CANADA LYNX AND WOLVERINE: FIVE YEARS OF CONSERVATION INS

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Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis) were listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in March 2000 as threatened. Wolverine (Gulo gulo) were petitioned and determined to be not warranted for federal listing in August 2003. Independent of these different legal histories, national interagency conservation programs for these 2 species have been handled in a similar fashion by state and federal agencies with management responsibility. The Lynx and Wolverine Steering Committee, consisting of state and federal members, continues to provide oversight for the conservation of these 2 carnivores. For Canada lynx, a nationwide management document entitled, Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (LCA), August 2000) provides guidance for project design in mapped lynx habitat. Conservation Agreements among USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, and USDI Bureau of Land Management provide guidance for the interim period between the LCAS and its incorporation into agency management plans. Lynx have been surveyed across their historic range in the lower 48 states and found to exist in 5 primary areas. For wolverine, there are 2 teams developing a conservation strategy and science report. Research is underway in selected areas of historic wolverine range. We summarized conservation programs and status of both species on public lands in the contiguous United States in relation to species status, ongoing management programs, and research. Potential threats and future conservation needs for both species and habitats were presented.