

# United States Department of the Interior



## Fish and Wildlife Service

Ecological Services  
Montana Field Office  
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1  
Helena, Montana 59601-6287  
Phone: (406) 449-5225 Fax: (406) 449-5339



In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R6/MTESO/Canada Lynx Five-year Rvw

December 8, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will be conducting a Five-Year Status review under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), for the contiguous United States distinct population segment (DPS) of the Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*). The Canada lynx DPS (lynx) was listed as threatened under the Act in 2000 (Federal Register, 65:16502; March 24, 2000). We published a Recovery outline for the species on September 14, 2005.

Lynx are highly specialized predators of snowshoe hare. The North American distribution of the lynx overlaps much of the range of the snowshoe hare and both are strongly associated with boreal forests. Within the contiguous United States, the lynx occurs in the boreal forest of New England, the western Great Lakes, the Rocky Mountains and Cascade Mountains in the West. Detailed biological and threat assessment information for the Canada lynx can be found online at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile?sPCODE=A073>

Over the next several months, we will be gathering and analyzing available information on the lynx as part of our process to conduct a Five-Year Review for the species. We will use the best scientific and commercial data available in the development of our report, which ensures that our review will be as accurate and complete as possible. We would like to complete the Five-Year Review by June of 2015.

With this letter, we are providing notification to interested parties that we are initiating the Five-Year Review process for the lynx and are seeking your input to ensure we have the best available information upon which to inform our review. At this time, we are seeking information and data regarding the following items:

- General information concerning the taxonomy, biology, ecology, genetics, and status of the lynx in the contiguous United States;
- Specific information on the conservation status of lynx in the contiguous United States, including information on distribution, abundance, and population trends;
- Specific information on threats to lynx in the contiguous United States, including: (i) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (ii) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (iii)

disease or predation; (iv) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and (v) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence;


- Specific information on conservation actions that have improved Canada lynx habitat or reduced threats to lynx in the contiguous United States;
- Habitat selection, use, and any changes or trends in the amount and distribution of lynx habitat in the contiguous United States.

We will accept new information throughout this process; however, we respectfully request that you provide any pertinent information as soon as possible and not later than February 1, 2015, to ensure we have adequate time to consider it during our review. Please be aware that all data and information submitted to us including names and addresses will become part of the record for this review and may be made public. Information should be submitted to Jim Zelenak of the Montana Ecological Services Field Office at:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Montana Ecological Services Field Office  
Attn: Jim Zelenak  
585 Shepard Way, Suite 1  
Helena, MT 59601

Thank you for your interest in the conservation of Canada lynx. If you would like additional information or have questions about the species, please contact Jim Zelenak at (406) 449-5225 extension. 220 ([jim\\_zelenak@fws.gov](mailto:jim_zelenak@fws.gov)).

Sincerely,



Jodi Bush  
Field Office Supervisor