes	
	10/22/2016	Foot-trap	n/a shot	No	Under investigation
11/17/2016	11/17/2016	Foot-trap	n/a shot	Yes	Under investigation

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 2016-17 trapping season, 10 lynx were captured in foothold traps and were investigated by IFW wardens. At least 8 of the trappers were found in compliance with Maine's visible bait restriction. Two remain active investigations.

Table 2. For the 2016-17 trapping season at least 8 of 10 traps that caught lynx were set in compliance with Maine's visible bait regulations.

Report Number	Date incident	Date reported	Type of Trap	summons	Bait visible	WS investigation	Legal Set
2016-TRP001	10/18/2016	10/18/2016	Foot-trap	No	No	No	TRUE
2016-TRP002	10/18/2016	10/18/2016	Foot-trap	No	No	No	TRUE
2016-TRP003	10/19/2016	10/19/2016	Foot-trap	No	No	No	TRUE
2016-TRP004	10/22/2016	10/22/2016	Foot-trap	No	N/A no bait	No	TRUE
2016-TRP005	10/29/2016	10/29/2016	Foot-trap	No	No	No	TRUE
2016-TRP006	11/16/2016	11/16/2016	Foot-trap	No	N/A no bait	No	TRUE
2016-TRP007	11/18/2016	11/18/2016	Foot-trap	No	N/A no bait	No	TRUE
2016-TRP008	11/18/2016	11/18/2016	Foot-trap	No	No	No	TRUE
2016- IT001	Unknown	10/22/2016	Foot-trap	Yes		Yes	Under Investigation
2016- IT002	11/17/2016	11/17/2016	Foot-trap			Yes	Under Investigation

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 2016 incidental capture of lynx from IFW's incidental capture database for compliance with ITP objectives.

Report Number	Date incident	Reported by trapper	PMP trapper	Type of Trap	Bait visible	Jaw spread	# Swivels	Center mounted chain	Securing method	Catch Circle Clear	Disposition	Injury	Injury Score of Sedated Lynx	Degree of injury	Released	Release Date	Legal Set
2016-TRP001	10/18/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap	No	6.50	3	Yes	staked	Yes	Alive	Yes	1	mild - treat release	Yes	10/18/2016	Yes
2016-TRP002	10/18/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap	No	4.69	3	Yes	staked	Yes	Alive	No	0	no injury	Yes	10/18/2016	Yes
2016-TRP003	10/19/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap	No	4.88	3	Yes	staked	Yes	Alive	Not sedated		no injury observed	Yes	10/19/2016	Yes
2016-TRP004	10/22/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap	No	4.88	3	Yes	staked	Yes	Alive	Not sedated		no injury observed	Yes	10/22/2016	Yes
2016-TRP005	10/29/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap	No	5.25	3	Yes	staked	Yes	Alive	Yes	1	mild - treat release	Yes	10/29/2016	Yes
2016-TRP006	11/16/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap	No	4.75	3	Yes	staked	Yes	Alive	Yes	1	mild - treat release	Yes	11/16/2016	Yes
2016-TRP007	11/18/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap	No	4.88	3	Yes	staked	Yes	Alive	No	0	no injury	Yes	11/18/2016	Yes
2016-TRP008	11/18/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap	No	5.13	3	Yes	staked	Yes	Alive	Not sedated		no injury observed	Yes	11/18/2016	Yes
2016-IT001	Fall 2016	No	No	Foot-trap							Dead				No	N/A	Under investigation
2016-IT002	11/17/2016	Yes	No	Foot-trap							Dead				No	N/A	Under investigation

Note: If jaw-spread is n/a, then the trap was set in a WMD without jaw-spread restrictions. If injury states not sedated, the animal was released by the trapper or a game warden and an injury score could not be assigned. However, each indicated they did not observe a visible sign of injury during release.

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 (see 2015 Annual report). At the request of staff, this protocol was adapted into a step by step protocol to improve use in the field. Although the format and presentation of material is improved, the procedures are unchanged (Appendix 1).

Item 6b. Copy of injury scoring system.

IM 3 - 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: The ITP requires the injury score system be developed within 1 year after permit issuance. An injury scoring system was developed by Dr. David Cloutier, DVM in consultation with IFW in 2015 and provided in the second annual report (also see Appendix 1). Although the permit requires that the injury score system will be evaluated every three year thereafter (e.g., November 2018) to determine if updates are necessary, we reviewed the score system this year and determined it remained appropriate.

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:

2016-2017 List of Cooperating Veterinarians

1. Dr. David Cloutier, DVM and staff – 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 (207) 764-6392.
3. Dr. Ron Miles DVM, Foxcroft Veterinary Services, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine (207) 564-2144.
4. 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

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: A formal training was not required this year, since Dr. David Cloutier, DVM provided a full day training course for IFW wildlife biological staff in September of 2015. However, MDIFW biological staff involved in response to lynx captures participated in a conference call to review procedures and address questions. As part of this call, a suggestion to update the response protocol to follow a step- by- step or check list format was recommended and implemented (See Item 6A and Appendix 1).

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

¹ A 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

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 6 lynx captured in foothold traps. A veterinarian was available to accompany us on the 4th and 5th captures this fall. However, based on weather conditions (heavy rain), drive time, no visible signs of injury and normal animal behavior, the warden released the 4th lynx from the trap before our arrival per established procedures. On the 5th capture, the weather permitted waiting for a veterinarian to arrive on scene. The lynx was a healthy adult female and during the injury assessment by staff, a small laceration was observed dorsally on the left front foot. The laceration was irrigated with saline and closed with gluture following established procedures. The lynx was released on-site immediately following recovery from the sedative. Dr. Tardiff, from Veazie Veterinarian Clinic, observed the assessment and agreed with MDIFW biologist's injury assessment and treatment and release plan. During the 2014-15 trapping season, veterinarians examined two lynx captured in foothold traps (see 2014 annual report). Thus, during the first 3 years of our permit, veterinarians examined 3 lynx to ensure injury evaluations by IFW were assessed correctly and appropriate treatment was administered.

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

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: Ten lynx were captured this fall. Of these, 8 lynx were released on-site immediately after capture. Of those, 3 were female. No lynx kittens were orphaned or held in captivity this trapping season, since none of the 3 female lynx caught in traps were held to recover from injuries. Two lynx caught this fall and shot are part of an active investigation.

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, 2016. Presented at the spring meeting of the Maine Trappers Association (MTA) to discuss exclusion device compliance and use, and answer questions related to regulations and furbearer management.

May 16th, 2016. Attended MTA meeting in Augusta to discuss proposed regulation changes to bobcat and beaver trapping, and biological sample submissions for certain furbearers.

August 19th-20th 2016. IFW staffed booth at NE trappers weekend in Bethel, ME. Answered questions related to exclusion devices, foothold regulations, biological sample submission, and general furbearer management.

September 17th, 2016. Presented at the MTA Fall Rendezvous. Answered questions related to exclusion devices, foothold regulations, biological sample submission, and general furbearer management.

October 12th, 2016. Met with new contractors of the MDIFW predator management program to discuss foothold regulations, lynx capture minimization measures, and what to do in the event of a lynx capture.

December 4th, 2016. Met with the directors of the MTA to discuss proposed regulation changes and dimensions of exclusion devices.

December 12th, 2016. Attended MTA sponsored fall fur auction in Palmyra. Answered questions regarding furbearer regulations.

February 6th, 2017. Attended W. Maine MTA chapter to discuss furbearer mgmt, exclusion device and foothold regulations.

March 31st, 2017. Presented at Spring Furbearer Meeting in Augusta. Discussed harvest data, research needs, and trapping regulations.

April 20th and 21st 2017. Trapping Matters Workshop in Brewer. Discussed communication about trapping and participated in mock trapping demonstrations.

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

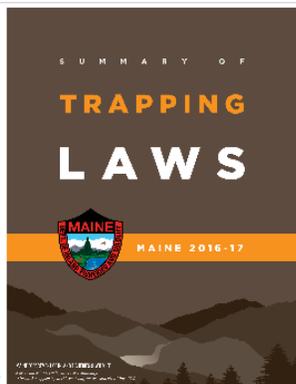
Commitment: Each year, IFW will update a summary booklet that describes the current laws and regulations that govern hunting and trapping in Maine. This booklet includes a special lynx regulation page that describes all the current regulations to minimize and report lynx captures. IFW’s Information and 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, the summary booklet that describes the current laws and regulations that govern hunting and trapping in Maine were separated into two books one re: hunting and the second re: trapping. The trapper information booklet was also incorporated into the new trapping law summary book. This booklet will be updated annually and available in print where trapping licenses are sold, at MDIFW offices, at trapper education classes, and online.

