

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13 to 25 March 2010

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
COP15 PROP. 2

1. This information document has been submitted by the United States of America^{*}, as additional information on CoP15 Prop. 2, Deletion of *Lynx rufus* from Appendix II. In this document, we provide the link to a web-based draft *Lynx* identification manual. In addition, we announce plans by the United States to list *Lynx rufus* in CITES Appendix III, should the CoP15 proposal to remove *Lynx rufus* from Appendix II be adopted.
2. The draft *Lynx* identification manual may be accessed at www.wildfurid.com. In reviewing this identification manual, we believe it is important to keep under consideration the background and purpose of the document. In October 2008, the United States and the European Commission jointly organized and convened a meeting in Brussels with management and law enforcement authorities from *Lynx* range countries to discuss problems of illegal trade of *Lynx* species and look-alike concerns relative to *Lynx rufus*. The outcome of the meeting revealed that the majority of the poaching of Eurasian and Iberian lynx is related to predator control to protect livestock and game animals (deer), and the subsequent sale of the pelts is secondary. Furthermore, no documented incidents were reported of Eurasian or Iberian lynx entering into trade as bobcat. Regardless, at the meeting European Union (EU) member states continued to raise concerns that illegally harvested Eurasian lynx could end up in products of EU manufacturers and be sold as bobcat or North American lynx (*L. canadensis*) fur. The EU stated that, to help alleviate this look-alike concern, given the conservation status of *L. lynx* and *L. pardinus*, identification techniques for pelts without ears and tails must be made available. In response, the United States agreed to undertake efforts to develop an improved identification guide with this focus. Hence, the guide, which was developed by a scientist at Cornell University, is intended to be used to identify full skins and skins lacking a head and tail for species in the genus *Lynx*. It is not intended to be used for pieces of furs or garments. U.S. wildlife inspectors, enforcement, and management officials found this guide to be a significant improvement over the existing CITES identification sheets and a useful and effective tool for distinguishing between these species. The United States notes that the guide will continue to be improved as additional comments are received and as additional pelt samples of the three species become available.
3. Also at the October 2008 *Lynx* meeting in Brussels, discussion ensued on issues that could potentially arise if *Lynx rufus* were to be delisted from CITES. Several EU member states indicated concerns that a simple delisting could allow *Lynx lynx* to enter trade more easily if there is no document trail for *Lynx rufus* entering international trade. One possible option that received significant discussion involved down-listing *Lynx rufus* to CITES Appendix III and having the EU maintain it on their Annex B. This combined approach would allow for the retention of CITES documentation for shipments of *Lynx rufus* leaving the United States and other exporting countries and entering EU member states. At this time the United States pledges to the Parties that it will list *Lynx rufus* in CITES Appendix III, should the CoP15 proposal to remove *Lynx rufus* from Appendix II be adopted.

^{*} The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

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