

Josephine County Fisher

From: Simon Webb
1-21-98

12-30-97

A fisher was found in a leg hold trap by Daryl Jackson (846-9457) near Lone Creek (T39S R05W SEC 17 ??) near Williams in Josephine County. It was released by hand and transported in a tree planters sack to a Wildlife Response Team member and then to Wildlife Images. Images took it to Dr. Dickey of Rogue River. The animal, a 10 lb. male, was dehydrated and had a slight injury to the front left paw and wrist. It was also believed to be suffering from a concussion as it was extremely lethargic and did not respond to visual stimuli. The blood revealed a normal white blood cell count, but a slightly elevated immature neutrophil count which indicated the beginning of an infection. Images re-hydrated the animal and put it on antibiotics (2x injections/day).

01-09-98

I talked to Images on Friday. The animal had recovered well and was responding to visual stimuli. It was decided to release it on Monday 13th. I discussed the need to get genetic samples and measurements with Cathy Raley and it was decided to have Greg and TJ come with me.

01-12-98

The animal had not been handled for about six days and was acting more "normally." Greg and TJ tranquilized it and we collected various data (they will send me a copy of the data sheet). A physical inspection showed it to be an older fully mature male in breeding condition. It was fitted with a radio collar and released close to its point of capture. The radio is an 18 month Holohil (no mortality signal) with at least one year of life left, however Holohil tend to last considerably longer than their advertised limit, so it may remain on the air well into 1999

01-13-98

Lee Web, Dave Clayton, Cliff Oakly and Larry Cooper were advised of the release. Larry wants to get as much information on the animal as possible and have a volunteer supplied with a receiver to monitor it. Larry indicated that the wildlife division would cover vehicle mileage (we estimated that to be 400 miles/week). Daryl Jackson (846-9457), one of the two people who found the animal in the leg hold trap, has agreed to follow the animal for us (as a volunteer).

01-16-97

It's starting to come together. We have the TR-4 receiver (that has the frequency already programmed into it) to use on the project, and the volunteer to collect data. Keith, Cathy and I discussed the best way to approach this opportunity. On the one hand we want to get as much information as possible; on the other hand there is little point expanding huge amounts of time and effort if the information is essentially worthless. It is after all only one animal. Additionally, there are several problems that need to be taken into account: (1) at this time of year, male fisher can cover large distances in search of females and may be very difficult to find and track. (2) It is not realistic to expect an inexperienced volunteer to collect the quality and quantity of data presently collected in the Prospect study.

Therefore; we agreed a more realistic approach would be to have Daryl essentially keep tabs on the fisher via triangulation. The benefits of this approach are that it requires less effort and skill, and is less likely to burn out a volunteer, and TJ and Greg would spend less time trying to locate the animal when they go down there (once a month [for now]). In the spring when things slow down, Keith said TJ and Greg would be able to spend more time in Josephine Co. and collect more precise data i.e. physical locations etc. If there is additional funding, it may be feasible and desirable to attempt to catch additional animals in Josephine County.

Cathy will send me a data forms and an "abc" list of data to collect

Things that still need to done include:

1. Once I have a better understanding of the level of effort we will be expecting from the volunteer, I will need to talk to Daryl to make sure he has the time and is willing to put in the effort (minimum or once/week). Also I need to know if his vehicle is up to the task. He will need to be supplied with:
 - a. quad maps to plot triangulation points
 - b. data forms
 - c. field note book to record his efforts, any interesting observations and very rough habitat characteristics i.e. forested/non-forested.
 - d. volunteer tort form and hours/milage form.
2. Daryl needs to be trained in the fine art of radio telemetry. Arrangements will be made with TJ for at least one days instruction in Josephine Co. Additional training may occur in Prospect.