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

The following pages relevant to lynx and avoiding lynx remain on MDIFW website

1. Trapping page - http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/index.htm
2. Lynx biology- http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/mammals/canada_lynx.html
3. Lynx avoidance - http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/avoid_lynx.htm

The trapping page was updated to include this year’s trapping law summary booklet and a link to the “How to Avoid Lynx in Traps” YouTube video.

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 Department separated the Annual Hunting and Trapping Law Summary into separate books. In addition, the trapping law summary book also included information from the trapper information booklet, so all trapping information was available in a single document. This year's mailing included a letter to trappers and portions of the trapper law summary book relevant to lynx avoidance (Appendix 2), and the DVD on How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx. The mailing was prepared by querying the licensing databases for licensed trappers, the ADC database for agents, and internal department databases for warden and biologist addresses. Letters were printed by Central Printing and mailed through State Postal services on October 7, 2016. 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., ADC agents and bear trappers are required to have a trapping license to set a trap; to avoid duplication bear trapping permit and ADC agents was set to 0 below. Note: In 2016, there were 178 licensed ADC agents).

Complimentary Disabled Veteran Lifetime Trapping	237
Nonresident Infant Lifetime Junior Trapping License	2
Resident 65 Year Old Lifetime trapping License	295
Resident 66 Year Old Lifetime Trapping License	164
Resident 67 Year Old Lifetime Trapping License	112
Resident 68 Year Old Lifetime Trapping License	80
Resident 69 Year Old Lifetime Trapping License	50
Resident Complimentary Lifetime Trapping	975
Resident Infant Lifetime Junior Trapping License	135
Resident Lifetime Junior Trapping License	71
Nonresident Bear Trapping Permit	0
Nonresident Trapping	129
Resident Apprentice Trapping	21
Resident Bear Trapping Permit	0
Resident Junior Trapping	193
Resident Serviceman Trapping	0
Resident Trapping	2,372
Nonresident Apprentice Trapping	3
Nonresident Youth Lifetime Junior Trapping	1
Resident Lifetime Trapping License (Upgrade from Youth)	14
ADC agents	0
MDIF&W Wardens and Biologists	115
Total	4,969

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: During the 2015-2016 season, 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. Thus, compliance has been met until the 2020-2021 season, unless a regulatory change occurs. In addition, the brochure remains available on our website and by request.

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 Maine's Trapper Safety classes (see 2015 Annual Report). No changes were made to the course material this year other than the addition of the How to Avoid Lynx DVD.

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

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: On October 7th, 2016, all licensed trappers or those otherwise authorized to trap were mailed a copy of the dvd, which is also available on our website at:

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: November 16th, 2016 – Annual Meeting with Regional Safety Unit Staff

Jen Vashon (State lynx biologist) and Cory Mosby (State furbearer biologist) provided PowerPoint presentations on furbearer and lynx issues relevant to trapper and hunter education classes with a Q&A. Presentation covered federal protection status, lynx population status and distribution in Maine, lynx incidental take and our permit, hunting and trapping regulations related to lynx, outreach materials (video, brochure, law books), and lynx identification.

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

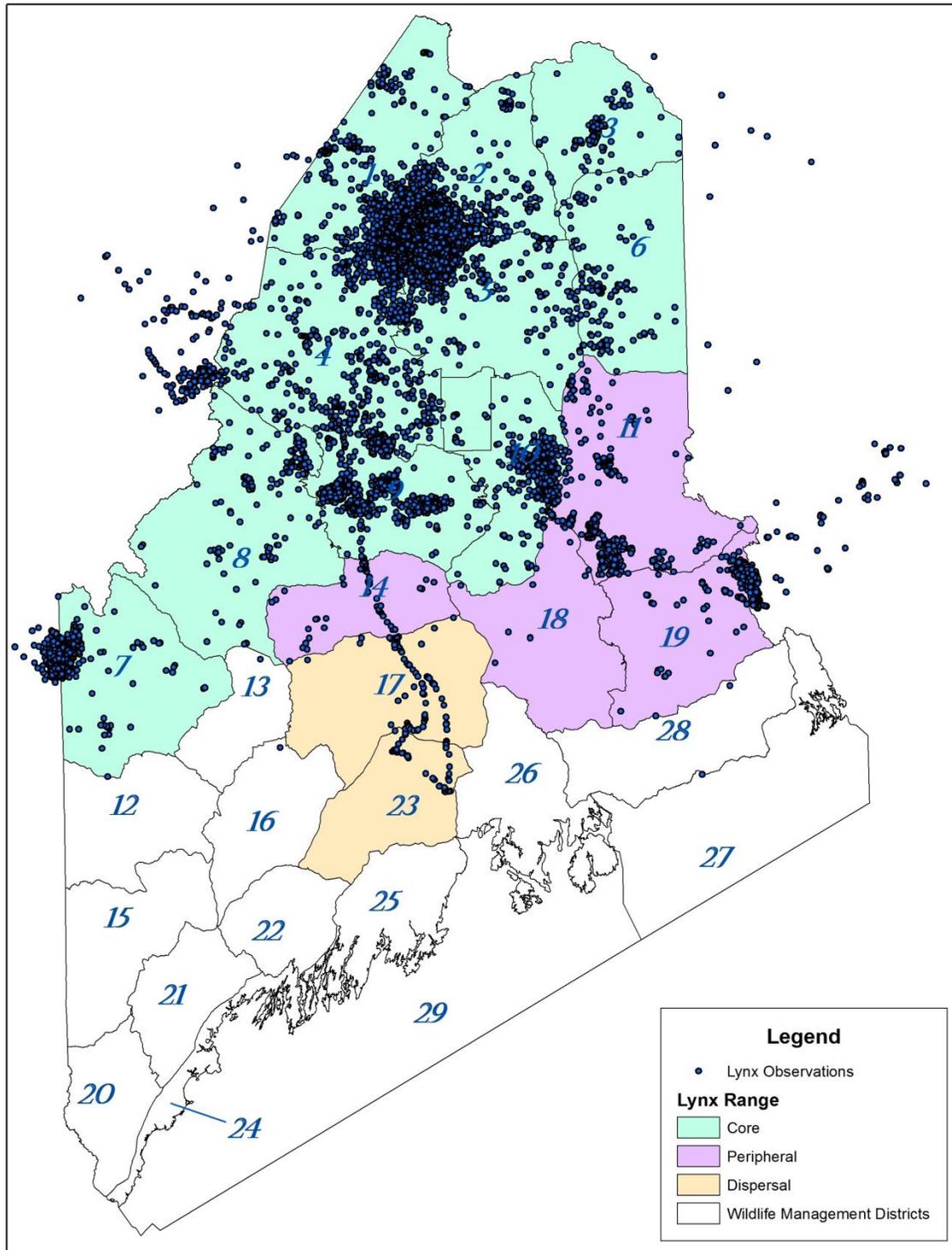
Commitment: IFW will document credible lynx observations to determine changes in the lynx range in Maine including evidence that lynx have become established in a new WMD (e.g., repeated observations, presence of kittens, etc.). To ensure that trapping regulations will offer the same level of protection 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: Only one new credible lynx observation was observed outside WMD's that currently provide protections to lynx from incidental trapping (WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19). This involved a lynx that was struck by a vehicle in Columbia Falls (WMD 28). As indicated in our ITP, observations of dead lynx (e.g., road mortalities) will provide supportive information about changes in lynx distribution, but will not by themselves trigger changes to the occupancy status of a WMD. We updated Maine's GIS layer of credible lynx observation through 2016 (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 2016. 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 observations in WMD 13, 16, 28 do not meet criteria for extending lynx minimization measures (see Appendix 5 MDIFW Lynx Incidental Take Plan).



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 (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 2016 trapping season, wardens checked 32 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 estimated that there were between 117 and 187 trappers setting marten and fisher traps in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19. Wardens checked an estimated 17-27% of the fisher and marten trappers. No instances of non-reporting of lynx captures were found during these checks. The majority of traps (88%) set by 32 trappers were compliant with Maine's trapping regulations (Table 5). One of the traps checked was found with a visible bait violation (insufficient cover). Only 11 of 102 traps (11%) were found with exclusion device violations and most included minor infractions. Three of 4 trappers were issued a warning and advised on how to correct the problem. One trapper was given a summons for multiple trapping violations included violations not related to lynx avoidance (Table 6).

Of the 32 trappers checked, 4 (12.5%) were found to be in non-compliance with killer-type trap regulations with at least one or more of their traps, triggering changed circumstance #5 in the ITP. See Item 22.

