WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

HUMBOLDT MARTEN BEHAVIOR AND REPRODUCTION

Humboldt marten populations are small and isolated in Oregon and California. In fact, the species is listed as federally threatened and endangered in California. To help scientists and forest managers develop a science-based, cohesive management strategy, this WCI project in California and Oregon is gaining a better understanding of their behavior and identifying commonalities among distinct marten populations, such as whether they will travel through openings of certain sizes and how vegetation composition and density impacts their movements.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Learn how Humboldt martens use and live in forests of differing ages, and how they respond to diverse management techniques.
2. Gain a better understanding of marten survival and reproductive capacity.
3. Identify key landscape features that martens need to reproduce and survive, such as denning and resting structures.
4. Quantify how far martens are willing to move into areas with dense growth and landscapes with diverse vegetation.

HUMBOLDT MARTEN FAST FACTS

The Humboldt marten is only found in Northern California and Oregon.

The species is a cat-sized carnivore in the weasel family.

Humboldt martens primarily eat small mammals such as voles and squirrels, but will also eat berries, birds, eggs, fish, carrion, and insects.

Humboldt martens are so rare that the species was once thought extinct.

Wildfires, development, habitat loss, and loss of genetic diversity have been the primary threats to the Humboldt marten.

KEY COLLABORATORS

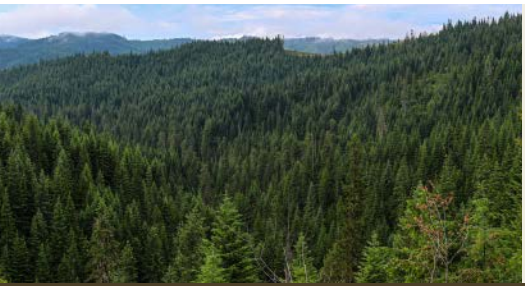
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO)
- The National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI)
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Cal Poly Humboldt
- Integral Ecology Research Center
- Oregon State University
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service

FIELDWORK

Researchers first detected Humboldt martens and their predators using remote cameras, then captured individual martens and fitted them with GPS collars that relayed their location every five minutes. Within the 14-day battery life of the GPS collars, they recaptured the martens and replaced them with smaller, longer-lasting tracking collars.

PROJECT TIMELINE

2021: PROJECT START — **ONGOING**



CONSERVATION SUCCESS STARTS WITH KEEPING FORESTS INTACT

We all have a hand in ensuring conservation of wildlife. When we purchase wood and forest products, we support the sustainable cycle of growing, harvesting and replanting that keeps our forests as forests. Thousands of species call working forests home, and many species thrive in actively managed working forests.

This project is made possible by the Wildlife Conservation Initiative (WCI), a collaborative partnership between NAFO, the USFWS, NCASI, and other stakeholders to conserve fish and wildlife species in private working forests. The WCI was founded on the recognition that private working forests are an important conservation tool. NAFO members own and manage more than *43* million acres of private working forests in *32* states — the scale needed to achieve meaningful conservation success. Through the WCI, the proactive and voluntary conservation efforts of government and private working forest owners are delivering positive outcomes for wildlife across the United States.

WildlifeConservationInitiative.org

NAFO National Alliance of Forest Owners