



# Wildfire and lynx habitat use

A WDFW wildlife diversity grant project

Increasing wildfires are the top threat to Canada lynx in Washington, but there is little information on how to conserve lynx habitat while reducing the impact of future wildfires. This project will fill this knowledge gap by conducting an in-depth habitat analysis of lynx living on a wildfire-impacted landscape.



Credit: Home Range

**Project name:** Lynx Habitat Use in the Face of Increasing Fire in the North Cascades

**Primary species benefitting:** Canada lynx

**Grant total:** \$100,000

**Grantee & associated entity:** Carmen Vanbianchi, Home Range Wildlife Research

**Project webpage:**

[homerange.org/research/lynx-and-wildfire](http://homerange.org/research/lynx-and-wildfire)

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In the past 20 years, increasing wildfires have dramatically changed the forest landscape lynx depend on. However, we know little about how to reduce the impact of future fires without degrading current lynx habitat.

**This project will be the first in-depth examination of how we can simultaneously conserve habitat for the lynx of today while reducing the impact of future wildfires on the lynx of tomorrow.** Equipped with this information, managers will be able to create and implement conservation plans for recovering lynx in the era of climate change and increasing wildfires.



Credit: WDFW





Credit: Home Range



Credit: NPS



Credit: Home Range

## Project goals and outcomes

- Understanding how lynx use young, regenerating forests in wildfire areas, which will provide the foundation for developing guidelines to conserve lynx habitat in the face of increasing wildfires.
- Creating a tool for managers to test fuels reduction scenarios for their ability to both retain sufficient lynx habitat and effectively reduce fire risk by coupling habitat use analyses with fire behavior models.
- Collecting field data by GPS collaring lynx and quantifying fuels levels in lynx habitat. This data will also contribute to the development of combined lynx habitat maps and fire behavior models, which will help forest managers incorporate lynx habitat conservation into fuels reduction planning.

## Improved data for conservation planning and management

This project aims to analyze lynx habitat selection and combine models of lynx habitat and fire behavior for treatment planning.

This will help Home Range better understand how lynx populations use habitat heavily impacted by wildfires. Eventually, this data can be used to help develop a planning tool for managers to better balance fuel management with lynx habitat conservation in the Tripod Burn area in the Methow Valley. The findings from this project will be disseminated to the broader scientific community, agency forest and fuels managers, and agency wildlife managers.

The impact of increasing wildfires on wildlife, particularly carnivores, is not well studied. This project demonstrates how other carnivore and wildfire studies in Washington could approach solving similar issues for at-risk populations.



Credit: Home Range

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