

Canada Lynx Species Status Assessment Expert Elicitation Workshop

Bloomington, Minnesota
October 13-15, 2015



Objectives

- Why are we here?
 - Gather scientific information from experts on current status, threats, and future viability of lynx populations in the contiguous U.S.
 - Where data are lacking, elicit expert knowledge, professional judgment, and opinion on the nature and magnitude of potential threats to DPS populations and the DPS as a whole
- Why do we need this information?
 - Complete a Species (DPS) Status Assessment for lynx
 - Court-ordered deadline for completing a recovery plan

Objectives

- Why are we *NOT* here?
 - To make policy or ESA status/listing decisions
 - To develop recovery goals, objectives, criteria
 - To “settle” or resolve disagreements or differences of opinion/interpretation where there is uncertainty, limited data, or a range of potential outcomes
 - To determine the “right answer”
 - To seek consensus

Brief Listing History

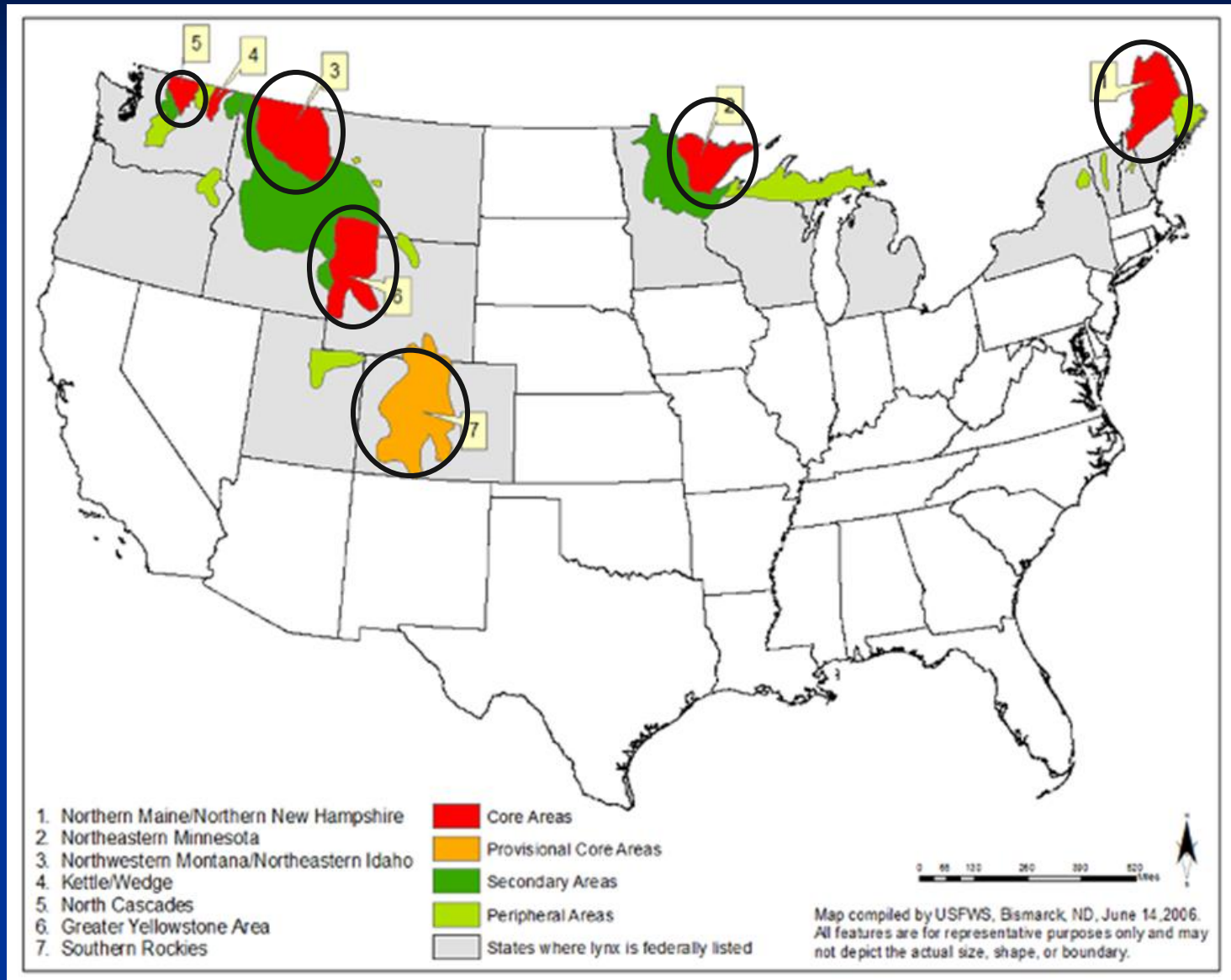
- 2000 (& 2003) - Contiguous U.S. DPS listed as threatened:

“...by the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms. Current U.S. Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plans include programs, practices, and activities within the authority and jurisdiction of Federal land management agencies that may threaten lynx or lynx habitat. The lack of protection for lynx in these Plans render them inadequate to protect the species.”

