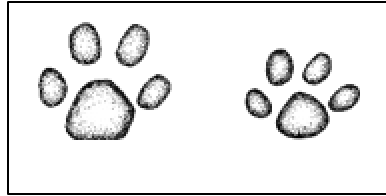


Lynx Links



Lynx L13 on remote camera exiting open trap, shortly before recapture

Updates from the Minnesota Lynx Project – 9/24/2004

Superior National Forest / Natural Resources Research Institute

DENS, KITTENS, MOVEMENTS, GPS COLLARS, AND ACTIVITY

Dens. At least 3 of the 4 radiocollared adult females had kittens. The last LynxLinks described the first den north of Two Harbors, MN, a second den was located south of Brimson, MN on June 23. In late June a third den was found south of Isabella, MN. The fourth adult female did not localize in a den site so she may not have had kittens, or lost them shortly after birth.

Kittens. The first den that we found had 3 kittens in it. We were a little surprised to find that there were 5 healthy kittens at the second den. The Mom, with her 5 kittens in tow, was seen in the Indian Lake Campground north of Brimson in late July. The third den was discovered too late to handle kittens. At least 2 kittens were seen before they ran off into the brush, however.

Movements. At least 3, and possibly 4 of the male radiocollared lynx spent some portion of their time in Ontario during spring and summer of 2004. L12 and L15 moved into Ontario within a month of being radiocollared. The cost of telemetry flights did not allow these animals to be monitored over the summer. After being relocated in September, L12 moved back into Minnesota, and L15 has moved south but is still in Canada. L10, another collared lynx, moved out of radio contact for a month and may also have been in Ontario.

GPS Collars. GPS collars have now been worn by 9 different Canada lynx on this project. These collars have all made 4 location attempts per day. We have 2,600 location attempts in hand, with about 1,500 successful GPS locations. In the near future we should recover 3 more collars with an additional 1,600 location attempts, and almost 1,000 GPS locations. These 2,500 locations will provide good initial estimate of habitat use by Canada lynx.

Activity patterns. One type of GPS collar that we use has an integrated activity counter. Every 5 minutes the activity of an animal is recorded onto the collar, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Captive lynx at the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, MN are wearing collars to calibrate recorded counts with specific activities of lynx.