

Media Release

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Canada Lynx Named One of America's Hottest Species

Global Warming Impacts on Endangered Species Focus of New Report

Litchfield, ME – The Canada lynx has been named one of America's top ten endangered wildlife, birds, fish and plants impacted by global warming in a new report. The report, *America's Hottest Species*, demonstrates ways that our changing climate is increasing the risk of extinction for eleven species around our country on the brink of disappearing forever.

"Global warming is like a bulldozer shoving species, already on the brink of extinction, perilously closer to the edge of existence," said Leda Huta, executive director of the Endangered Species Coalition. "Polar bears, lynx, salmon, coral and many other endangered species are already feeling the heat. The species in this report are representative of all imperiled wildlife, plants and fish that are now facing an additional compounding threat to their survival and why we need to take action today to protect them."

Canada Lynx In Need

Canada lynx numbers have declined throughout most of their range, with fewer than 1,000 estimated to be in the lower 48 states today. In Maine and elsewhere, habitat loss and fragmentation from recreation, urban development, oil and gas drilling and road construction, among other things, are major threats to the continued existence of this rare and elusive species. Climate change could be especially devastating to Canada lynx as this species is dependant on high elevation habitat with cold, snowy winters in order to maintain a competitive advantage over other predators.

"Our organization has been working with other conservationists for years to secure stronger protection for the Canada lynx," said Jym St. Pierre, Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods. "Misplaced subdivisions and resorts, such as the massive development proposed by Plum Creek and just approved by the State of Maine for the Moosehead Lake region, are heading in precisely the wrong direction. Lynx are at the southern end of their range around Moosehead and climate change will push them out of their historic habits," he added.

"The Northern woods in Maine may be very important to the Canada lynx in light of climate change," said Tara Thornton, Endangered Species Coalition. "Maine's forest could be an important refuge for lynx in the lower 48 states."

About the report

The report focuses on ten species, as well as an online poll winner, that are listed or being reviewed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The global warming threats to these species include increased disease, diminished reproduction, lost habitat, reduced food supply, and other impacts.

The highlighted species are:

1. Kaua'i Creeper or Akikiki
2. Elkhorn Coral
3. Bull Trout
4. **Canada Lynx**
5. Pacific Salmon
6. Leatherback Sea Turtle
7. Grizzly Bear
8. Bog Turtle
9. Western Prairie Fringed Orchid
10. Flatwoods Salamander

Activists' Choice: Polar Bear

Safeguarding Species in a Warming World

“To help protect and restore endangered species, our nation must address the impacts global warming is already having and clean up the sources of global warming pollution,” said Huta. *America’s Hottest Species* calls for action from both Congress and the Obama Administration.

The full report, which includes information on each species and initial solutions, is available online at www.StopExtinction.org.

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