

Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>

Re: FWS pilot fly lynx to MN?

1 message

Fasbender, Peter <peter_fasbender@fws.gov>

Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 1:27 PM

To: "Nordstrom, Lori" <lori_nordstrom@fws.gov>Cc: "Hicks, Scott" <scott_hicks@fws.gov>, Sean Marsan <Sean_Marsan@fws.gov>

Last fall, the FWS was involved in transporting wolves in one of our Kodiaks. I'm not sure how many wolves, or how many trips have been taken. I know for sure at least 2 wolves on 2 separate flights.

On Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 11:23 AM Nordstrom, Lori <lori_nordstrom@fws.gov> wrote:

Pete - how did we fly the wolves to Isle Royale?

I realize this is a feel good story but this is a lot of effort/\$ for one lynx... (not saying don't do it but...)

Based on my experience I would not put the cat in the UP of Michigan (or the LP, or WI), a cat like this that was on the move still needs to move (while being supported by a good hare population). The UP is too restrictive, especially now that there won't be ice to cross. There's a reason lynx don't establish populations in the small, remote pockets they're able to travel to on their walk abouts. If we're going to all this effort, put it in a place it can most likely make it.

Lori H. Nordstrom
Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region
[5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990](#)
[Bloomington, MN 55437](#)
612/713-5345
Cell: 612/772-3549
lori_nordstrom@fws.gov

On Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 11:04 AM Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov> wrote:

The lynx from the MI thumb is currently at the Detroit zoo. Although still being evaluated as to condition/health and origin, it's looking like the lynx should be released into the wild.

You'll recall that Jim Zelenak suggested releasing somewhere in MN (Arrowhead/Superior NF/Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Voyageurs NP). MI DNR is exploring that with MN DNR now (to see if would be option, what would be required, etc.)

MI DNR is also coordinating with researchers in MI that have been working with snowshoe hare to see which areas in MI might have a decent enough prey pop to support the lynx.

Also weighing if released in MN then more likely could be a part of breeding pop, less people (especially given already proven to have issues with farmers).

Just exploring options now, but if MN is selected as the best choice, getting the lynx to MN with the least amount of additional stress would be ideal.

In the light, was wondering do you think it might be possible for the FWS pilots to fly the lynx from Detroit to Northern MN?

Thoughts?

Thanks
Scott

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: FWS pilot fly lynx to MN?

[East Lansing, Michigan 48823](#)

Phone: 517-351-6274

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Peter J. Fasbender
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota and Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
[4101 American Boulevard East](#)
[Bloomington, MN 55425](#)
Telephone: (952) 252-0092, extension 210