

Tue, 14 Apr 2009 10:50:02 GMT

Maine's lynx-protection standards eyed

BANGOR, Maine (AP) Testimony is under way in a U.S. District Court proceeding in Bangor that raises questions about animal trapping in Maine.

The Animal Welfare Institute and the Wildlife Alliance of Maine have filed suit against the state after several lynx were ensnared in traps.

The two groups allege that the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is violating the federal Endangered Species Act by sanctioning activities that harm lynx. Maine is home to the eastern United States' only self-sustaining population of the medium-sized cats, which are designated as threatened on the Endangered Species List.

The Bangor Daily News reports that nearly 20 trappers and supporters sat on one side of the courtroom Monday, while two representatives of the plaintiffs' groups plus their attorneys attended.

Information from: Bangor Daily News, <http://www.bangornews.com>