



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Draft Incidental Take Plan
for Incidental Capture of Canada lynx in Maine's
Recreational Trapping Program

And

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Draft Environmental Assessment for Issuance of a ESA
Section 10 permit

Endangered Species Act

- Endangered and threatened species are protected from take (=harass, harm, wound, kill, trap, capture)
- Section 10 of the ESA provides for exceptions (permit) if:
 1. taking is incidental (is not the purpose of the activity)
 2. applicant minimizes and mitigates take to the maximum extent practicable
 3. applicant will ensure adequate funding
 4. taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and the recovery of the species
 5. other measures that may be required

Issue

60 lynx have been incidentally trapped (=take) since 1999

5 killed (all in conibear traps)

MDIFW has developed new regulations to further avoid and minimize take of lynx

MDIFW requests a permit for take of up to 195 lynx over a 15-year period, up to 5 of which would be killed.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives.

Environmental Assessment - describes the effects of the proposed action and the alternatives on the quality of the human environment.



Minimization and mitigation measures in the ITP

- trapper outreach – mailings, brochure, website
- lynx hotline
- encourage trappers to report
- trapper education
- lynx handling protocol
- restrict visible bait
- require conibear traps on leaning poles
- mandatory reporting regulations
- create 5000 acres of lynx habitat
- monitor lynx populations



Minimization and Mitigation measures in the Environmental Assessment

- DVD outreach tool
- Require periodic retraining of trappers
- Require veterinarian evaluate lynx injuries
- Require lynx excluding devices for all upland conibear traps
- Require use of BMP foothold traps
- Eliminate drag sets
- Limit conibear traps to #120 or smaller
- Require 24-hr tending of conibear traps
- Require pan tension devices on foothold traps
- Limit upland foothold trapping to Oct and Nov
- Close upland trapping in WMDs 1-11, 14, 18, 19
- Increase penalties for non-reporting take
- ME become member of Wildlife Violator Compact
- create 7,000 – 10,000 acres of lynx habitat
- evaluate compliance with regulations

Alternatives considered in the Environmental Assessment

- Alternative A: No action = status quo
- Alternative B: minimization and mitigation in MDIFW's ITP
- Alternative C: suite of minimization and mitigation measures
- Alternative D: more stringent suite of minimization and mitigation measures
- Alternative E: discontinue upland trapping within the range of the lynx in Maine

The USFWS is seeking substantive comments on:

MDIFW Incidental Take Plan

- extent of unreported incidental trapping of lynx
- are new trapping regulations understood by trappers and implemented consistently?
- different or additional regulations or trapping methods that could further reduce take of lynx
- proposed mitigation activities – creating lynx habitat on MBPL
- models projecting effects of trapping and future lynx population in Maine
- proportion of lynx injured, nature of injuries, survival after release

USFWS Environmental Assessment

- Are there additional practicable (=feasible) measures to minimize or further reduce take of lynx in traps
- Are there other ways to mitigate or compensate for lynx taken in traps that we have not considered?
- number and species of nontarget species incidentally trapped?
- Have we correctly anticipated the effects on the environment?

Process

- 90-day public comment period – ends Feb. 7, 2012
- comments can be provided in writing tonight – comment box, website
- further information can be found at MDIFW's web site:

MDIFW website

http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/management/lynx_theMaineStory.htm

USFWS website http://www.fws.gov/mainefieldoffice/Canada_lynx.html

Email comments to:

hcpmainetrapping@fws.gov or

Mail comments to:

Lynx comments

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Maine Field Office

17 Godfrey Drive, Suite 2

Orono, ME 04473



Where do we go from here?

- three public open house events
- USFWS and MDIFW review and address comments
- USFWS determine whether ITP meets ESA criteria and develop final permit conditions
- USFWS and MDIFW complete final EA and ITP

Tonight's schedule

6:00 Begin

6:30 Greet public

6:35 Presentation

6:45 Visit tables – overview of ESA process, lynx biology, trapping minimization and mitigation measures, outreach

7:30 -8:30 Panel – answer your questions

9:00 Close