

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**Division of Enforcement**

**ORI Number:** MNCON00E1  
**ICR Number:** N11000726

### INITIAL COMPLAINT REPORT

NATURE OF INCIDENT	TYPE OF REPORT
Other - Accidental Lynx catch	Administrative

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THE OCCURRENCE

☐ Aircraft Used

Date(mm/dd/yy)	Time	Co No	City/Township or Other Location	Reg	Dist	Stat No	How Received
10/28/2011	1547	38	Deep Lake Road, Isabella	2	6	7235	DNR Employee

#### INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONS Codes: A=Arrested, B=Booked, C=Complainant, CI=Citation Issued, CM=Citation Mailed, FC=Formal Complaint

Pending, H=Held for another Agency, J=Juvenile, M=Mentioned, S=Suspect, W=Witness, WA=Warrant Arrest, WI=Warning Issued, V=Victim **X= Protect Identity**

PSN	Codes	Name (First, Middle, Last) Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Drivers License No DOB	Phone No
1	W	Redacted	Info Redacted	
<input type="checkbox"/>			Redacted	Info Redacted
2		Shannon Barber-Meyer		
<input type="checkbox"/>		USFS Building		
		Ely, MN 56731	218-365-2087	
<input type="checkbox"/>				

#### INFORMATION ABOUT VIOLATIONS

PSN	Ticket Type	Ticket No	Vio Code	Act Code	Stat/Rule No & Description

#### INFORMATION ABOUT OFFICERS

Name of Officers Involved Codes: A=Arresting, B=Assisting, C=Primary	Agency	Badge #	Stat No
C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	MN DNR	371	7231

#### EVIDENCE or PROPERTY INVOLVED Codes: S=Seized, F=Found, E=Evidence, C=Contraband **X= Centralized Inventory Tracked Item**

PSN	Codes	Description	Serial No/Property Tag No	Disposition/Custodian
1	E	Female Lynx	419551	
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				

#### REPORT STATUS

Report Prepared By	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Badge No	371	Date	10-29-11
Report Reviewed By	ILT (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Badge No	506	Date	11-2-11
Report Disposition	Closed			Date	11-2-11

#### OFFICER Velsvaag reports:

On 10-28-11 at 1547 hours, I received a call from Lt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) about a lynx that was caught in a trap in the Isabella area. Lt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) told me the trapper was Redacted and gave me the phone number. At 1555 hours, I phoned Redacted and told him I would drive to Deep Lake Road and meet him. At 1609 hours, I met with Shannon Barber-Meyers of the USGS at the USFS building in Ely. She informed me that she was contacted about the lynx catch earlier in the day and she went to the catch site with two USGS volunteers. She informed me that they attempted to release the lynx using a catch pole around the neck and the lynx died.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT**  
CONTINUED

At 1621 hours, I met with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), one of the USGS volunteers. He told me that he was there and I looked at several photos he had taken of the trap and set location. At 1624 hours I left Ely and was en route to meet with the trapper.

At 1655 hours, I met with Redacted. Redacted showed me the lynx, the trap and his trapping license. The trap was a 1 ½ Victor coil spring, that was set on a beaver dam as a dirt hole set. I seized the lynx and then we went to the trap site.

The trap site was the same as the photos shown to me by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). I examined the trap site and the trap, and did not find any violations. I used my GPS and got the following coordinates of the set location: N 47 40.966 W 91 34.222. At approximately 1720 hours, when we were leaving the trap site, Redacted gave me a toe nail from the lynx. The toe nail was in his pocket and he stated it got ripped off during the release attempt. We returned to the residence on Deep Lake Road and I dropped off Redacted.

I did not find any evidence of flagging, illegal bait or any other violation relating to the trap set.

E-mail chain Between DNR Wildlife Staff and Federal Employee involved with release effort:

FYI – see below - an e-mail from the USGS biologist that was involved in attempting to release the recent incidental lynx caught in a foothold trap, which unfortunately died during the release process.

Jason/Erika – I plan to ponder (and research) lynx handling/release methods a bit, but see her suggestion about clarifying in the Regs book that maybe releasing a lynx by using a catchpole may not be wise. I'm still unclear on the details of what happened (will call her soon), and hope a necropsy will reveal whether it was "choked to death", or whether it sustained a broken neck during the process (or maybe it had a heart attack, who knows). In general, catchpoles (just like snares) are known to be more lethal to cats, and are also ill-advised for otter. But if the pole is only used to restrain the cat (not render it temporarily unconscious), I would think a catchpole is still a legitimate/necessary option in some cases. Drugging or a notched piece of plywood is perhaps a better option when feasible, but it won't always be feasible (e.g., no drugs available, or plywood won't work if caught by body/neck snare). Anyway, just a heads up that we may want to review our lynx handling protocol as well as any tips we offer to trappers in the Regs book. Not sure any major changes are needed, but this incident highlights it is worth some review and discussion with appropriate staff.

JE

From: Shannon M Barber-meyer [mailto:sbarber-meyer@usgs.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 10:50 AM

To: Erb, John D (DNR)

Subject: lynx death

Hi John -

Tim Catton (FS) was just talking to me about the lynx that died last Friday near Isabella when my wolf crew was trying to release it from a fox trap that was set by a member of the public (the trapper's employer called me asking for our help in releasing it). I'm not sure if you have the details - so for background so it makes sense why I'm emailing you...I contacted my supervisor and asked what method we should use. We tried to release it following the method that had been successful for my supervisor a number of times in the past (catch-pole to

**LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT**  
CONTINUED

restrain and then release from trap). Very quickly after being caught with the catch-pole the cat died. In an attempt to determine why we weren't successful I spoke with John Hart and also talked with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) because he was the CO that responded.

What I found out was that my supervisor must have been quicker than we were in releasing the lynx (if one can assume a lynx and bobcat are similar enough in their responses to catch-poles) because according to Wildlife Services (John Hart) you have a 5-8 second window before a bobcat dies when in a catch-pole due to their neck musculature being apparently much less robust than other animals we use the catch-pole on. Now knowing that there is potentially only a 5-8 second window - in the future in the unlikely event that my crew will ever have a trapped lynx our protocol is now to drug the lynx using a syringe pole.

So finally getting to the reason I'm emailing you...when I was discussing this with both Johns - the option (when not in thick vegetation) of using a large sheet of plywood with a small square notch cut in the bottom to thread the leg with the trap on it through came up - similar to the idea of a 5 gallon bucket with a notch cut in it for smaller non-target-catch. When I learned about this strategy - I contacted the trapper's employer to let him know about the plywood idea in case he ever came across a lynx again because I thought it could be helpful to him regarding other non-target-catch as well. He asked if that technique could be added to the trapper's regulation booklet (?) - the booklet that instructs trappers to let a lynx go if they catch one.

I wasn't sure who to pass his suggestion onto until I spoke with Tim Catton and he said it was you. So I'm not sure if you can do anything with his suggestion to include that technique but I wanted to pass it on.

If you need any additional information re: the lynx death please feel free to contact me. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) has already spoken with me and my crew including the tech who handled the catch-pole - but if there is something else you need to know for your records and I can be of help - just let me know. It was about 23-24 lbs, female, adult teeth - the teeth didn't look very stained or super worn so I don't think it was very old - but I'm sure they'll be better info on it after it goes to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for examination.

Thanks,  
Shannon