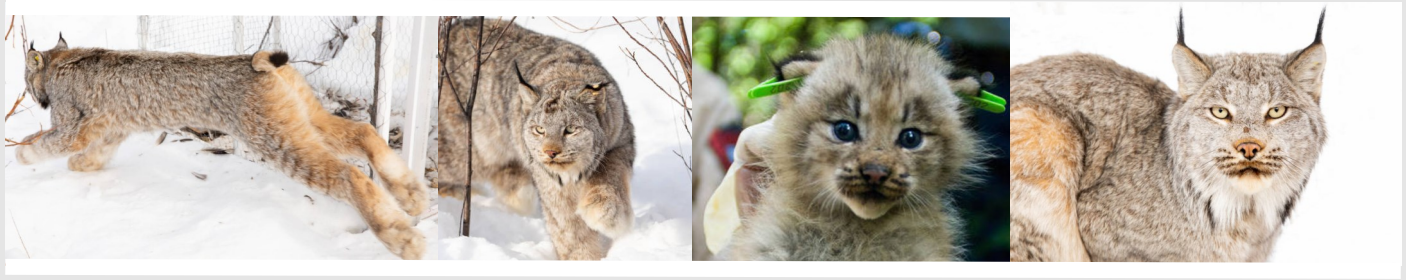


USACE Natural Resource Management

Mammals



Canada Lynx

FAST FACTS

REASONS FOR CURRENT STATUS: The contiguous U.S. population (DPS) of the Canada lynx was listed by USFWS as Threatened under the ESA in 2000. At the time, the available information indicated that the majority of habitat in the contiguous U.S. was found on federal land. It was thought that a lack of regulations and guidance as well as inconsistent management at the federal level had the potential to negatively impact the species. Additionally, the destruction and fragmentation of habitat renders areas unusable and depletes populations of this species' primary prey, the snowshoe hare. Other threats include the potential impacts of climate change as well as timber harvest and related silvicultural activities. (USFWS)

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: In 2014 the USFWS was ordered by the Courts to complete a recovery plan for the Canada lynx by 2018 or to make an official determination that a recovery plan is not necessary. In 2017, the USFWS completed a Species Status Assessment in which they determined the DPS may no longer meet the ESA's definition of a threatened species and that the DPS may need to be considered for delisting due to recovery. Consequently, the Service determined that in accordance with Section 4(f)(1) of the ESA, a recovery plan for the Canada lynx is not necessary at this time.

HABITAT NEEDS: The Canada lynx is associated with moist, cool, boreal spruce-fir forests.

- In Canada and Alaska this species inhabits taiga. In the western United States the Canada lynx occupies subalpine forest while in the eastern United States the species utilizes the boreal/hardwood forest ecotone. (USFWS)
- Locations with high snowshoe hare densities are optimal. Research has shown that densities of at least 0.5 hares per hectare are necessary to support persistent lynx populations.
 - Snow influences lynx distribution. Populations typically occur in areas where snow is contiguous for at least four months or longer. (USFWS)

Appearance: This is a mid-sized cat similar in size to bobcats. The Canada lynx grows to be 30-35 inches in length and weighs 15-30 pounds as an adult. Appearance is also similar to bobcats due to its grizzled gray fur. However, the lynx can be distinguished by its large paws, black ear tufts, and black-tipped tail. The Canada lynx has long hind legs which help it hunt its primary prey, the snowshoe hare in deep, powdery snow. (USFWS)

Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Media Library

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

This fact sheet has been prepared as an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This online publication is produced to provide its readers information about best management practices related to special status species. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Mention of specific vendors does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or any element thereof.



June 2021

USACE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ROLE: According to the Engineering Research and Development Center's Threatened and Endangered Species Team Cost Estimates, the USACE has expended over \$495,000 on efforts related to the Canada lynx since 2006. These funds have been expended by multiple business lines including Environmental Stewardship, Hydropower, Planning and Program Management, and Regulatory. Expense types include Coordination and Determination, Site Visits, In-house Research, and Inventory, Survey, and Monitoring Efforts.

WHAT IS USACE NRM

DOING: According to the FY20 NRM Assessment, the Canada lynx's presence is only noted within the Saint Paul District of the Mississippi Valley Division. Within this district, the species is noted to have the potential to occur at five lakes that are part of the Reservoirs at the Headwaters of the Mississippi River: Gull Lake, Leech Lake, Pokegama Lake, Sandy Lake, and Winnibigosh Lake.

At these projects and across the Canada lynx's range, the USACE works diligently to ensure that all federally listed species are protected.

