

Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>

Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: lynx DNA

1 message

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

Wed, Mar 20, 2019 at 8:19 AM

To: "Hicks, Scott" <scott_hicks@fws.gov>Cc: "Kennedy, Daniel (DNR)" <KENNEDYD@michigan.gov>, "Zelenak, Jim" <jim_zelenak@fws.gov>

Great information in this string-thanks to all. I'll be heading over to the nature with staff from the Detroit Zoo shortly; will keep you posted on what we find during handling.

The Zoo staff have offered to collect, handle and ship the genetic samples. I forwarded them the email with instructions and COC this morning. I will also bring hard copies with me.

Kelly

Kelly Straka DVM MPH
State Wildlife Veterinarian
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2019, at 6:06 PM, Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov> wrote:

Dan,
I reviewed 50 CFR 17.31(b) (the S6 take exemption) and our MDNR-USFWS cooperative agreement (as you know, you all have broad take authority for threatened species for conservation purposes per S6). There is nothing that I see in the regs or the agreement that would suggest there is a need for any additional ESA authorization beyond S6 agreement to release the lynx in MN.
Scott

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michigan Ecological Services Field Office
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East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Phone: 517-351-6274

On Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 5:02 PM Kennedy, Daniel (DNR) <KENNEDYD@michigan.gov> wrote:

Thanks for all the info Jim – much appreciated.

Kelly and I are going over to the Howell Nature Center, where the lynx is currently being held, to help with the transfer to the Detroit zoo. Both Kelly, Scott and I feel the Detroit zoo has excellent staff that will do thorough evaluation of the cat. Once the evaluation is completed and we have a better understanding of its health and its age/sex then we'll decide on where/when it should go – release or kept in captivity. One of my colleagues at MI DNR did his MS research on lynx and he echoed what Dr. Mech said – that it's not uncommon for lynx to behave this way around humans – which was new to me.

Kelly and I are going to recommend to the Detroit zoo that they collect two samples that could be used in genetic analysis. We weren't sure if MN using the same process as the person you mentioned in Canada.

Scott Hicks and I were wondering if MI and MN's S6 authority would cover transport across state lines – if we choose to release in MN.

Kelly and Scott – did I miss anything?

Dan

From: Zelenak, Jim <jim_zelenak@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Kennedy, Daniel (DNR) <KENNEDYD@michigan.gov>
Cc: Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>; Straka, Kelly (DNR) <StrakaK1@michigan.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: lynx DNA

Hi Dan, Kelly and Scott,

It looks like things are in place for DNA samples, including Susan Catton's kind offer to cover the cost of analysis using the Superior National Forest Account with the Genomics Lab and Kristy's provisioning of sampling types/protocols and chain of custody info.

I've also been trying to locate a radio-collar in case the opportunity to collar this animal and follow it's post-release fate presents itself. I'm not sure if you have been pursuing this also, but wanted to let you know I've reached out to Ron Moen, Steve Windels at Voyageurs National Park, Nathan Roberts at Wisconsin DNR, and John Squires with the Rocky Mountain Research Station out here. I've heard back from Ron and Steve, and neither has a spare radio-collar. Steve also reached out to John Erb with Minnesota DNR, but we haven't heard back from him, and I have not had responses yet from Nathan or John. I have not yet reached out to Jennifer Vashon with Maine DIF&W, but she may be another potential source.

Susan also offered that the Superior National Forest could help with telemetry if this lynx were to be released in the Minnesota Arrowhead area. I have not looked into what may be involved with cross-state transport, but I would like to see this animal released where it may have the best odds of survival.

Anyway - not sure what your plans are, in terms both of release site (if it is determined to be releasable) and possibility of monitoring it with telemetry. It appears that this incident has gained a popular following, and I suspect there would be quite a bit of interest in following the fate of this animal. I know I would be interested to see where it ends up.

Also wanted to pass along a message I had from Dr. David Mech, who said that this cat's diurnal activity and tolerance of human presence is not unusual for

transient/dispersing lynx and does not necessarily imply that it is or may be a domesticated cat.

Let me know if I can help with anything.

Jim

On Mon, Mar 18, 2019 at 2:44 PM Kennedy, Daniel (DNR) <KENNEDYD@michigan.gov> wrote:

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

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Jim Zelenak, Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Montana Ecological Services Office

12/16/2019

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

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