

Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>

Re: Lynx to MN question

1 message

Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov>

Tue, Mar 26, 2019 at 8:29 AM

To: "Fasbender, Peter" <peter_fasbender@fws.gov>

Thanks Pete, if you could please check that would be great. I'll be out of the office for spring break starting tomorrow through April 5th, if you come up with any leads, please let Carrie and Dan Kennedy know directly.

Thanks again,
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

On Tue, Mar 26, 2019 at 8:19 AM Fasbender, Peter <peter_fasbender@fws.gov> wrote:

One other thought here Scott is the MN Air National Guard who have expressed interest in transport opportunities for FWS. I could either work with them directly or pass the info on to you. Let me know what you think. Have a great day

On Tue, Mar 26, 2019 at 6:45 AM Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks Mark, appreciate the information. If it starts looking like a MN release will be a go and there's \$, I'll circle back to you to see how your schedules are looking then. Thanks again,
Scott

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On Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 9:00 PM Koneff, Mark <mark_koneff@fws.gov> wrote:

Hey Scott - Ironically, just today I finish our national bald eagle survey in MI and ferried one of our Kodiaks to Minneapolis. Its possible we could support this, however timing could be an issue as could aircraft availability. By far the cheapest solution would be to use our Minneapolis based Kodiak which is big enough to accept a crate. Would be about 9-10 hours round trip, including the trip to northern MN, at \$\$565/hr depending on the aircraft that was available. We may also have the plane loaded with remote sensing gear which would be problematic. Maybe is about all I can say without knowing more on projected timing. The MN Kodiak is in NV right now and the one I flew to MN is fully engaged in the eagle survey. The one in NV will be coming back hopefully within a couple of weeks. Let me know if you want to explore it more.

Mark Koneff
Chief, Migratory Bird Surveys Branch
USFWS- Division of Migratory Bird Management
17 Godfrey Drive, Suite 2
Orono, Maine 04473
Office: 207-866-1281
Cell: 301-980-0125
EMAIL: mark_koneff@fws.gov

On Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 1:09 PM Hicks, Scott <scott_hicks@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Mark,

Pete suggested you be the one to ask about this question regarding the possibility of using an FWS pilot/plane for moving a lynx from MI to MN.

Last week a lynx was captured in the thumb-region of Michigan (not near any lynx habitat, attacking domestic animals).

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

Some lynx experts have suggested consider 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 being considered is that 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), not isolated habitat as in MI.

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.

So do you think there would be the possibility of FWS flying the lynx from Detroit to northern MN in the week or so?

If schedules would allow, any ball park estimate for how much that might cost?

Not exactly sure on the timing, given the animal hasn't been given the all clear health wise yet and still some questions on origin. And again, the MDNR may decide to release it back into MI, so for now just exploring options.

Thanks
Scott

Field Supervisor
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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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