Table 5. Summary of 2016 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.

	Killer-type traps set for marten or fisher
Number of trappers checked	32
Number of trappers in violation	4
Number of legal traps	91
Number of illegal traps	11
Number of visible bait violations	1
Number without exclusion device	0
Number of non-reporting lynx captures	0
Number of summons	1
Number of warnings	3

Table 6. Summary of 2016 compliance checks by Maine Game Wardens where 4 of 32 trappers set 11 of 102 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
Visible bait	1	1	Bait insufficiently covered - warning
Baffle on exclusion device incorrectly placed	1	2	Trapper advised of how to correct problem – warning
Construction of exclusion device	2	9	Exclusion device not securely attached other trapping violations not related to lynx avoidance - summonsed Wire at point of attachment of exclusion devise did not overlap sufficiently - 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 (p. 102-104)**

Activity this report period: Trapper effort as determined from voluntary trapper effort cards, harvest and license sales.

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: For the 2016 season, 66 trappers harvested a coyote or fox in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19. While this is similar to the 2015 results of 61 trappers, it is still substantially lower than what has been recorded in the recent past. Before the implementation of the foothold regulation changes for the 2015 season, the previous five year average (2010-2014) of trappers harvesting a coyote or fox in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19 was 206 trappers. When comparing this average to the 2015 and 2016 seasons, we document approximately a 70% decline in canid trappers in these WMD's.

Fisher and Marten trappers:* for the 2016 season 117 trappers harvested a minimum of one marten and/or fisher in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19. This is similar to the 2015 season of 111 trappers, but is approximately 58% lower when compared to the five year average (2010-2014) before the requirement of exclusion devices statewide.

The statewide marten harvest for the 2016 season was approximately 998 with a total of 101 trappers harvesting at least one marten (referred to as marten trappers). Current trapping regulations require that all body gripping traps set on dryland using bait (previously the most popular method to trap marten) be set using a lynx exclusion device statewide. The ten year average (2005-2014) prior to implementation of exclusion devices being required statewide was 2428 marten harvested by 284 marten trappers. When comparing this season to the 10 year average, we observed a 59% decline in harvest and a 64% decline in marten trappers.

Unlike marten, fishers are a species that occur 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 2016 trapping season, the statewide total fisher harvest was approximately 301 with a total of 110 trappers harvesting a minimum of one fisher (referred to as fisher trappers). The ten year average (2005-2014) prior to implementation of exclusion devices being required statewide was 1187 fisher harvested by 366 fisher trappers. When comparing this season to the 10 year average, we observed a 75% decline in harvest and 70% decline in fisher trappers.

While less pronounced than the marten and fisher harvest numbers, the harvest of red fox and coyotes, as well as the number of people who pursue these species has also declined steeply in the 2016 season.

This season's coyote harvest statewide was 515 and the red fox harvest was 389. When compared to the 10 year average (2005-2014) prior to implementation of our new foothold regulations of 1650 coyotes and 898 red fox harvested annually, we observed a 69% 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 (referred to as land trappers). This year the number of land trappers was 177 compared to 365 for the previous ten year average; a 52% decline.

While many factors come into play regarding harvest (fur prices, population fluctuations, and weather) we suggest 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.

*Some harvest numbers reflected the 2015 report may be different in this report for 2016. This is due to delays in getting harvest data back from tagging stations and an overhaul of the furbearer database.

10) Trapper Effort/Harvest/License sales

Voluntary Trapper Effort Forms

Voluntary trapper effort forms were used to estimate the number of trap nights (i.e., the number of traps set 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, coyote, or fox from pelt tagging records, we need trapper effort data to determine the number of trappers that pursued one of these species but were unsuccessful. Due to changes in how our trapping regulations are distributed to the public, trapper effort reporting forms were not sent out for the 2016 season. Therefore, we used trapping effort data from for 2015 season to arrive at our estimates.

Canid Trappers: From 2015 trapper effort data, 21 trappers that pursued canids in lynx WMDs returned trapper effort forms. These trappers spent a total of 8351 trap nights pursuing canids. Fifteen of the 21 trappers harvested at least one canid. From our 2016 fur harvest data, we know that 66 individual trappers tagged at least of one canid in the relevant WMD's. Using these data and a ratio proportion calculation, we estimate that approximately 92 total trappers pursued canids for an estimated total of 36,585 trap nights.

Fisher and Marten trappers: From 2015 trapper effort data, 21 trappers that pursued fisher/marten¹ in lynx WMDs returned trapper effort forms. These trappers spent a total of 4941 trap nights pursuing

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

fisher/marten. Fifteen of the 24 trappers harvested at least one fisher/marten. From our 2016 fur harvest data, we know that 117 individual trappers tagged at least one fisher/marten in the relevant WMD's. Using these data and a ratio proportion calculation we estimate that approximately 187 total trappers pursued fisher/marten in the relevant WMDs for an estimated total of 38,499 trap nights.

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

Activity this report period. Changed circumstance # 5 was triggered when trapper compliance with lynx exclusion devices for killer-type trap regulations was less than 90% for two years. For this reporting period and the prior year compliance was 88%.

Changed circumstance #5 in the ITP states that:

Trigger: This changed circumstance will be triggered if less than 90% of the trappers checked are in compliance with the regulations. For the purpose of this commitment, a trapper will be considered to be in compliance if all of their traps are set in compliance with visible bait, and exclusion devices specifications (e.g., size of opening, distance from opening to trap, placement of baffles) for killer-type traps in lynx areas.

This trigger is going to be assessed by the annual monitoring commitments described in Section 5.2 (PI 4).

Response: If after the initial 2 years of monitoring, the percentage of trappers checked in compliance is less than 90% as described above then IFW will meet with stakeholders (e.g., game wardens and trappers), prior to the next trapping season, to identify and correct the problem through outreach and education. If subsequent years of monitoring do not show improvement, IFW will implement measures such as increased law enforcement details or increased penalties before the start of the next trapping season. If after 5 years of monitoring, trapper compliance with the four lynx avoidance measures listed above has not reached the target levels, IFW in consultation with the USFWS will implement additional corrective measures to improve compliance. Measures may include additional outreach, increased penalties for trapping violations, or restricting traps or trap sets that are particularly difficult for trappers to achieve compliance with or restricting the use of these traps in lynx areas.

For the upcoming year, IFW will meet with USFWS and stakeholders (e.g., game wardens and trappers), prior to the next trapping season, to identify and correct the problem through outreach and education. If subsequent years of monitoring do not show improvement, IFW will implement measures such as increased law enforcement details or increased penalties before the start of the next trapping season. We will report on outreach and education measures implemented in our next annual report.

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
- 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:

