

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release July 15, 1977

McGarvey 202/343-5634

### STATUS REVIEW OF BOBCAT AND LYNX

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that it is undertaking a review of the status of two closely related species of North American wild cats: the bobcat (Lynx rufus) and the lynx (Lynx canadensis). The review will determine whether these species, or any populations thereof, should be proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The bobcat originally occurred throughout the "lower" 48 States, as well as in southern Canada and northern Mexico. In recent years it reportedly has declined because of habitat loss and excessive killing by man. There has been considerable concern that rapidly rising fur prices may have resulted in widespread depletion of bobcat populations by trappers. The lynx, which still occupies much of Alaska and Canada, has been eliminated from most of its range in the northern part of the lower 48 States.

Persons with information that may assist in determining whether these species should be proposed for listing as endangered or threatened are invited to write the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. All comments should be in by November 14, 1977.

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INT: 4282-77