

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at CoP15

	Species	Comment	Recommendation
2	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 2 [United States of America] Deletion from Appendix II.</p> <p>This North American cat species is sustainably harvested in large numbers for its fur, and its populations remain well managed and are stable or increasing throughout its range. For these reasons the species would merit removal from the Appendices. However, the Bobcat <i>Lynx rufus</i> was included in the CITES Appendices because of its similarity of appearance to other Felidae species that were threatened by international trade. Readily distinguishing Bobcat fur from that of other <i>Lynx</i> species that may be threatened by trade has begun to be addressed with the creation of a <i>Lynx</i> species fur identification guide by the USA. This guide is still undergoing review and its efficacy remains uncertain at the time of writing. Also in question is identification of furs from other Felidae species. There are generally signs of a revitalized international trade in cat furs for fashion, and illegal trade problems are emerging. Therefore, it remains unclear whether removal of <i>L. rufus</i> from the CITES Appendices would cause enforcement problems by facilitating trade in <i>Lynx</i> spp. and perhaps other Felidae species, misidentified as Bobcat.</p> <p>In accordance with the listing criteria set forth in Article II (2) (b), <i>Lynx rufus</i> should be retained in CITES Appendix II until the CITES Parties endorse identification materials that readily distinguish its fur products from those of potential look-alike Felidae species.</p>	REJECT