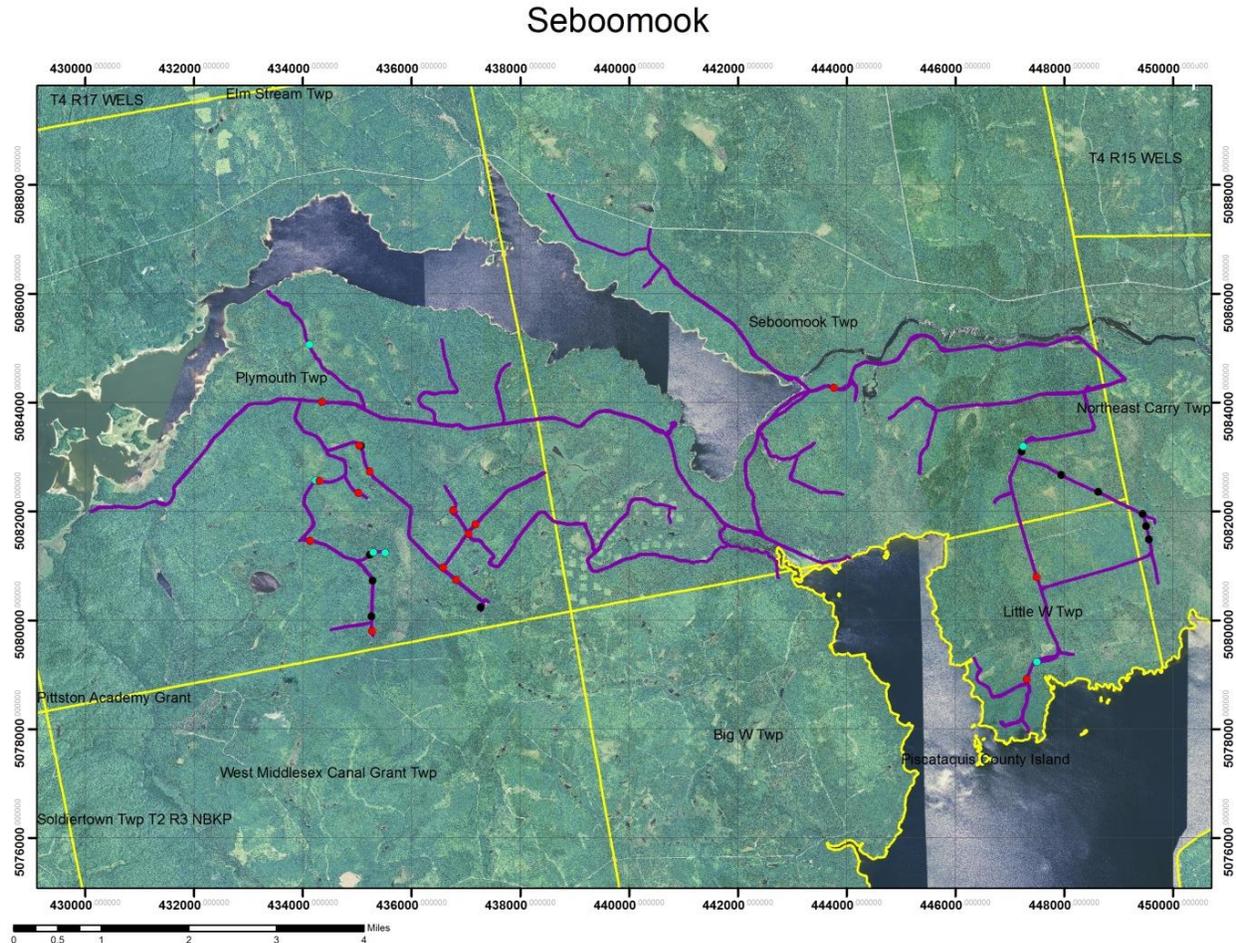
- Each year, for the first 5 years and every 5 years thereafter, IFW will conduct winter snow track surveys (e.g., MDIFW lynx ecoregional surveys-Vashon et al. 2010) to monitor whether lynx are present and estimate the number of lynx on the HMA. For the first 5 years, ensure surveys are conducted to 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).

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.

Activity this report period: This report provides information on activities in 2016.

1. Forest management activities on the HMA this report period.
 - a. Harvest: 50 +- acres were harvested to release regeneration for future HQHH. While there were additional harvests completed within the HMA, much of it was in hardwood/mixedwood areas that were not conducive to creating HQHH. In areas that it was possible, we did so, but these were 5-30 acre islands within the area.
 - b. Road work: All work done within the HMA consisted of upgrades to existing roads to provide access to harvest areas. No new roads were constructed in the HMA. One upgrade was to move the snowmobile trail. We used existing road that went through the HMA to do so. The work consisted of brushing, light ditching, and the placement of culverts as needed.
2. BPL's inventory of the 22,046 acre HMA and cross-walk the inventory to HQHH is not required until the next annual report, since the permit was issued in November 2014. Full compartment HMA cruise is planned for summer of 2017 (for winter 2017/18 harvest). This will facilitate planning for future HQHH habitat management.
3. BPL development of a detailed forest management plan (compartment exam and harvest prescription) for at least the HQHH portion of the HMA is not required until the next annual report, since the permit was issued in November 2014. This plan will include provisions for avoiding prohibited take of northern long-eared bats. IFW and BPL will meet at least every 3 years to review the status of the forest management plan for the HMA.
4. On February 3rd, 2017, MDIFW staff conducted a snow-track survey in the Seboomook Unit to document lynx presence. However, due to forest activities and a rerouted snowmobile trail it was not possible to survey the exact routes as the previous two years. We detecting 11 lynx intercepts during our survey (Figure 2). Only 3 had a snow track quality (STQ) rating greater than 2 due to a dusting of snow on February 2nd that caused some track details to be lost. STQ greater than 2 are considered high quality tracks where identification as lynx is considered definitive. Note these 11 intercepts do not represent 11 different lynx. Spatial data was imported into GIS shape files for analysis.
5. Dr. Dennis Murray's graduate student established hare pellet plots in 2014 on the HMA and counted pellets during the summer of 2015 and 2016. They plan to return for a third count during the summer of 2017.

Figure 2. Seboomook Unit Lynx Survey 2015 (red dots-formal survey: met survey conditions) 2016 (green dots-informal survey: poor winter conditions in 2016), 2017 (black dots). Note track intercepts (red, green, and black 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 for MDIFW and BPL 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 of 2015 and documentations of sufficient funding in August of 2016 (Appendix 3). The next biannual budget will be presented to the Maine Legislature before the 2018 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2017). We will send a letter to the USFWS by July 15th 2017 indicating sufficient funds for the next fiscal year.

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Responding to Incidental Captures of Lynx

Step by Step Procedures



Updated October 2016



Lynx

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



Bobcats

- shorter ear tufts (absent to 1")
- shorter facial ruff
- longer tail: black tipped w/ white beneath
- small feet
- less uniform coat color
white under belly and chest
- dark brown along back of hind legs

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Staff Check List for Reporting an Incidental Capture of a Lynx

If you receive the initial call fill out the report form to obtain all necessary information to initiate the response. Immediately contact the lynx hotline to start the call tree and deploy staff.

If weather is inclement, Warm IV BAG over heat vents in truck

Call Tree

1. **LYNX HOTLINE 207-592-4734**

2. **RESPONDERS – BIOLOGICAL STAFF**
 - a. Use RAS and Regional Biologist Laminated Roster

3. **WARDEN SERVICE**
 - a. **Weekdays** - Call Dispatchers to dispatch District Warden
 - i. Ashland (Traci Bushey) **207-435-3132**
 - ii. Bangor (Joan Sage) **207-941-4470**
 - iii. Greenville (April Collins) **207-695-3756**
 - b. **Weekends** – Use Warden Service Roster to contact Sargent

4. **VETERNARIAN**
 - a. Dr. David Cloutier **941-8840 or 745-4320**

5. **USFWS LAW ENFORCEMENT (within 24 hrs unless enforcement issue)**
 - a. Special Agent **Eric Holmes 469-6842 or 266-4122**
 - b. Special Agent **Brian Englehard 469-6842 or 479-9707**

1. Obtain information from CALLER <i>advise caller to minimize disturbance to the animal</i>												
Date	Time	How Staffed/checked/called/ratio:										
Trapper/individual Reporting		Phone number:										
Address												
Location		LYNX ID/previous identifying coll:										
GP 8 coordinates	E											
GP 8 datum	UTM/ST	NAD83										
Directions and meeting time												
Type of trap?	Foothold	Conobar	Cage	Check all that apply								
Animal in trap?	Yes	No										
Uplift in trap at time of capture?	Alive	Dead										
Timing of trap?	Stages	Days										
Is animal entangled?	Yes	No										
Animal's behavior	Calm	Stress	Pacing									
Disturbance at the site?	Yes	No										
Type of disturbance:	Vehicle traffic	Humans	Equipment operation	Aircraft disturbance								
Current weather?	Clear	Rain	Snow	Wind	Shower	Current temperature?						
Overnight weather?	Clear	Rain	Snow	Wind	Shower	Overnight temperature?						
2. Contact IFW lynx hotline 692-4734 no coordinated response												
3. At the site minimize disturbance (crowd and/or traffic control)												
4. At the site: Assess the ANIMAL prior to chemical immobilization												
Animal entangled in vegetation?	Yes	No										
Ultrasonics?	Yes	No										
Broken bones?	Yes	No	Fract.	Compound	noncompound							
Bleeding?	Yes	No	Fract.	minor	major							
Lacerations?	Yes	No	Fract.	superficial	through 1/2 in. or less	major (DEEP requires sutures)						
Umpounded leg in trap?	Yes	No	Severe weight on feet?	Yes	No							
5. Information when ON-SITE: Check all that apply												
Conobar	110	120	155	200	Other:							
Foothold trap type	#1 T3	#2	#3	MB 450	MB 550	Other:						
made jax applied	none					On the shoulder?	Yes	No				
Jax type	Pipoid	Laminated	Offset	Pain		Number of de-wet?						
Securing method	Staked	Dis	Chain length:	inches	Number of coils:							
Set?	Yes	No	Type:		On-line set?	Yes	No					
Lure?	Yes	No	Type:		Value set?	Yes	No					
Bait:	Spam Food	Other:	Other:		Legal bait?	Yes	No					
Is people present	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
6. Anesthesia (follow protocol and complete capture form)												
7. Action Taken:												
Release animal?	Y/N	Euthanize?	Y/N	Taken to veterinarian?	Y/N							
Animal condition at capture site:												
Comments:												
See Department Policy for situations in which you can advise the trapper to release a lynx												

