

Lynx teleconference notes

April 1, 2019

1) lynx update

- a. she is doing well and has eaten 7 rabbits to date
- b. interaction with her is limited – when giving food
- c. fecal analysis identified parasites, probably won't harm her, but there was concern about introducing new parasites at release site – so decided to treat parasites – shouldn't affect her at all
- d. will test for microchip, weigh and assess foot (if possible) if/when she is captured for transfer

2) DNA test results – email from Kristy – USFS lab supervisor

With respect to the DNA testing, our lynx reference database has samples from MN, ON, MT, WA and Maine. We are also able to identify lynx-bobcat hybrids through DNA. We will test the DNA from this female to first:

- a. Confirm that genetically she is a lynx (vs. a lynx-bobcat hybrid)
- b. See if she matches any samples in the database (particularly if she matches any of the genetic profiles we have from any of the MN lynx known through scat and hair samples); if she does match a genetic profile we have on file from that area, we can provide statistical numbers around the match. This is the most straightforward since it would inform that she came from the MN population and we know when she was last detected and where.
- c. If she doesn't match anyone in our database, we can do what's called an assignment test which can test based on our reference database, what population she may have come from. In terms of identifying if she was captive, that depends on her lineage/breeding. Often, it's easier to tell if an animal was captive by the wear on their pads of their feet, any collar marks or microchip etc. For example, if she was caught from the wild as a kitten, then genetically she'll genetically assign to a wild population and genetically. But we have had cases where a captive animal has a genetic profile not consistent with wild reference populations. We'll know more once we test her DNA this week.

3) Discuss potential release locations

- a. Gary briefly described the 2011 lynx model, the slides of hare distribution and map of hare densities at specific sites
- b. Discussed that released lynx in Maine typically move long distances after release
- c. Seney could be a good release – decent habitat, hare and security

4) Discussed whether to collar her, if released

- a. Collars are now much smaller and less of a burden to animals
- b. We have very little info on lynx in MI
- c. Could help identify movements and potential dispersal corridors
- d. USFWS and Sault tribe may be interested in purchasing/buying a collar
- e. Would need to use a GPS collar
- f. Would be valuable to know whether she is on/off Refuge
- g. We should consider the social ramifications of collaring her
- h. Continue to discuss at next teleconference

5) Logistics for the release – discuss at next teleconference

6) Other?

