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.

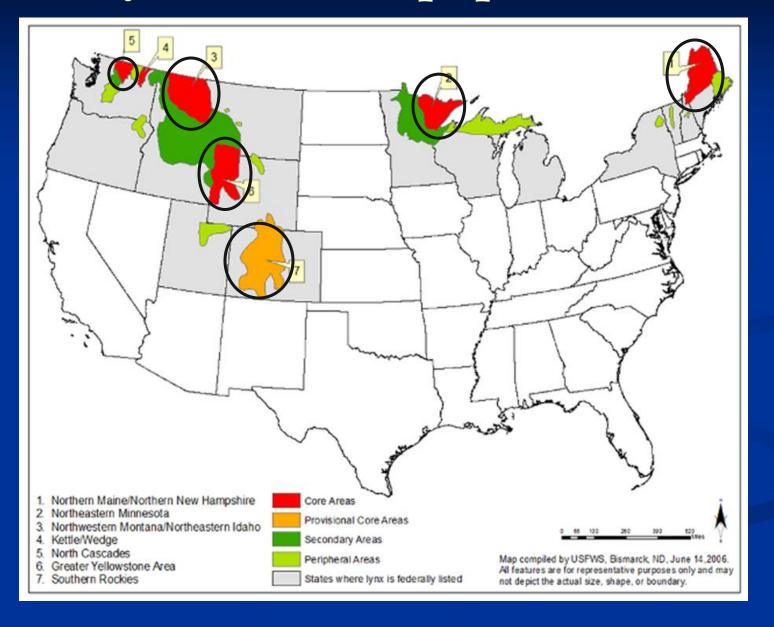
Current U.S. Forest Service Land and Resource Management

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."

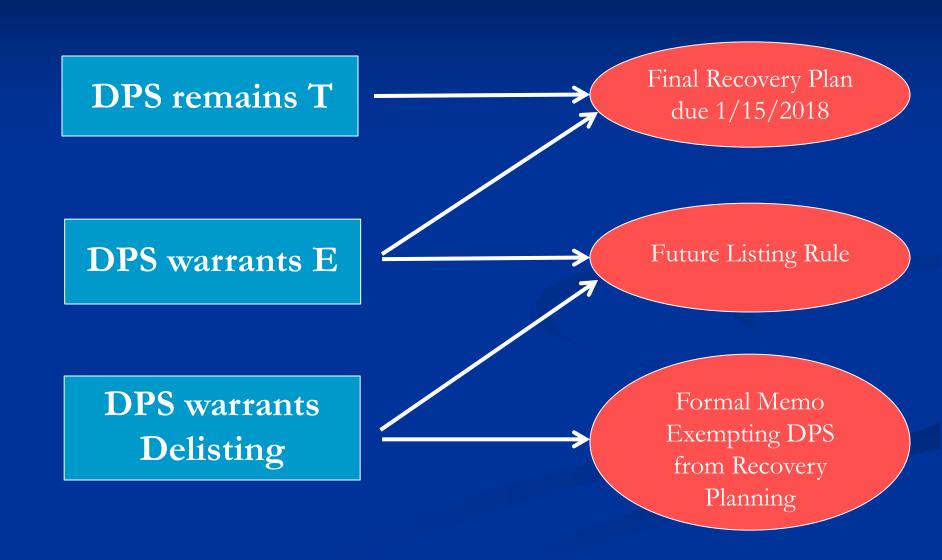
Brief Listing History

- 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

Proposed Schedule

Project Plan - DRAFT Canada lynx DPS - SSA/ 5-Year Review/ Recovery Plan Conceptual Schedule*

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(Calendar Years)				·	2016				2017				2018			
Activities/Products (Quarters**)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SPECIES STATUS ASSESSMENT (SSA)					•••••											
Form SSA Team																
Complete Species Needs																
Identify Model Scenarios***																
Model development																
Identify model framework & scientific validity																
Build model (e.g., BBN - Bayesian Belief Network																
Prototype model structure																
Expert elicitation for "current conditions into future" scenario****																
Run "current conditions into future" scenario																
Evaluate 3Rs for first scenario/determine need for additional scenarios																
SSA Peer review																
If needed, run additional management scenarios, including EE, for REV																
5-YEAR REVIEW																
5-year review recommendation																
REV, IF NEEDED																
Draft RP																
Comments/peer review																
Final RP																
Develop RIS																
Summary																
SSA Analysis and Documentation																
5-year Review (to final recommendation)										,	·					
Recovery Planning (to Final Plan)	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>											

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 peerreview and distribute to partner agencies
- Convene recovery planning team if necessary