Check List for Releasing Lynx

1. **SECURE SCENE**
 - Explain handling activities to onlookers
2. **WALK-IN FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL**
 - Assess lynx for injuries, hazards, and estimate weight
3. **PREPARE SEDATIVE (PAGE 5)**
 - 20-gauge needle to draw & 18-gauge needle to administer
 - Use 1cc syringe to measure drugs and load jab stick.
4. **DELIVER SEDATIVE (PAGE 5)**
 - Record time and amounts on handling sheet
 - Monitor cat/check for fully anesthetized in 8 min. (Record time when able to handle)
5. **SETUP AREA FOR ANIMAL HANDLING (PAGE 6)**
 - Find good work site
 - Use tarp, blanket, sleeping bag
 - Position lynx, check eyes, use eye ointment, cover eyes
 - Take body temperature ~ every 10 mins (observe breathing & heart beat)
 - *If body temperature is low, Warm IV BAG over heat vents in truck*
6. **PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT – SOAP**
 - Start at nose and work towards tail (PAGE 6)
7. **INJURY TREATMENT**
 - Compression wrap if capture foot is swollen for 10-15 min. (page 7)
 - Care for abrasions/Lacerations (Page 7)
8. **PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE CARE (PAGE 8)**
 - Monitor temp. (Normal 101-102.5 degrees)
 - Administer Fluids (SQ; 100 ml/10 lbs (normal hydration); 200 ml/10 lbs (dehydrated)
 - Administer antibiotic (Convenia - 0.5 cc/10 lbs delivered SQ or IM)
9. **EARTAGS(PAGE 8)**
10. **COLLECT GENETIC SAMPLES (hair, tissue blood) Page 9**
11. **FIT WITH RADIO COLLAR AND ACTIVATE: LYNX (>10 LBS) Page 9**
12. **RECOVERY & RELEASE**
 - Administer antagonist (IV or IM; 40 min after drug dose) & place lynx in pet carrier
 - Make sure lynx is fully recovered & release in safe location (away from water, other traps, or other unsafe areas)

1. Take Control of Scene

- Clear the area of any nonessential personnel and onlookers,
- Establish a quiet, level area to work on the immobilized lynx.
- Describe your planned handling activities to all personnel and onlookers.
- If necessary, establish telephone contact with Jen or other biological staff available to assist you during the handling.

2. Walk-in for a quick assessment of animal

- Walk-in quietly alone or if necessary with trapper to see where trap & animal are
- Estimate weight for drug dosage
- Visually assess for any sign of injury
- Plan approach (hazards, etc.)
- Wet, soaked animals with no obvious/evident wounds should be released without chemical restraint.

3. Prepare SEDATIVE (5:1 Ketamine/Xylazine)

- Wearing rubber gloves place a 3 cc moniject leur-lock syringe on syringe pole
- Draw Ketamine with 1 cc syringe and 20 gauge needle
(smaller draw needle protects against leaks in rubber stopper of drug bottle)
- Draw Xylazine with fresh 1 cc syringe & 20 gauge needle
- Dispense ketamine in syringe on syringe pole
- Dispense xylazine in syringe on syringe pole
- Place an 18 gauge 1 inch metal hub needle on the syringe pole for delivery

	Ketamine 100 mg/ml	Xylazine 100mg/ml
10 lb. lynx	0.45cc	0.09 cc
20 lb. lynx	0.90 cc	0.18 cc
30 lb. lynx	1.35 cc	0.27 cc

4. Deliver sedative

- To keep animal from moving 1-2 people approach slowly & quietly opposite of the animal
- Slowly extend syringe pole
- 2nd person makes small noise/movement so cat to take eyes off syringe pole prior to jab
- Inject the sedative in the hindquarter (perpendicular for IM injection)
- Leave animal
- Note the time of injection on datasheet
- Allow the sedative to take affect ~ 8-10 minutes
- Remove animal from trap when sedated (i.e., no response to noise stimulus)

If the animal is partial dosed wait a few more minutes to allow the drug more time to take effect. Provide a second dose if the animal does not appear to have any drug. If the animal begins recovering from the drug during the handling or appears lightly dosed, give additional dose of ketamine (100mg/ml) by hand injection: 0.1 cc/20 lbs

5. Setup area for animal handling

- Find good work site (flat ground preferable; shade if hot, sun if cold, etc.);
- Use tarp, blanket, sleeping bag to maintain lynx body temperature
- Position lynx, so head is slightly lower than their body to avoid aspiration of fluids
- Straighten neck and check nose and mouth to make sure airway is clear
- After visual inspection of eyes, administer eye lubricant and cover eyes through recovery.
- Place thermometer & record body temp. every 10 min (observe breathing & heart beat)

6. Physical Assessment: SOAP

Start at nose and work to tail (use same procedure every time):

- Run hands along **body** looking for changes in temp (cold vs hot areas) or abnormalities
- Check **Eyes**: Lids, conjunctiva, cornea are clean of foreign material/blood
- Take **body temperature** reading periodically during handling (Normal =101-102.5 °)
- Nose**: blood, fluid, foreign objects
- Mouth**: blood, tooth fractures/avulsions, tongue lacerations, mandibular fracture
 - **Mandibular fracture**: lightly squeeze lower canines and watch lower jaw for separation or fracture; this will be obvious
- Ears**: fluid, blood, debris, lacerations (use cotton ball)
- Neck**: asymmetry, swelling, hair loss, edema, lacerations, subcutaneous emphysema
- Chest & abdomen**: lacerations, abrasions, subcutaneous fluid, body wall hernia, asymmetry, bloat, rib fractures
- 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)
- 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 euthanatized immediately to minimize suffering.

7. Treat injuries – if necessary (Take Pictures of Injuries)

Hypothermia (body temperature <100 degrees)

To prevent hyperthermia dry animal if wet and place in sleeping bag

- Place heat pads wrapped in thin cloth on inside legs near blood vessels (armpit/groin)
- Wrap animal in space blanket
- Consider moving animal into heated vehicle especially in adverse weather.
- Administer warm saline subcutaneously as part of supportive care

Hyperthermia 102.5-103 degrees

- Uncovering animal from sleeping bag
- Move animal into shade
- Consider putting animal in direct contact with ground

7. Treat injuries – continued from previous page (Take Pictures of Injuries)

Hyperthermia > 104 degrees

- Above procedures and
- Place ice packs on inside of legs (armpit/groin) near blood vessels

Swelling - Compression to alleviate swelling on capture foot (if applicable)

- Tightly apply vet wrap to capture foot starting from the toe to just above swelling
- Remove vet wrap after 10-15 minutes of compression
- Examine foot for other injuries (compare with opposite foot to determine abnormal).

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

- If necessary, irrigate with saline; No closure required

Lacerations (clip fur, irrigate and close wound)

1. CLIP FUR

- Apply k-y jelly to wound and clip fur around wound (no more than necessary)

2. IRRIGATE

- Draw saline solution from saline bottle using an 18 g needle on a 12 cc syringe
- Hold needle above wound & depress plunger on syringe quickly to flush dirt/debris
- 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.

3. Glutire to close minor lacerations (¼ inch or less)

- Dry wound after irrigation by holding several pieces of gauze to wound
- Apply a bead of glutire to both edges of wound
- Join the skin & hold for 2 minutes (note: The laceration should not open when pulled)

Note: Avoid getting glutire in wound, if you do, wipe it out with gloved finger.

Staple moderate laceration (¼ - 2 inches) no tendon/ligament/tissue below skin involve

- Hold skin together & starting at one end, place staples approximately 1/16 inch apart
- Apply topical antibiotic once closed

Don't Close Major lacerations (> 2 inches or involve tendons,ligament,tissue below skin)

- clip fur, irrigate wound, bandage and transport to vet

Dislocations/fractures for transport to veterinarian

Note: you can't splint a femur or humerus fracture, since you can't immobilize joint above

- Mold the SAM splint on the opposite uninjured leg
- Cut the splint to the appropriate length, should go from tip of paw as far up the limb as possible.
- SAM Splint should extend above and below the joint of the fracture
- Pull a section of vet wrap off the roll before wrapping to prevent wrapping the leg too tightly. Can also add padding between the SAM splint to prevent wrapping too tightly.
- Move up the limb and overlap the wrap by 50%.

