

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Felis rufa escuinapae from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

The validity of Felis rufus escuinapae is questionable. The number of taxa described within Felis rufus ranges from 2 to 14. The subspecies was described from two immature male specimens on the basis of colour and cranial differences (Allen, 1903). Samson (1979) conducted a multivariate statistical analysis of a variety of skull measurements, and found cranial characters of F. r. escuinapae to be similar to those of F. r. californicus and F. r. texensis. Also, the range of escuinapae overlaps with those of baileyi and texensis.

11. Class: Mammalia
12. Order: Carnivora
13. Family: Felidae
14. Species: Lynx rufus escuinapae (Allen, 1903)
Felis rufus (Schreber, 1777)
15. Common Names: English: Mexican bobcat, el gato montes
French: lynx roux du Mexique
Spanish: Lince rojo de Mexico
16. Code Numbers: 141200700102400

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The Mexican bobcat was originally described from Escuinapa, Mexico, a coastal town in the State of Sinaloa (Allen, 1903). The extent of its range in Mexico is unknown.
22. Population: No population estimates are available, but Mexico stated that this species is widespread and numerous (in litt.).
23. Habitat: The bobcat is an adaptive animal and is found in all types of habitat throughout its range. It prefers foothills, canyon, broken, and forested areas usually below 6,000 feet. There is little information available on the habitat preference of the Mexican bobcat other than that it occurs in the coastal montane area of the State of Sinaloa, Mexico.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: There is no available information. There is the possibility of local hunting and trapping for subsistence.
32. Legal International Trade: There is little documented trade in the Mexican bobcat; in 1987 and 1988, 10 and 18 specimens, respectively, were legally imported into the United States.
33. Illegal Trade: None reported.
34. Potential Trade Threats: None.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Currently this species is included on the hunting calendar in Mexico.
42. International: Presently, the Mexican bobcat is listed in Appendix I of CITES and as an endangered animal under the US Endangered Species Act of 1973.

5. Information on Similar Species

Recognition of a subspecies implies a difference in morphology among populations even though delineating their ranges is often difficult. This difficulty may in part explain the difference in the numbers of subspecies (11 to 14) described for the bobcat. However, the 11 to 14 subspecies of bobcats described to date comprise few realistically distinguishable taxa that have any real biological or conservation significance (McCord and Cardoza, 1982).

Samson (1979) conducted a multivariate statistical analysis of a variety of skull measurements of bobcats and the preliminary results indicated that only an eastern and a western North-American subspecies may exist within Felis rufus. He found cranial characters of F. r. escuinapae to be similar to F. r. texensis and F. r. californicus and the ranges of baileyi, texensis, and escuinapae all overlapping. This similarity of individuals of "escuinapae" with adjoining groups suggests a close relationship.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

According to Mexico, the bobcat is widely distributed throughout the country, and there are numerous subspecies as well as adequate numbers of animals. Mexico suggests that all subspecies of bobcats be removed from CITES appendices. Mexico feels if this cannot be done, the validity of the subspecies escuinapae is in question.

7. Additional Remarks

Presently, all subspecies of bobcats, with the exception of escuinapae (Appendix I), are included in Appendix II due to similarity of appearance (Article II, paragraph 2b) to other listed species of felids. It appears that trade is not threatening the species with the possibility of extinction and that there is also the question as to the taxonomic validity of escuinapae.

8. References

Allen, J.A., 1903. A new deer and a new lynx from the state of Sinaloa, Mexico. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 19:614.

McCord, C.M. and J.E. Cardoza, 1982. Bobcat and Lynx. pp. 728-766. In: Wild Mammals of North America. eds. Chapman, J.A. and G.A. Feldhamer. Johns Hopkins Press. Baltimore.

Samson, F.B., 1979. Multivariate analysis of cranial characters among bobcats, with a preliminary discussion of the number of subspecies. pp. 80-86 In: Bobcat Research Conference Proceedings. eds. Blum, L.G. and P.C. Escherich. Nat. Wildlife Fed. Sci. and Tech. Series 6.

