MAMMALS

lynx
Lynx canadensis

Lynx

(Lynx canadensis)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: Listed as an endangered species in Michigan, and federally threatened over portions of its range, the lynx declined from a statewide distribution to occasional occurrences in the Upper Peninsula. Settlement of Michigan has had significant impacts on vegetation that once supported lynx. Currently, there is no evidence that a breeding population of lynx occurs in Michigan. One lynx was captured and verified in 2003.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: lowland shrub; upland shrub; lowland conifer; mesic conifer; dry conifer; bog; swamp; large contiguous natural landscape; down woody debris

ASSOCIATED THREATS: altered fire regime; fragmentation; incompatible natural resource mgmt; industrial/residential/ recreational development; forestry practices; non-consumptive recreation; removal of wildlife

COMMENTS: Lynx numbers in Michigan tend to be irruptive. As lynx populations in Ontario increase, more individuals appear in the Upper Peninsula. Currently, lynx populations are increasing in Minnesota and appear to be expanding their range. This species will benefit from a better understanding of forest configuration needs and integrated wildlife-forest planning efforts. Fire suppression results in the build-up of excessive fuel loads and the potential for severe and large-scale fires, which could severely reduce habitat for lynx. This species may also be known by the name *Felis lynx*.