

SPECIES AT RISK MANAGEMENT: CANADA LYNX

The Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) in Nova Scotia was designated endangered in 2002 under the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act. A breeding population of lynx exists only on Cape Breton Island. Lynx on the mainland of Nova Scotia were listed as extirpated by the beginning of the twentieth century (though there have been claims of sightings in recent years). Their numbers fluctuate depending on the cyclical highs and lows of its primary prey, the snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), which comprises most of its diet. Regionally, lynx distribution is correlated with prolonged deep snow and the amount of coniferous forest. Lynx forage in habitats that are suitable for hare (habitat with hardwood browse and softwood cover). Canada Lynx Recovery Strategy (2005) estimates approximately 50-500 individuals in the Cape Breton lynx range based on the most current information available.

LYNX HABITAT MANAGEMENT ZONE

Habitat management requirements are implemented through the Department of Lands & Forestry approval process for Crown lands.



Figure 1: Total Area of protected Lynx Bog Buffers - 50,709ha



PORT HAWKESBURY PAPER
120 Pulp Mill Road, Port Hawkesbury,
Nova Scotia, B9A 1A1
www.porthawkesburypaper.com



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Canadian_lynx_by_Keith_Williams.jpg

OUR LYNX HABITAT SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INCLUDE:

- A wider buffer strip of 100 m of unharvested forest is left around all treed bogs in the Cape Breton lynx range to help supplement the Red Squirrel population (a secondary food source for the lynx).
- Where possible, decommissioning secondary, non-main trunk forest access roads following harvest.
- Narrowing and orienting road rights-of-way to create shade conditions to reduce snow compaction, thereby reducing ease of travel for coyotes.
- Planning access roads to have dead ends.
- Planning harvesting to allow decommissioning of sectors of road networks.
- Maintaining a continuous supply of >50ha patches of mid-regeneration (15-35-year old) conifer dominated habitat that supports high densities of snowshoe hare over each lynx management unit.
- Creating a landscape with a mosaic of successional growth stages, especially mid-regeneration patches that will support resident lynx.
- Employing silvicultural techniques that create, maintain, or prolong the use of stands by high populations of snowshoe hares.
- Retaining coarse woody debris for denning sites.



https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lepus_americanus_5459.JPG

Figure 2: Snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), primary prey of Canada Lynx