



Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>

Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: lynx DNA

1 message

Zelenak, Jim <jim_zelenak@fws.gov>

Mon, Mar 18, 2019 at 6:34 PM

To: "Straka, Kelly (DNR)" <StrakaK1@michigan.gov>

Cc: "Kennedy, Daniel (DNR)" <KENNEDYD@michigan.gov>, "Hicks, Scott" <scott_hicks@fws.gov>, Jodi Bush <jodi_bush@fws.gov>, Lori Nordstrom/R6/FWS/DOI <lori_nordstrom@fws.gov>, "Catton, Susan J -FS" <scatton@fs.fed.us>, "Pilgrim, Kristine L -FS" <kpilgrim@fs.fed.us>, "Bowman, Jeff (MNR)" <jeff.bowman@ontario.ca>, Ron Moen <rmoen@d.umn.edu>

At the link below are some photos of a couple lynx that showed up in Anchorage, AK recently. These strike me more as probable youngsters than the lynx photos from Michigan.

<https://www.adn.com/visual/photos/2019/03/13/photos-a-quick-visit-from-a-pair-of-lynx/>

On Mon, Mar 18, 2019 at 4:26 PM Zelenak, Jim <jim_zelenak@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks Scott, Dan and Kelly,

DNA would be used to see if the origin of this lynx can be narrowed down. Minnesota and the Superior National Forest have an extensive DNA database that was recently used to generate a population estimate for a portion of the Arrowhead area. They worked with the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation (U.S. Forest Service, Missoula, Montana, USA), which also has worked with researchers in Montana and Colorado and thus has an even more extensive lynx genetics database.

I've copied Susan Catton with the Superior National Forest and Kristy Pilgrim with the Genomics Lab - they may be able to answer questions about what DNA samples to collect, handling, and transfer to the Genomics Lab. I'm not sure about payment, but I suspect the lab could store the sample(s) until I could figure out how to find some FWS money to pay for the analysis. Jeff Bowman (also copied here) and his students at Trent University in Ontario also have done a lot of lynx genetics work and likely have a database with which we could compare DNA from this Michigan animal.

We don't often get DNA samples from lynx outside the resident populations in the Lower 48, and it would be interesting to see if we can find out where this transient may have originated. This is the time of year when we expect last year's kittens to be venturing out on their own to establish territories while mom gets ready for another breeding effort; however, the long ear tufts and fairly well-developed facial ruff on this individual does not suggest kitten to me. Ron Moen (also copied here) may have a different and better-informed take.

Anyway, I think we should be able to find a way to get samples from this animal analyzed if we you can collect the samples and send them to the Genomics lab.

- Kristy - could you provide handling and shipping details to Kelly?

Hope this helps, and I look forward to hearing where this animal ends up going next and any genetic results as they become available.

Jim

On Mon, Mar 18, 2019 at 2:53 PM Straka, Kelly (DNR) <StrakaK1@michigan.gov> wrote:

Hi all!

Quick question-would the DNA be examined to confirm species, or does FWS keep a database of genetic data on lynx? We can certainly collect whole blood during the immobilization/physical exam as needed, let me know.

Thanks,

Kelly

From: Kennedy, Daniel (DNR) <KENNEDYD@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 4:44 PM
To: Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>; Jim Zelenak <jim_zelenak@fws.gov>
Cc: Straka, Kelly (DNR) <StrakaK1@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: lynx DNA

Thanks for initiating the discussion Scott. I've added Dr. Straka to this conversation, she's our wildlife veterinarian – please include her on this discussion thread from here on out.

Dan

From: Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 4:34 PM
To: Jim Zelenak <jim_zelenak@fws.gov>
Cc: Kennedy, Daniel (DNR) <KENNEDYD@michigan.gov>
Subject: lynx DNA

Jim,

I spoke to Dan briefly about your idea of collecting a DNA sample. He's definitely open to the idea, but asked about logistics, of what to collect, who could process, who would pay, how soon could they get results...? (Dan others to add to that list?).

Any leads/thoughts on those questions?

Thanks
Scott

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michigan Ecological Services Field Office
[2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101](#)
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Phone: 517-351-6274

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Jim Zelenak, Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Ecological Services Office
[585 Shepard Way, Suite 1](#)
[Helena, MT 59601](#)
(406) 449-5225 ext. 220
jim_zelenak@fws.gov

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Jim Zelenak, Biologist

12/16/2019

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: lynx DNA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Montana Ecological Services Office
[585 Shepard Way, Suite 1](#)
[Helena, MT 59601](#)
(406) 449-5225 ext. 220
jim_zelenak@fws.gov