8. Supportive Care

Administer fluids: 100 ml/10 lbs (normal hydration) 200 ml/10 lbs (dehydrated-dry nose/ gums)

If body temperature is low or weather is inclement, Warm IV BAG over heat vents in truck

- 1. On IV Bag, remove the blue or white plastic/rubber tab from the bottom of the IV BAG.
 - 2. Insert IV Line using the pointed end into the plastic/rubber tab
 - 3. Prime/fill the IV line with fluid
 - 4. Deliver fluids subcutaneously using an 18 gauge needle
 - 5. Pull the skin up like a tent & insert the needle under the skin through the front tent door
- 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 20lb animal.
 - Within 48 hours of assembly, IV line and bag can be used on multiple cats with fresh needle. After 48 hrs. discard bag and iv line.

Administer antibiotic (Convenia)

- Add 10 cc of sterile water to powder to reconstitute to liquid form. Shake until mixed.
- Label bottle with date and your initials.
- Use a 20 gauge needle for drawing antibiotic from vial and administering the antibiotic.

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).

To deliver IM, inject needle at 30 degree angle.

	Antibiotic-Convenia Reconstitute w/10 cc of sterile water
10 lb Lynx	0.50 cc
20 lb Lynx	1.0 cc
30 lb Lynx	1.50 cc
Needle size Delivery site	Draw & Delivery: 20 gauge Subcutaneous or IM

9. Eartags

- Each ear will have the same tag number
- Clean ear with wipe
- Use dna earplug tool to place hole in upper inside edge of ear
- Avoid veins when administering tags
- Insert tag through hole with male portion of the tag pointing out the back of the ear making the number visible from the front of the ear.



10. DNA – Blood, tissue, hair

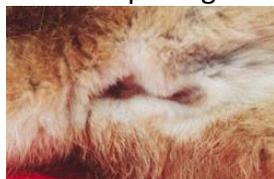
Blood and Tissue see HANDOUT FROM TANYA

Hair

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

11. 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

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, tail length, hind foot length (hock to tip of middle toe pad) can be measured
- Shoulder height measured by extending the front leg and placing tape on tip of shoulder blade to rear edge of foot pad

12. Radio collars: lynx (>10 lbs)

- Measure the neck of the lynx & add **35-40 mm** to your neck measurement to determine the collar circumference.
- For **sirtrack collars**, make sure the label is pointed towards the rear of the animal.
- Check that hair is not pinched between the leather belting before tightening hardware.
- Do not overtighten the nuts and bolts (snug is best).
- Once tight, spin the collar to confirm that it is not attached by hair.
- You should be able to place 3 fingers comfortably between the collar & neck of the lynx.
- Leave at least one extra set of holes (beyond hardware) & cut remaining excess leather.

SIRTRACK: 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.

SIRTRACK: 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. LED will flash once to transmit location & then will stop flashing-collar is still working

13. Recovery & Release

- Avoid releasing animal near hazards (e.g., busy road, water, other traps)
- Place animal in dog crate for recovery
 - Position animal to maintain open airway (with head slightly lower)
 - Can remain in blanket during recovery to maintain body temp
- Remove eye cover
- Deliver reversal IV or IM: ≥ 40 minutes after sedation using 20 gauge needle
- Release animal when lynx appears fully alert and coordinated.
- Note recovery time on datasheet and whether it is bearing weight on capture foot

	Reversing agent for Xylazine (i.e. Yobine)	
Concentration:	2mg/ml	10 mg/ml
10 lb lynx	0.25 cc	0.05 cc
20 lb lynx	0.5 cc	0.10 cc
30 lb lynx	0.75 cc	0.15 cc

Do not attempt to hasten recovery by making noise or moving the kennel.

Veterinarian Treatment:

For injuries requiring veterinarian treatment, the following veterinarians are available.

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

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

Injury Score System for Lynx – Created October 2015 in consultation with Dr. David Cloutier DVM

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), <p>During exam:</p> <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	<p>Death Likely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crushed skull • Open chest wall • Evisceration • Multiple trauma 	Euthanize



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

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

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK
COMMISSIONER

October 7, 2016

Dear Trapper:

As fall trapping seasons approach, I hope you're planning to take some time to enjoy our wonderful state in pursuit of your favorite furbearer species. As in previous years, we are sending updated information to all licensed trappers describing the regulations that trappers must follow in order to avoid the incidental capture of lynx. This year, we have also included a new DVD, which summarizes the regulations and also describes how the Department will respond in the event of that a lynx is captured. Please review this information carefully as you make preparations for the upcoming trapping season.

Later this month, we'll also be mailing all licensed trappers a copy of our new Trapping Lawbook. This booklet will combine all trapping laws and information into a single, easy to use document. We expect to mail the lawbook in mid-October before the start of the general trapping season and post it on our website (www.mefishwildlife.com/hunting_trapping/trapping).

The early fox and coyote season opens on Sunday, October 16th. In addition to the general trapping rules the following regulations also apply during this season:

- Traps must be set at or below ground level and checked daily
- Killer-type traps are not permitted.
- Traps may not be set in the water.
- The use of exposed bait or visible attractors is prohibited.
- You are allowed to keep any incidental opossum, raccoon, or skunk which you catch in your fox and coyote traps. Any other furbearing animal must be immediately released alive (except lynx – see information in this mailing), or if found dead, must be left in the trap and reported to a game warden as soon as possible.

Please be diligent in your efforts to follow the regulations and recommendations to reduce the chance of incidentally capturing a lynx outlined in the information provided in this mailing, video, and in the booklet "How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx", which is available on our website. Please remember that the Department operates a 24 hour hotline (207-592-4734) for reporting incidental captures of lynx. The Department appreciates the continued cooperation of trappers to report incidentally caught lynx and following all trapping regulations.

Sincerely,

Cory Mosby
Furbearer/Small Mammal Biologist

PHONE: (207) 287-5202

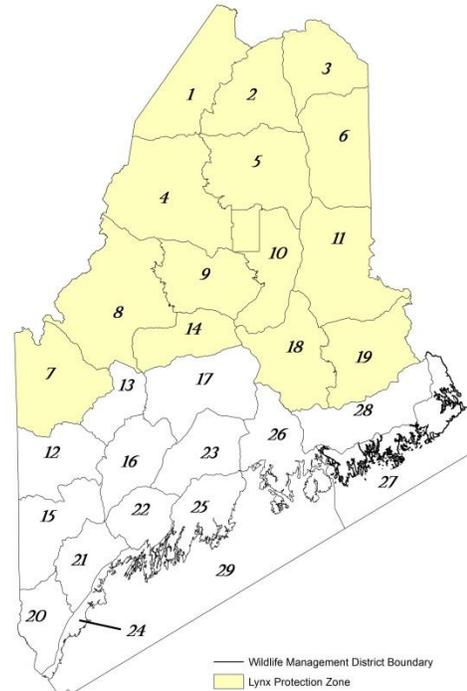
FISH AND WILDLIFE ON THE WEB:
www.maine.gov/ifw

EMAIL ADDRESS:
ifw.webmaster@maine.gov

Lynx Protection Zone and Trap Restrictions

Canada lynx are a federally listed Threatened Species. There is no open season for the trapping or hunting of lynx in Maine. Department biologists have confirmed the presence of reproducing lynx in northern Maine. To protect lynx and to help Maine trappers avoid accidentally taking lynx, the Department has delineated a lynx protection zone in northern Maine where special regulations are in effect.

Canada Lynx Protection Zone for Trapping Restrictions



Foothold traps

- **Statewide:** When set on dry land, traps must have at least three swiveling points (at the base of the trap, midway in the chain, and at the trap's anchoring point). Foothold traps cannot be set above ground or snow level.
- **WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19:** When set on dry land, the use of drags is prohibited and the catch circle must be cleared of woody vegetation, debris and manmade material that could cause entanglement of a trapped animal.
- **In WMDs 1-6 and 8-11** no foothold trap may be used that has an inside jaw spread of more than 5 3/8 inches unless when set, placed, and tended the trap is fully or partially covered by water.

Killer-type (conibear) traps:

Must be set within a lynx exclusion device when set on dry land, *except* that killer-type traps with an inside jaw spread of 5 inches or less may be set without an exclusion device if the trap is set so as to be partially covered by water at all times, set under an overhanging stream bank, or used at a blind set (without the use of bait, lure or visible attractor).

What do I do if I catch a lynx?

Incidental capture of lynx 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 this time it was discovered. A person who catches a lynx must call the lynx hotline at **(207) 592-4734, or a local game warden as soon as possible. The lynx hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the trapping season. In most circumstances a biologist will tranquilize, examine, and release the lynx. For more information on lynx biology or the Department's lynx research efforts, please contact Jennifer Vashon at (207) 941-4466. If you catch a cat and are uncertain whether it is a bobcat or a lynx, contact a wildlife biologist or warden immediately.**

Regulations for Specific Types of Traps

The **statewide** foothold trapping regulations when set on dry land are as follows:

- Foothold traps must not be set above ground or snow level.
- It is unlawful to use a trap with teeth on the jaws
- All foothold traps must have at least 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.



