

**METADATA**  
**LYNX HABITAT**  
**(LynxHabitat)**

**Summary (Purpose):** The Lynx Habitat dataset contains polygons which are identified as Lynx Habitat or Lynx Foraging Habitat within the boundary of the Bitterroot National Forest. It also contains polygons within lynx habitat polygons which are not classified as lynx habitat – these contain a blank in the HABITAT attribute. This dataset is often used along with the Lynx Analysis Units dataset.

**Description (Abstract):** This base layer was developed in response to the Canada Lynx Conservation Agreement between the US. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFS Agreement #00-MU-11015600-013, 1999. Part of the agreement states that the Forest Service will identify and map lynx habitat and lynx analysis units within the National Forest System (NFS) administrative units listed in the LCAS by March 31, 2000. They will coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Service and use the habitat descriptions from the LCAS in these mapping activities.

On July 8, 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposed rule to list the Canada lynx in the coterminous United States as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA) (Federal Register, Volume 63, No. 130).

The Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy identifies 17 lynx risk factors in 4 different categories-- factors affecting lynx productivity, lynx mortality, lynx movements, and other large-scale risk factors. Risk factors identified activities or existing conditions that could adversely affect either individual or groups of lynx.

Factors identified include timber management; wildland fire management; recreation; forest/backcountry roads and trails; livestock grazing; other human developments; trapping; predator control; incidental or illegal shooting; competition and predation as influenced by human activities; highways (vehicular collisions); highway, railroad and utility corridors; land ownership patterns; ski areas and large resorts; fragmentation and degradation of lynx refugia; lynx movement and dispersal across shrub-steppe habitats; and habitat degradation by non-native invasive plant species.

**Attributes:**

**DRAINAGE:** River/creek drainage in which the lynx habitat is found.

**HABITAT:** Type of habitat: "Foraging Habitat", "Habitat" (General) or blank.

**ARC\_ACRES:** Acres of lynx habitat in the polygon identified as "Habitat" or "Foraging Habitat" (calculated by ArcMap).

**Coordinate System:**

**Type:** Projected

**Geographic Coordinate Reference:** GCS North American 1983

**Datum:** D\_North\_America\_1983

**Projection:** NAD\_1983\_UTM\_Zone\_11N

**Unit:** Meters

**Use Limitations:** The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy; accurate only at certain scales; based on modeling or interpretation; incomplete while being created or revised; etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify or replace GIS products without notification.