

MAMMALS



American marten

(*Martes americana*)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: The American marten was extirpated from Michigan in the early 20th century, and restoration efforts had begun by the middle of the century with the release of captured animals into the Western Upper Peninsula. The species has recovered to the point where sightings are not unusual, though there is evidence that the population in the Northern Lower Peninsula may not be thriving.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: lowland conifer; mesic conifer; dry conifer; forest opening; bog; snag/cavity; down woody debris

ASSOCIATED THREATS: conversion to agriculture lands; altered fire regime; fragmentation; incompatible natural resource mgmt; industrial/residential/recreational development; forestry practices; removal of wildlife

COMMENTS: Marten are a game species in Michigan. In logging areas, this species depends upon residual forest areas. Size of clearcuts does not seem to be important, however, the extent and configuration of the remaining forested areas does seem to be important (Potvin et al. 1999). A clustered distribution of clearcut patches may therefore be problematic for this species. This species will benefit from a better understanding of forest configuration needs and integrated wildlife-forest planning efforts. Fire suppression results in a build-up of excessive fuel loads and the potential for severe and large-scale fires, which could severely reduce habitat for marten.