

Update on Species Status Assessment for Canada Lynx
in response to WELC March 15, 2016 FOIA.

We are implementing the Species Status Assessment (SSA) framework, in order to meet a court ordered deadline to complete a Recovery Plan for Canada Lynx (if determined to still warrant listing) by January 2018. Prior to moving forward with recovery planning – the SSA will provide the additional analysis to re-evaluate the status of the species which will be documented through a five year review. The material from the SSA will also provide more recent information regarding threats and will be used in recovery planning as needed.

- We announced the initiation of a five-year status review on December 8, 2014. Shortly thereafter, we embarked on the SSA framework. Information in the SSA will be used by Service decision makers to inform classification decisions, recovery planning direction, and other determinations required by the Act.
- Through the SSA framework we intend to assess the species' needs, current and future condition including viability of the Canada lynx DPS using a compilation of the best available scientific and commercial data, including empirical data, published literature, and expert input.
- During the SSA process, we have been prioritizing information and modeling to best evaluate potential future conditions and viability.
- In the fall of 2015, we convened a workshop for scientific experts to address the current and likely future status of the Canada lynx DPS. The participants included state agencies, biologists from other federal agencies, and academic researchers to elicit input from experts across the range of the DPS. The resultant workshop report is one component of the SSA. That document was finalized on April 18, 2016 and is posted on our website.
- Information solicited from the 10 member lynx expert panel addressed the viability of the DPS based on the 3Rs: Representation, Redundancy, Resiliency and what is known about climate science related to lynx.
- The report generated from the Expert workshop is a part of the information that will be considered in the SSA report.
- In general, the Service Core Team feels comfortable with the outcome from the expert panel workshop.
- We are behind in the development of the recovery planning process by about 6 months.

As of April 25, 2016

TIMELINES (DRAFT)

- Workshop Report FINAL –APRIL 18, 2016
- Species Status Report DRAFT, APRIL 29, 2016
 - Internal Review Complete MAY 15, 2016
 - Peer Review concurrent with State/Tribal Review MAY 30, 2016
 - Final Report Complete JUNE 15, 2016
- Five-year Review
 - Draft DRAFT, MAY 15, 2016
 - Final FINAL, JUNE 15, 2016
- Draft Recovery Plan (if necessary) DRAFT, JANUARY 2017??
- Final Recovery Plan (If necessary) FINAL, JANUARY 2018