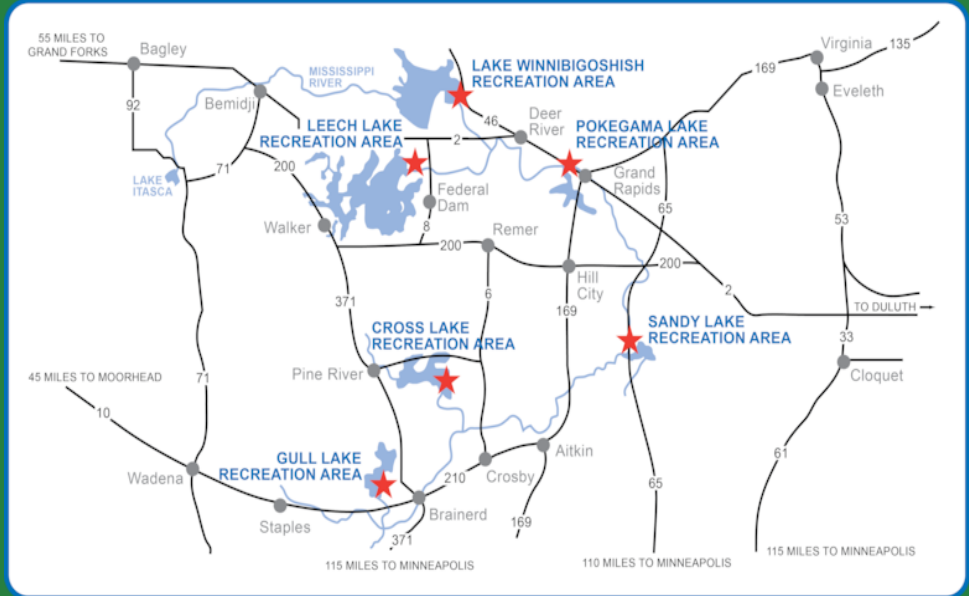
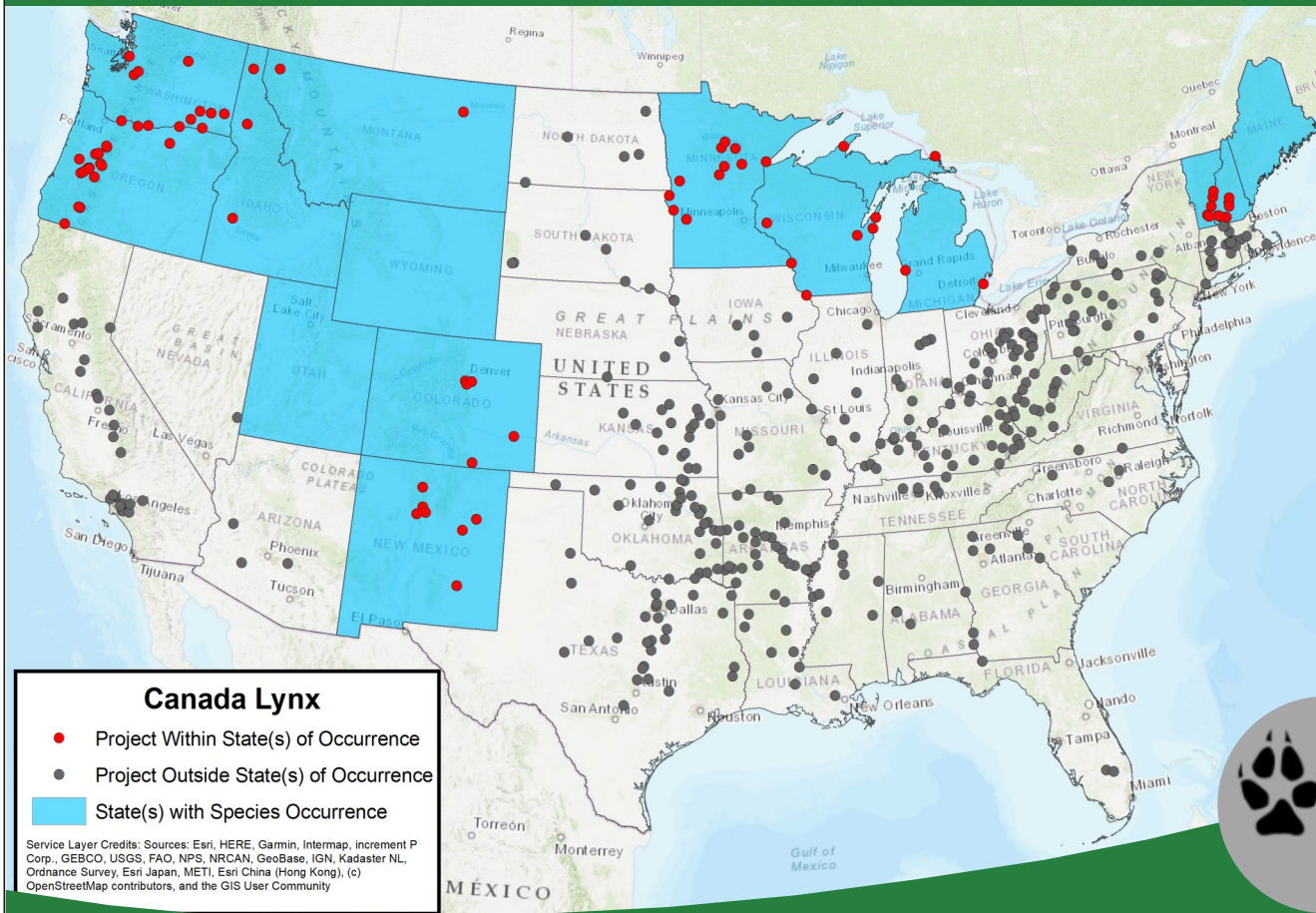


Photo Above: A USACE map of the six projects considered to be a part of the Reservoirs at the Headwaters of the Mississippi River.



Mammals
Source: Map provided by Ashleigh Boss, ORISE Fellow, Institute for Water Resources

Canada Lynx

- Project Within State(s) of Occurrence
- Project Outside State(s) of Occurrence
- State(s) with Species Occurrence

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