

COASTAL MARTES WORKING GROUP

Principles and Objectives

March 29, 2006

The Coastal Martes Working Group (CMWG) is a cooperative of researchers, wildlife managers, land managers, and regulatory and other biologists, working for research institutions, resource agencies, and private, State, Federal and tribal landowners, consultants, and non-governmental organizations.

While members of the CMWG may have different primary objectives and responsibilities, said members agree to work cooperatively for feasible solutions and respect the different views of others presented in an open forum.

The primary geographic area of interest includes the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, western Siskiyou, Trinity, western Tehama, western Glenn and western Lake, and Curry and Josephine counties in southern Oregon..

The focus of CMWG is to address forest meso-carnivore issues within our geographic area of interest with particular emphasis on coastal populations of fisher and American marten.

The CMWG participants agree that the following are fundamental principles of the group:

- I. The protection and maintenance of fisher, marten and other meso-carnivore populations and habitat are legitimate land stewardship goals for forest lands.
- II. It is desirable to maintain and restore functional habitat for these species in sufficient quality and quantity to support the persistence or recovery of ecologically functional populations within planning watersheds other appropriate ecological units throughout a significant portion of their range.
- III. The acquisition and free exchange of information on fisher, marten and other forest meso-carnivores will better allow land managers and wildlife professionals to effectively conserve the species.
- IV. Forest land management activities, whether commodity driven or not, are a legitimate use of forest lands.

The goals of CMWG include (not necessarily in order of priority):

- A. Develop information and establish research and monitoring needs.

- B. Provide assistance to ensure the conservation (including recovery where needed) of fisher and marten populations within our geographic area.
- C. Promote communication and collaboration between all parties working on fisher and marten issues, as well as with other stakeholders studying or managing forests.
- D. Conduct public and professional outreach to heighten awareness, increase understanding, and promote support for the conservation of forest meso-carnivores in general and fisher and marten in particular.
- E. Develop and promote regional conservation strategies for coastal fisher and marten that incorporate state, federal, tribal, and private lands.
- F. Develop partnerships to facilitate funding to support research, conservation, and outreach goals.

The following is a list of the initial objectives (“wish list”) suggested by members of CMWG. This list likely will be modified following additional review.

1. Create a regional database including a map of all positive and negative survey results
2. Investigate the distribution and population status of fishers at the southern limits (or other “edges”) of its range in coastal CA.
3. Develop prescriptions for restoration of fisher and marten habitat
4. Identify the habitat requirements and determine if there are differences within the region for fisher and marten.
5. Develop outreach to small landowners and other interest groups.
6. Determine the demographic vital rates and their drivers specific to this region for fisher and marten.
7. Implement a monitoring program for coastal marten.
8. Develop standard survey protocols for fisher and marten.
9. Organize a group to cooperatively seek funding for various fisher and marten projects.
10. Investigate the role of the coastal region as a source population for future fisher translocations.
11. Implement a cooperative program to do experimental manipulations designed to accelerate the development of late seral attributes (i.e. cavities, snags, “goose pens” and etc.) in existing leave trees on private or public lands.
12. Develop strategic surveys that will fill the gaps in the existing survey data for fisher and marten.
13. Compile all historical information in the region on fisher and marten.
14. Determine source versus sink habitat for fisher and marten.
15. Develop a regional conservation strategy for fisher and marten.