

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REVIEW OF THE LYNX<sup>TWS</sup>

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The publication of the proposed rule to list the lynx in the contiguous United States under the Endangered Species Act has created questions and misperceptions about how animals and plants are added to the list of species protected under the Act and the consequences of listing. Using the lynx as an example, I describe the specific process the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must use in determining whether an animal should be listed and the policies and legal cases that provide guidance to the listing process. I review the lynx listing history, time frames for the listing decision, and flexible provisions of the Act. Finally, I summarize some of the Endangered Species Act's requirements and possible effects, should the lynx become listed.