
PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES

ESSA ENDANGERED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY
EIGHTEENTH & C STREETS, N W □ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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EXPORT QUOTAS REMOVED ON BOBCAT,
LYNX, RIVER OTTER; GINSENG EXPORTS APPROVED

Most export restrictions on the 1978-79 season's harvest of bobcats, lynx, and river otters and the 1978 harvest of wild American ginseng have been removed by the Endangered Species Scientific Authority (ESSA) effective September 1, 1978.

The controls were imposed last year by the ESSA after it found that new population figures and improved management plans by the States were necessary before it could recommend issuance of export permits for the species. These species are harvested extensively in the United States, primarily to supply foreign markets. Management initiatives for these species and additional population data obtained by ESSA from the States have since provided greater assurance that the exports will not be detrimental.

The ESSA is an independent agency composed of representatives from seven Federal agencies which together with the Federal Wildlife Permit Office implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The Convention is a 46-nation international treaty aimed at preventing trade from contributing to the demise of any species.

Each of the species is listed on Appendix II of the Convention. Such a listing requires an export permit from the country of origin showing that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the remaining species in the United States.

The ESSA findings will be used by the Federal Wildlife Permit Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Management Authority for the Convention, in decisions on export permits. The Permit Office may not issue permits for exports of pelts or wild harvested roots unless the ESSA has given its approval by certifying that export will not harm remaining species in the wild.

The ESSA approved export of bobcats from 34 States and the Navajo Nation, although it set quotas of 6,000 pelts from New Mexico and 2,000 pelts from Wyoming. Lynx exports were approved for pelts taken from Alaska, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, and Washington. The ESSA approved river otter exports from 25 States, and American ginseng roots harvested in 17 States may enter into international trade. States and species for which the ESSA has approved export are listed in the attached table.

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(more)

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