3

SWIVEL POINTS

(on dry-land sets)

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. 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.

Midway-in the Chain

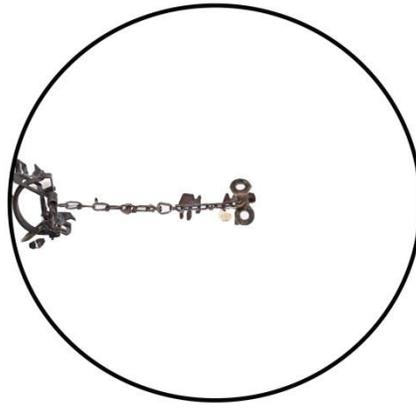
This is halfway between the base of the trap and the anchoring point. A double swivel (which technically has two swiveling points) is commonly used here, but another swiveling point is still required at the anchoring point and at the base of the trap.

The Anchoring Point

This is where the trap chain attaches to your anchoring device. 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.

The foothold trapping regulations for **WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, and 19** when set on dry land 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, and tended are fully or partially covered by water, those that are set on a muskrat “float”, or dog-proof raccoon traps.

In **WMDs 1 -6 and 8-11** no foothold trap may be used that has an inside jaw spread of more than 5 3/8 inches unless when set, placed, or tended the trap is fully or partially covered by water.

Killer-Type (Conibear) Trap Rules

Killer-type traps must be set within an exclusion device unless 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.

Exclusion Device Rules

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.

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

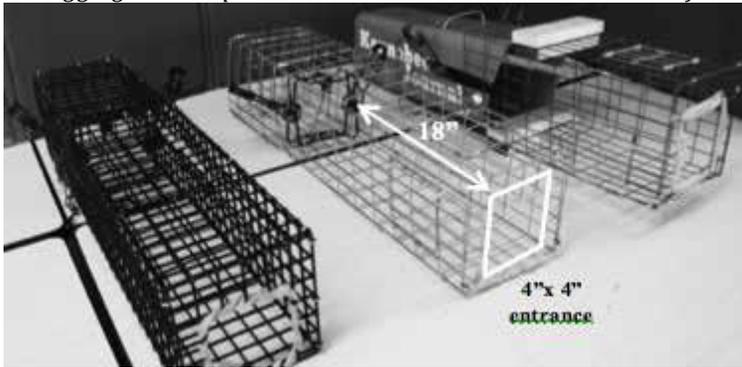
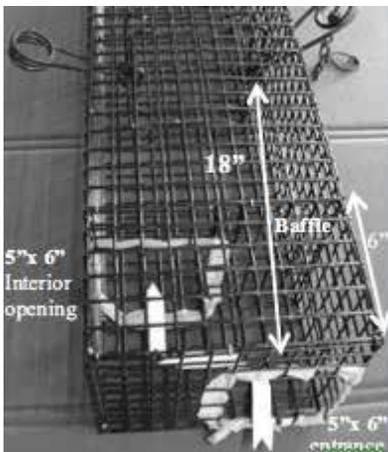


Figure 1. A photo showing 3 legal lynx exclusion devices made out of different materials: (from left to right) a) 1x1 inch wire, b) 1x2 inch wire, and c) 1x2 inch wire with a plastic newspaper box. All exclusion devices have a 4 x 4 inch opening and are constructed for a killer-type trap with a jaw spread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

2a



2b

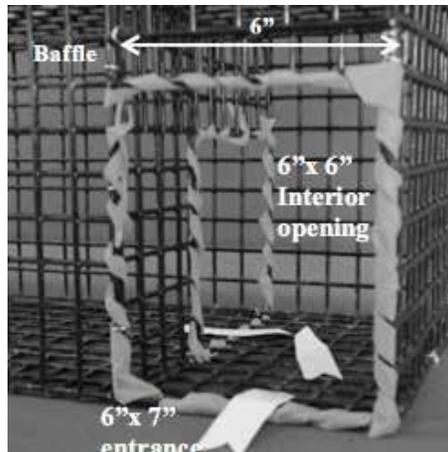


Figure 2. Legal exclusion devices for killer-type traps having a jaw spread between 5 and 8 inches. 2a. is an example of a device with an entrance hole on the end of the device. The entrance hole must not exceed 5 x 6 inches. A baffle must be placed no more than 6 inches back from the entrance hole and 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.

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.



Note the long ear tufts, large feet, and completely black-tipped tail of the lynx.

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 call a biologist or warden immediately and before dispatching the animal. If you dispatched a bobcat and upon examination think it has unusual characteristics for a bobcat, please contact Cory Mosby or Jen Vashon at 207-941-4466, as we are interested in learning more about hybridization between these closely related cats.

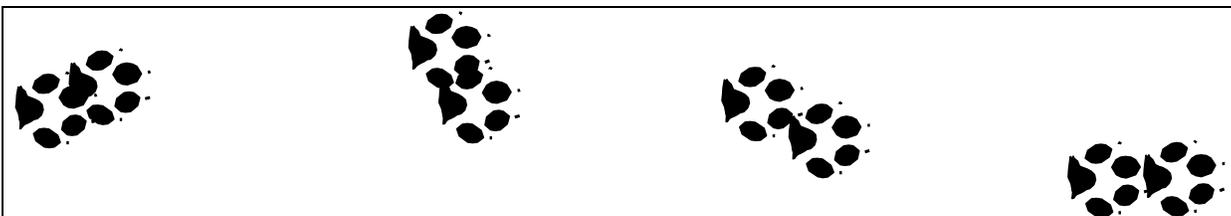
TRACK AND TRACK PATTERNS FOR COUGAR, LYNX, AND WOLF; WITH COMPARISONS TO MORE COMMON SPECIES

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 $\frac{1}{8}$ " 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.

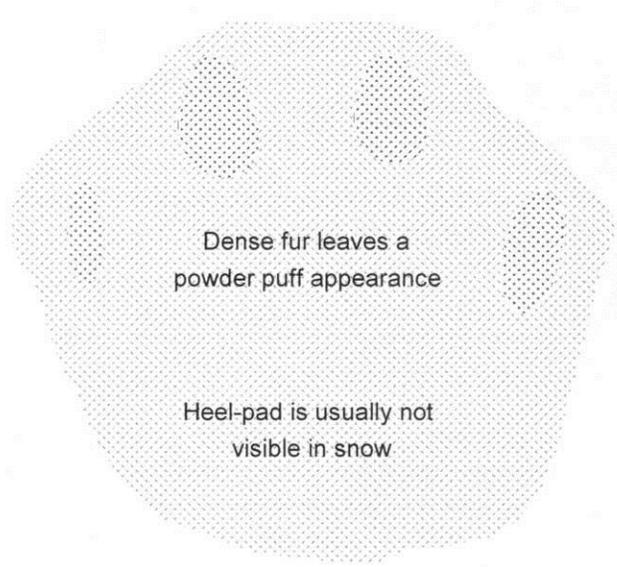
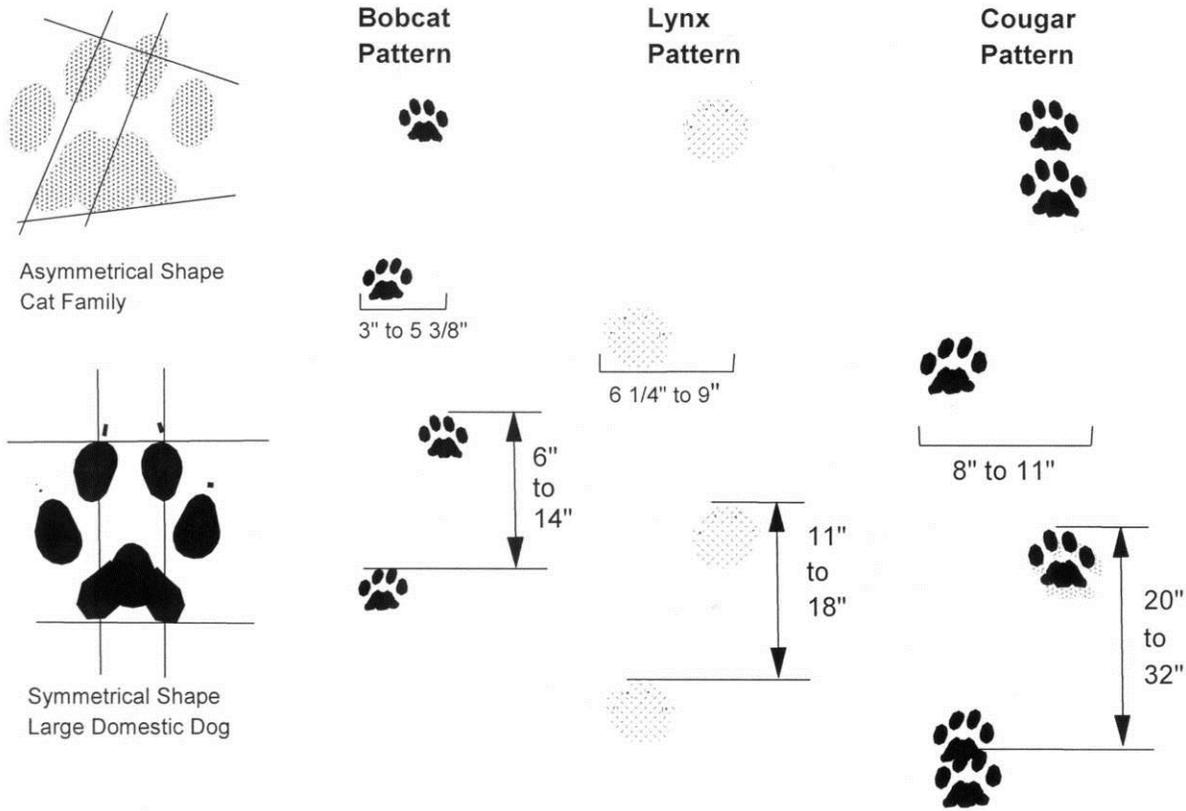
Direct register - a walking pattern where the animal's forefoot is overprinted by the hind foot.



