

## Michigan DNR Wildlife Division

### Lynx talking points

March 18, 2019

#### History with this lynx

- On March 16<sup>th</sup> the DNR was contacted about a potential lynx in Sanilac County that was depredating a farmer's domesticated geese.
- The farmer indicated that the lynx was easily approachable and wasn't spooked by his presence.
- Since the lynx was reportedly behaving oddly, the DNR and US Fish and Wildlife Service decided to capture the lynx to allow for an evaluation of its health.
- The DNR worked collaboratively with a local trapper to capture the lynx and it was caught the next morning - the morning of March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The DNR has authority to handle federally threatened species via their Cooperative Agreement with the USFWS.
- The Lynx was transferred to a rehabilitation facility on the morning March 18<sup>th</sup>
- The landowner thought they saw a second lynx, but that is still uncertain. Additional monitoring will take place this week to determine if a second lynx exists.

#### History of lynx in Michigan

- The Canada lynx is a species adapted for hunting its primary prey, the snowshoe hare, in the snowy boreal spruce-fir forests of the north (mainly in Canada and Alaska).
- The best available information continues to suggest that resident lynx did not historically and do not currently occur in Michigan and that historical and potential future occurrences of lynx in Michigan most likely represent occasional dispersing lynx.
- In the Lower Peninsula, historical verified lynx records are exceptionally rare. The last known record was from the Au Sable River in Oscoda County in 1917.
- Lynx are somewhat more common in the UP, where there were 38 verified records as of 1999, the most recent sighting is from Sugar Island in 2010.

#### Next steps

- Make sure animal is healthy and will undergo a thorough behavioral and physical evaluation.
- Evaluate whether or not there is evidence of the lynx has been held in captivity.
- Collaborate with USFWS on future direction for this lynx.