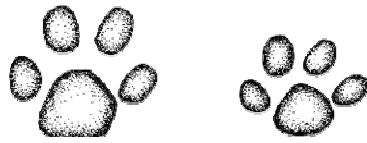


Lynx Links



Updates from the Minnesota Lynx Study Superior National Forest – Eastern Region Date: July 23, 2003

- Monitoring continues on the 2 radio collared cats. Since March, approximately 50 locations have been collected on the MN cat and about 25 on the cat that has dispersed to Canada.
- Trapping with soft catch foothold traps will begin on the week of 7/20/03. Two crews will be attempting to trap and place radio collars on lynx in MN for at least the next six weeks. Trapping will continue on an opportunistic basis through the fall and the primary field season will begin in December.
- GPS collars have been ordered and NRRI trappers will place them on larger lynx. Efforts will be made to recapture these animals to more quickly obtain the lynx locations.
- We are continuing our collaborative work with John Squires in Montana and working with the National Lynx Teams on several items, including study design and objectives review by the Science Team.
- In May-June 2003 over 180 permanent hare pellet plots were established in the Superior National Forest. Transects were placed with three different strategies: (1) in habitats according to their availability, (2) systematically along permanent snow tracking routes, and (3) stratified in preferred hare habitats.
- We are conducting a red squirrel survey on the Forest. The red squirrel is an alternate prey species for the Canada lynx. The Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) has been collecting red squirrel data for several years in conjunction with their Forest Bird Point Count plots. We are using point count data to determine trends.
- We are discussing collaboration with the research team in Maine.
- We are hosting the National Lynx Biology Team on the Forest in October, and look forward to that meeting.

We would like to acknowledge the Chequamagon-Nicolet National Forest and the Ottawa National Forest who are contributing funds to assist this effort.