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



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



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

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

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK
COMMISSIONER

August 26, 2016

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 "J" that requires the Department to provide annual assurances that adequate funding exists to implement the plan. This letter is to confirm that adequate funding exists within the current budget to cover all activities required to be performed within the third year of the Incidental Take Plan for Maine's Trapping Program as outlined in Section 6.2. 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 Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534 on page 449 under Initiative: Baseline Budget, General Fund and Federal Expenditures Fund in the Personal Services and All Other categories are sufficient to carry out the required work. We have updated Table 6.2.1 from the plan to show the actions committed to with budgeted amounts and actual expenditures for FY 16 and anticipated and funded expenditures for FY 17.

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

The Department conducted training programs for its wildlife biologists on releasing incidentally captured lynx in 2015. The next training will occur by the fall of 2018 as outlined in the ITP.

The "How to Avoid Lynx Brochure" was updated and distributed to all licensed or otherwise authorized trappers in 2015 to reflect recent regulatory changes. Future updates will occur following any regulatory changes as outlined in the ITP. A copy will be maintained on the Department website.

PHONE: (207) 287-5202

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

EMAIL ADDRESS:
ifw.webmaster@maine.gov

A video on "How to Avoid Lynx Capture" is currently being produced and will be distributed to all licensed trappers during our annual fall mailing this year to meet compliance with our Permit.

The Department will contract 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 is scheduled with the complete 2016-17 Trapper Information booklet that contains the 2016-17 beaver trapping regulations. The cover letter also contained information on how to access the online version of all the documents. This year we have split the trapping regulations out of our previous Hunting and Trapping Law Book and instead moved trapping related material into one comprehensive law book on trapping. All pertinent information for hunters regarding the importance of lynx and avoiding the take of lynx has been maintained in the traditional Hunting Law Book.

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 will be staffed as required with two staff members assigned the responsibility for maintaining full coverage as outlined in the plan.

The Bureau of Public Lands (BPL) is committed to carrying out the MOU as signed with the Department. The authorization for the expenditures for this fiscal year was included in the biennial budget under Land Management and Planning Z239 on pages 77 – 79. These funding assurances are sufficient to carry out the activities that were outlined in Table 6.2.2 of the Plan for the third year of implementation. In Maine statute all income generated through management of the Public Reserved Lands, from sale of timber, camp-lot leases and other special leases, and interest on the account, is placed in the dedicated and non-lapsing Public Reserved Lands Management Account. This account is restricted to uses related to the management of lands that have Public Reserved Lands status, which includes the Bureau's Seboomook Unit. These funds are allocated on an as-needed basis, such that their use on any particular Public Reserved Lands parcel may be more than or less than the revenue generated from that parcel. Based on the biennial budget approved by the Legislature there are sufficient funds for BPL to perform the duties described in the MOU, for this year as well as the previous year. Planned activities for this year include harvesting to create HQHH. The costs to develop and implement these activities are included in the table below. In addition to active management, the development of prescriptions for continued management in successive years will be conducted this year. These efforts will include modeling and inventory; the costs associated with these activities are also included in the table below. The total cost estimate for the planned activities this year is \$15,600 and is covered in the approved budget.

State Fiscal Year 2017 Costs Estimate, BPL Mitigation

Activity	Cost Estimate
Personnel (salary, transportation, etc.)	\$6,500
Harvest-related	\$5,500
Modeling	\$1,500
Inventory	\$2,100
TOTAL	\$15,600

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

Attachments: Updated Table 6.2.1 from Maine's HCP

The budget that was accepted by the Legislature (H.P.702 – L.D. 1019) and became law June 30, 2015 as Public Law Chapter 267.- pages 77-79 for Land Management and Planning Z239

The budget that was accepted by the Legislature (H.P.702 – L.D. 1019) and became law June 30, 2015 as Public Law Chapter 267.- section A-42 pages 444-449 for Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

CC: Judy Camuso, MDIFW Wildlife Division Director

The table below is an update of Table 6.2.1 in Maine's HCP to track biannual budget and expenditures.

		FY 2015-2016		FY 2016-2017	
Activity		Budget	Expenditures	Budget	Expenditures to date
RC1	Restrict placement of killer-type traps	N/A			
RC 2	Mandatory Reporting	N/A			
RC 3	Restrict use of visible bait	N/A			
RC 4	Restrict foothold traps	N/A			
IM 1	<u>Trapped Lynx Hotline</u>				
	Standby Salary Deferential	\$3,600.00	\$5,741.15	\$6,000.00	
	Phone-line	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	
IM 2	<u>Responding to Lynx</u>				
	Staff time	Included in base salary	n/a	Included in base salary	
	Equipment	\$300.00	\$5,770.00 ^a	\$1,000.00	
IM 3	Update Standard Operating Procedures	\$300.00	\$250.00	N/A ^b	
IM 4	Maintain List of Cooperating Veterinarians				
IM 5	<u>Rehabilitate Injured Lynx (when needed)</u>	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	
	Radio Collar Injured lynx	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	
IM 6	Injury Evaluation Training For Staff	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	N/A ^b	
IM 7	Veterinary Oversight	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
IM 8	Monitor Orphaned Kittens (when needed)	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	
O&E 1	Reinforce Compliance with trapping regulations	Included in base salary		Included in base salary	
O&E 2	Publish a Regulation Booklet	\$54,000.00	\$45,253.00		
	<u>Redesign Separate Law Books for Hunting & Trapping</u>				
	Graphic Design Costs			\$7,860.00	\$7,860.00
	Hunting Law Book 2016-2017 publishing			\$66,025.00	\$58,026.00
	Trapping Law Book 2016-2017 publishing			\$33,000.00	
O&E 3	<u>Trapper Information Booklet</u>				
	Letter and Lynx Portion Mailed (postage/printing)	\$5,453.00	\$7,204.20	\$7,500.00	
O&E 4	<u>How to avoid the incidental take of lynx</u>				
	Brochure Printing Cost	\$2,700.00	\$2,284.80	N/A ^c	
	Additional postage	\$825.00	included in O&E 3 mailing		
O&E 5	Maintain Website Information	Included in base salary			
O&E 6	Trapper Education Program	Included in base salary			
O&E 7	<u>Trapper video</u>	n/a		\$5,000.00	
	Postage	n/a		\$4,700.00	
O&E 8	Continued Education for Instructors			\$9,700.00	
PI 1	Extend Lynx Regulations	Included in base salary			
PI 2	Investigate all lynx incidental captures	Included in base salary			
PI 3	Cooperate with USFWS on Investigations	Included in base salary			
PI 4	Conduct targeted compliance monitoring	Included in base salary			
PI 5	Consult with trappers	Included in base salary			
	TOTAL	\$74,978.00	\$62,083.15	\$147,585.00	\$65,886.00
^a Initial purchase of new equipment, future year equipment cost will be lower (resupply)					
^b Updated 2015-16, so compliance met for 2016-2017 FY.					
^c Brochure updated 2015-16 and distributed to trappers, no changes made to regulations so compliance met.					