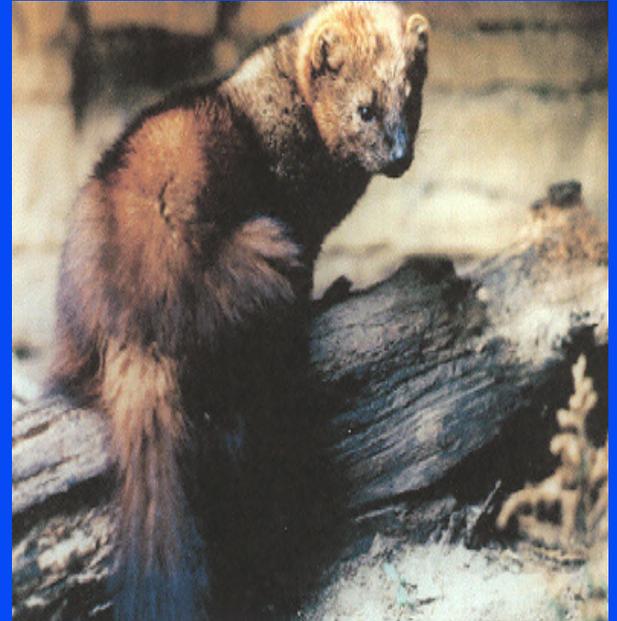


Research and Management Needs for Fisher:

A Perspective From the Environmental Community



Susan Britting, Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign



Vision for Conservation of Fishers

- Fishers are well distributed throughout their historic range
- Ongoing land management activities do not jeopardize the small remnant populations that exist today

Research Needs

- Where do fishers live?
- Are the fisher populations healthy?
- What management actions are compatible with healthy fisher populations?
- How do we increase the numbers of fisher?

Where do fishers live?

- Determine reasons for gaps in present fisher population
- Develop less expensive methods (e.g. other than radio telemetry) to identify individuals and monitor habitat use
- Research on movement and dispersal
- Continued refinement of habitat models that address requirements at the stand and landscape scale

Are the fisher populations healthy?

- Develop models or other tools to estimate the likelihood of or fisher populations persisting
- Characterize nearest neighbor distances necessary to support an interbreeding population
- Evaluate disease or parasite load and assess the effect of this load on population health and persistence

What management actions are compatible with healthy fisher populations?

- Identify logging rates and practices that are compatible with meeting habitat needs
- Identify fuel reduction practices that are compatible with meeting habitat needs
- Identify levels of OHV use (including winter use) compatible with healthy fisher populations

How do we increase the numbers of fisher?

- Tools to assess the feasibility of reintroduction that include an examination of the impacts to donor population and the likelihood of persistence of the transplanted population
- Develop the methods and monitoring standards for a reintroduction program

Management Needs for Fisher Conservation

- Apply recent research to the design and evaluation of new and ongoing land management projects
- Increased commitment from land managers to monitor the impacts of management – specifically logging – on fisher
- Forego widespread application of management approaches that increase risk to fisher until these research questions are addressed (e.g. 2004 Sierra Nevada Framework and the Giant Sequoia Monument Plan)