

Appendix C

Interagency Guidelines for Handling Live and Dead Canada Lynx Specimens in Minnesota

Live Animals

Employees or agents of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) may, in the course of their official duties, aid a sick, injured, or orphaned Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*). If you are not an employee or agent of any of these agencies, see the list of [Contacts](#) below for an appropriate contact. On any American Indian Reservation or on lands covered by off-reservation treaty rights, please coordinate with tribal natural resources department and/or tribal law enforcement officials.

Handling Trapped Animals - Coordination with NRRI Research Personnel

Under some conditions lynx that are incidentally trapped in the Duluth-Ely-Tofte area may be radio-collared or rehabilitated instead of being released or euthanized. For radiocollaring or rehabilitation to be viable options, please contact NRRI Lynx Research Project Biologists (cell phone: (218) 341-6271, see Contacts) *as soon as possible after receiving a call about a captured lynx*. The following information may be helpful when preparing for dealing with trapped or snared lynx.

Situation	Factors to Consider	Recommendation
Leghold trap, no apparent injuries	Lynx may have been in the trap for several hours. An additional 30 minutes in the trap may be better than releasing the animal without assessing for injuries on an anesthetized animal – this may be especially true for animals caught by toes in a small trap.	Wait for biologists to arrive to anesthetize and assess animal. Release animal if biologists are not available.
Leghold trap, severe injury	Severe injuries (fracture of major leg bones or foot bones, severe hair loss on leg or open wound).	Wait for biologist to anesthetize animal; trapped animal will then be brought to veterinarian for care and rehabilitation.
‘Relaxing’ snare	Lynx caught in ‘relaxing’ snares have been anesthetized easily in the past.	If lynx appears uninjured and is calm, do not do anything to excite the animal. Wait for biologist to anesthetize animal.
Non-relaxing snare	In most cases the animal will be dead.	If the animal is alive, release it immediately unless it is likely that the animal will suffer no harm while waiting for biologists to arrive to administer anesthetic.
Box trap		Place a blanket or tarp over the trap and wait for biologist to anesthetize animal.

In all cases conservation officers or other personnel may need to decide whether to

release the animal before NRRI Biologist arrives. Environmental conditions (e.g., low temperatures) or the animal's behavior and apparent condition may indicate that it would be best to release the animal immediately, even if personnel with anesthetic have already begun traveling to the site. Once permitted research biologists arrive, personnel may transfer care of live animals to them.

Handling Injured Animals

Animals found to be injured may be taken to a [veterinarian](#) for further examination and possible treatment. Contact Tamara Smith at (612) 725-3548 ext. 219.

Dead Animals

Before removing or handling specimens, contact FWS Law Enforcement and the nearest MN DNR Conservation Officer; on American Indian Reservations contact tribal law enforcement or tribal natural resource officials (see [Contacts](#)). Contact all three parties on treaty-ceded lands. If the specimen was located on federal land (e.g., Superior National Forest), also contact a law enforcement officer of the appropriate federal land management agency. Follow the agents' directions for preserving the site and any evidence that may be needed for enforcement purposes.

All incidents involving attempted or actual capture, wounding, killing, harming, or trapping of Canada lynx should be reported within 24 hours (and must be reported within 5 Days) to FWS Law Enforcement Division (see [Contacts](#)). Carcasses should be tagged, kept refrigerated or, if necessary, frozen, and retained by a law enforcement agent until directions for the carcass are received from FWS Law Enforcement. FWS will determine where the carcass should be sent for necropsy, in consultation with the DNR, American Indian tribes, and inter-tribal organizations (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and 1854 Authority, see [Contacts](#)), research scientists. **Do not remove any tissue samples from lynx carcasses before clearing with FWS Law Enforcement.** If FWS Law Enforcement tells you that the carcass is not needed for a law enforcement case, arrange to take or ship it to the University of Minnesota Lynx Research Project (see [Contacts](#)), who will then contact FWS Ecological Services.

Requests to retain lynx pelts, other parts, or whole specimens for educational or research purposes following necropsy must be approved by the FWS (contact FWS Endangered Species Permits, see [Contacts](#)). Distribution of lynx pelts, other parts, or whole specimens will be conducted in cooperation with DNR, American Indian Communities, and inter-tribal organizations.

Reporting

All incidents involving capture, attempted capture, wounding, killing, harming, or trapping of Canada lynx should be reported within 24 hours (and must be reported within 5 Days) to FWS Law Enforcement Division (see [Contacts](#)). Include the following information in your report:

- Date
- Precise location
- Description of the animal and the incident
- Whether photographs or material for DNA analysis (e.g., hair, scat) were collected
- Contact information for the person reporting the incident and other witnesses, if applicable

Other Lynx Observations

Please send reports of other lynx observations to MN DNR Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program (see [Contacts](#)), including the following information: location (legal and descriptive), date, observer(s) names and contact information (address, phone, email if known), description of the observation and identifying characters, and whether photographs or material for DNA analysis (e.g., hair, scat) were collected.

Contacts

1854 Authority

Andy Edwards, Biological Services Director
1854 Authority
4428 Haines Road, Duluth, MN 55811
(218) 722-8907
aedwards@1854treatyauthority.org

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Corey Strong, Director
Department of Natural Resources
Tribal Office, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, Minnesota 55772
(218) 757-3261

FWS Law Enforcement:

Patrick Lund, Resident Agent in Charge (Minnesota, Wisconsin)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
445 Etna Street, Suite 45, St. Paul, MN 55106
(651) 778-8360; CELL PHONE (651) 775-2758
pat_lund@fws.gov

FWS Ecological Services:

Tamara Smith, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 E. 80th St., Bloomington, MN 55425
(612) 725-3548 ext. 219
tamara_smith@fws.gov

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Mike Schrage, Biologist
Fond du Lac Resource Management Division
1720 Big Lake Road, Cloquet, MN 55720
(218) 878-7103
MikeSchrage@fdlrez.com

Grand Portage Band of Chippewa

Seth Moore
Grand Portage Chippewa Trust Lands
27 Store Road, Grand Portage, MN 55605
(218) 475-2415
samoore@boreal.org

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Jonathan Gilbert, Wildlife Section Leader
P. O. Box 9
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 685-2121
jgilbert@glifwc.org

MN DNR Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program:

Richard Baker, Minnesota Endangered Species Coordinator
Minnesota Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
500 Lafayette Rd., Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 297-3764
richard.baker@state.mn.us

MN DNR Furbearer Program:

John Erb, Furbearer Research Biologist
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1201 E. Hwy. 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-4130
john.erb@state.mn.us

Minnesota Zoo (for rehabilitating/holding injured lynx)

Tom Ness – (952) 431-9391
Jim Rasmussen – (952) 431-9371

US Forest Service:

Alan Dohmen, Forest Biologist
Superior National Forest
8901 Grand Avenue Place, Duluth, MN 55808
(218) 626-4317
adohmen@fs.fed.us

Keith McAuliffe, Special Agent (Investigations)
USDA Forest Service
8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55808
(218) 626-4386
kmcauliffe@fs.fed.us

University of Minnesota – Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) Lynx Research Project:

Ron Moen
Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth
5031 Miller Trunk Hwy.
Duluth, MN 55811
(218) 720-4372 or (218) 341-6271 (cell)
rmoen@nrri.umn.edu

Voyageurs National Park

Steve Windels
Voyageurs National Park
(218) 283-6692
steve_windels@nps.gov