Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/20/2023 4:36:50 PM

First name: Anita Last name: Vasquez

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Canada Lynx is threatened. It is a Focal Species needing continuous monitoring. Canada Lynx area are near Seeley Lake and Seeley Lake is the epicenter of connected wilderness areas; Bob Marshal, Mission and Scapegoat. Lynx are endangered by habitat destruction and deforestation exacerbated by global warming. These areas of Lolo Forest Wilderness still hold forested area contains land characteristically suitable and connected for Lynx. Critical Habitat was initially designated in 2006 with revisions in 2009 and 2014 Lolo Forest Planning, generally covering the boreal forests of northwestern Montana and the area around the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (USFWS 2014). Lynx monitoring and reassessment should be on going in Northwestern Montana Lolo National Forest Wilderness like it is presently in connected wilderness around Seeley. Older forests i.e., boreal forests of NW Montana contain a good population of Snowshoe hare, too which are an important part of resident Lynx diet, 35% to 97% (Koehler and Aubrey 1994), although these probably varied over time with ecosystem changes and time. Hunting in the area of concern is one of the Lynx main threats and they are more protected in remote wilderness habitat. Other threats around the Seeley area in habitat defragmentation and hunting, as mentioned previously. Forest insect infestation can affect Lynx habitat. Lynx are continuously assessed as Lolo Forest Wilderness observations are documented in the Montana Heritage Program Database on a regular basis. The amount, timing and results of Lynx population studies in areas of concern are enough to warrant there listing as a Lolo National Forest Species of Concern.