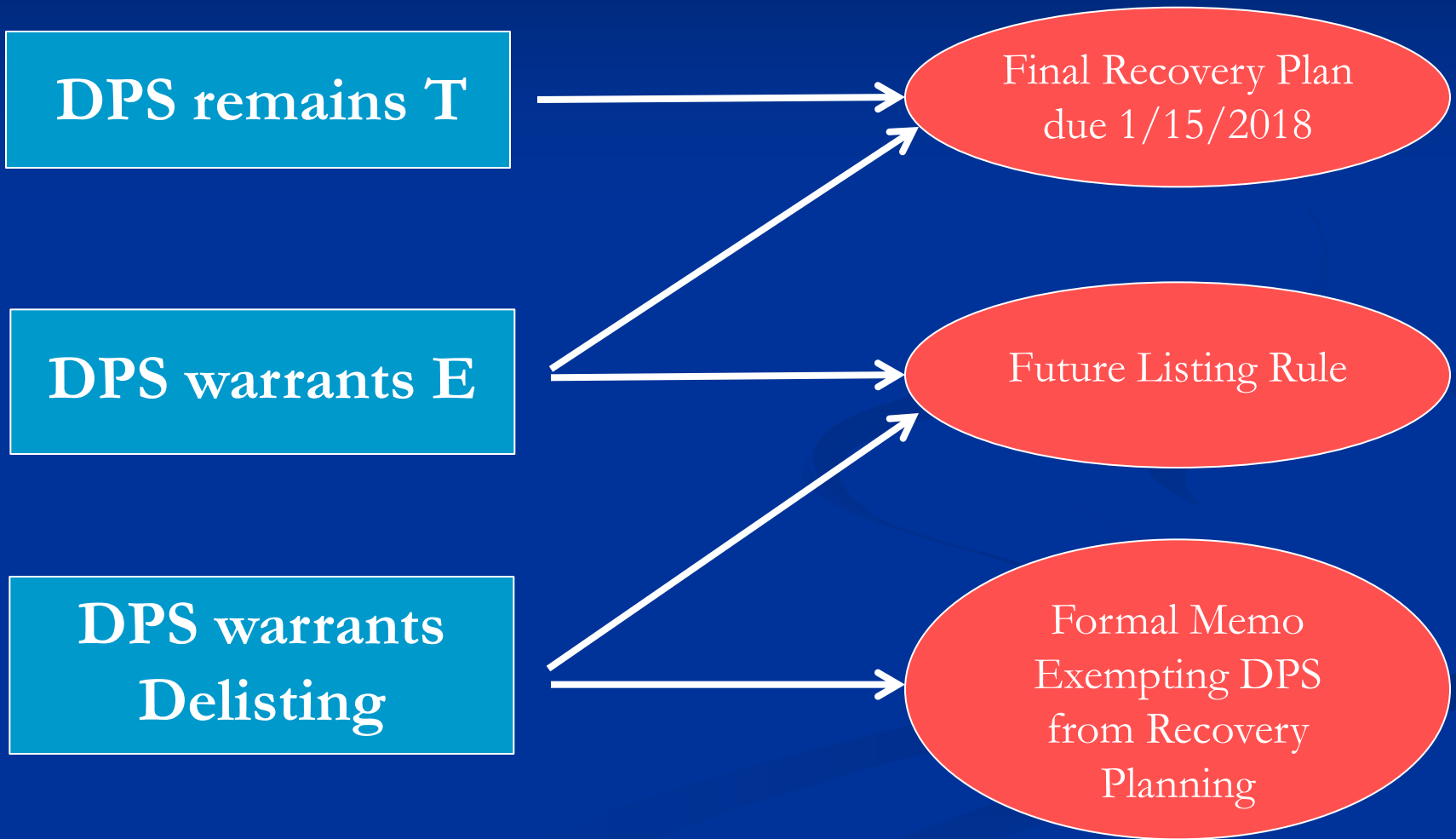
Brief Listing History

- 2005 - Recovery Outline
- 2006 - CH designated
- 2007 - SPR Clarification
 - Service withdrew 2006 CH
- 2009 & 2014 - Revised CH
- June 25, 2014 – Court order to complete Recovery Plan by Jan. 15, 2018

Lynx DPS Subpopulations



Potential Findings



Schedule

- Court order to finalize recovery plan by Jan. 2018
- Dec. 2014/Jan. 2015 – announced re-initiation of 5-year status review
- Mar. 2015 – Decision to implement SSA framework
- Dec. 2015 – Finish SSA to allow completion of final recovery plan by court-ordered deadline
- Jan. 2016 to Jan. 2017 – Draft recovery plan
- Jan. 2017 to Jan. 2018 – Final recovery plan

Next Steps

- Compile notes and summarize proceedings of this workshop; distribute for review by experts and presenters
- Complete SSA report by end of 2015; conduct peer-review and distribute to partner agencies
- Convene recovery planning team if necessary

Questions?

