



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region



IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/R6  
ES

MAILING ADDRESS:  
Post Office Box 25486  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:  
134 Union Blvd.  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

SEP 12 2005

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has completed the enclosed recovery outline for the contiguous United States distinct population segment of the Canada lynx. As you know, in 2000, the lynx was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, as amended. Because of limited resources, we have not yet drafted a formal recovery plan. This recovery outline is intended to provide the Service's interim guidance on recovery efforts until a draft recovery plan has been completed. The outline also will inform the preparation of the critical habitat proposal.

The outline presents our current understanding of historical and current lynx distribution, ecology, population dynamics, and the relative importance of different geographic areas to the persistence of lynx in the contiguous United States. Additionally, the outline describes preliminary recovery objectives and actions.

We welcome your views on the enclosed outline. In particular, we would like your thoughts on our delineation of the geographic areas:

1. Are the areas we have identified consistent with our criteria for core, secondary, and peripheral areas?
2. Have we omitted any areas that meet the criteria for core, secondary, and peripheral areas?
3. Are the criteria for identifying core areas sufficient to meet the three principles of conservation biology articulated on page 4 of the outline?

This invitation to provide feedback on the recovery outline is informal. There will be opportunity for formal public comment on the proposed critical habitat rule which is due for completion November 1, 2005, and for full participation in the recovery planning process when it is initiated. At this time we anticipate we will begin formal recovery planning for the lynx in early 2007, after the final lynx critical habitat designation is completed.

Comments and questions can be directed to the Service's lead biologist for lynx recovery issues:

Lori Nordstrom, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
100 N. Park Avenue, Suite 320, Helena, Montana 59601  
TEL (406) 449-5225, extension 208; FAX (406) 449-5339  
>lori\_nordstrom@fws.gov<

We appreciate your time to provide input on this lynx recovery outline. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Mary G. Henry*

**ACTING** Regional Director

Enclosure