

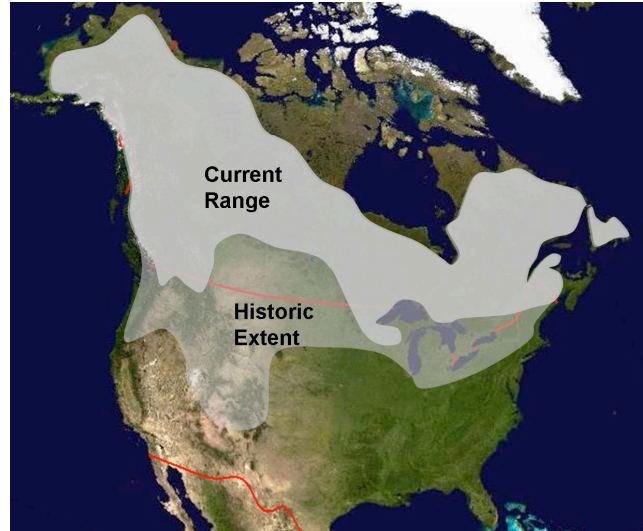
# ***LYNX, LIES, AND THE LAW***

## **PRESENTATION BY JYM ST. PIERRE**



Photo from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept.

Canada Lynx Range in North America



Map from Project Lynx B.E.

The historic range of the Canada lynx in the northeastern United States included remote areas in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. However, existence of the elusive wildcat became precarious throughout the country due to habitat loss and over-trapping. By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Maine had the only breeding population of Canada lynx in the entire eastern U.S.

In 2000, after multiple lawsuits by conservationists the Canada lynx was listed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a threatened species under the national Endangered Species Act.

In 2005, the USFWS proposed designating 6.8 million acres of critical lynx habitat in northern Maine. The following year a Bush Administration appointee who oversaw the agency met with timber company lobbyists. She then “bullied, insulted, and harassed the professional staff...to change documents and alter biological reporting” according to the Inspector General of U.S. Department of the Interior. As a result, despite extensive public comment in favor of habitat designation, the USFWS said it would not designate a single acre as critical habitat for lynx in New England.

In 2007, the Bush official resigned and the USFWS said it would correct the political tampering. Yet, in 2008 a federal court had to order the USFWS to expedite designation critical habitat for Canada lynx. Meanwhile, Plum Creek and other large landowners continue to fight the critical habitat proposal, which remains in limbo.

*Jym St. Pierre has been Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods since 1995. He earned a BA and MPS at the University of Maine. Jym has held senior positions in Maine within the Maine Department of Conservation, The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club. He has also served in many public interest positions, including the Maine Development Foundation's Leadership Maine Program, Maine Public Lands Policy Advisory Committee, Citizens to Protect the Allagash (Founding Chair), Northern Forest Lands Council Advisory Committee, Maine League of Conservation Voters (Founding Director), Maine Forest Biodiversity Project (Steering Committee), Kennebec Land Trust (Founding President), and Capital Area Camera Club (President). A Maine native, Jym has spent a good deal of time exploring the mountains and waters in the Maine Woods visited by Thoreau.*

To schedule a presentation, contact:  
**Jym St. Pierre, Maine Director**  
**RESTORE: The North Woods**  
**9 Union Street • Hallowell, ME 04347**  
**207-626-5635 • [jym@restore.org](mailto:jym@restore.org)**