



## *bizhiw* (lynx)

Did you know Minnesota has a healthy *Bizhiw* (Canada lynx) population? Northern Minnesota is at the southern edge of their range, with 100-200 that live and breed here (breeding is a sign of health). The number of lynx goes up and down depending on the availability of *waabooz* (snowshoe hare), their main prey. Snowshoe hares are less common in mature forests where it is harder to find food, so lynx are more likely to be in areas with shrubs and small trees.

*Bizhiw* is about the same size as a *gidagaa-bizhiw* (bobcat), with larger paws and long ear tufts. Mostly bobcat and lynx areas do not overlap because a lynx's large paws make it easier to stay on top of deep snow while they hunt. Bobcats go where there is less snow. Do you think warmer winters will have an effect?

North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Nebraska are places lynx visit looking for food. Some lynx live in Montana and New England. Historically, they were common both in northern Minnesota and on *Minong* (Isle Royale).



