

6. FURBEARER RESEARCH IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

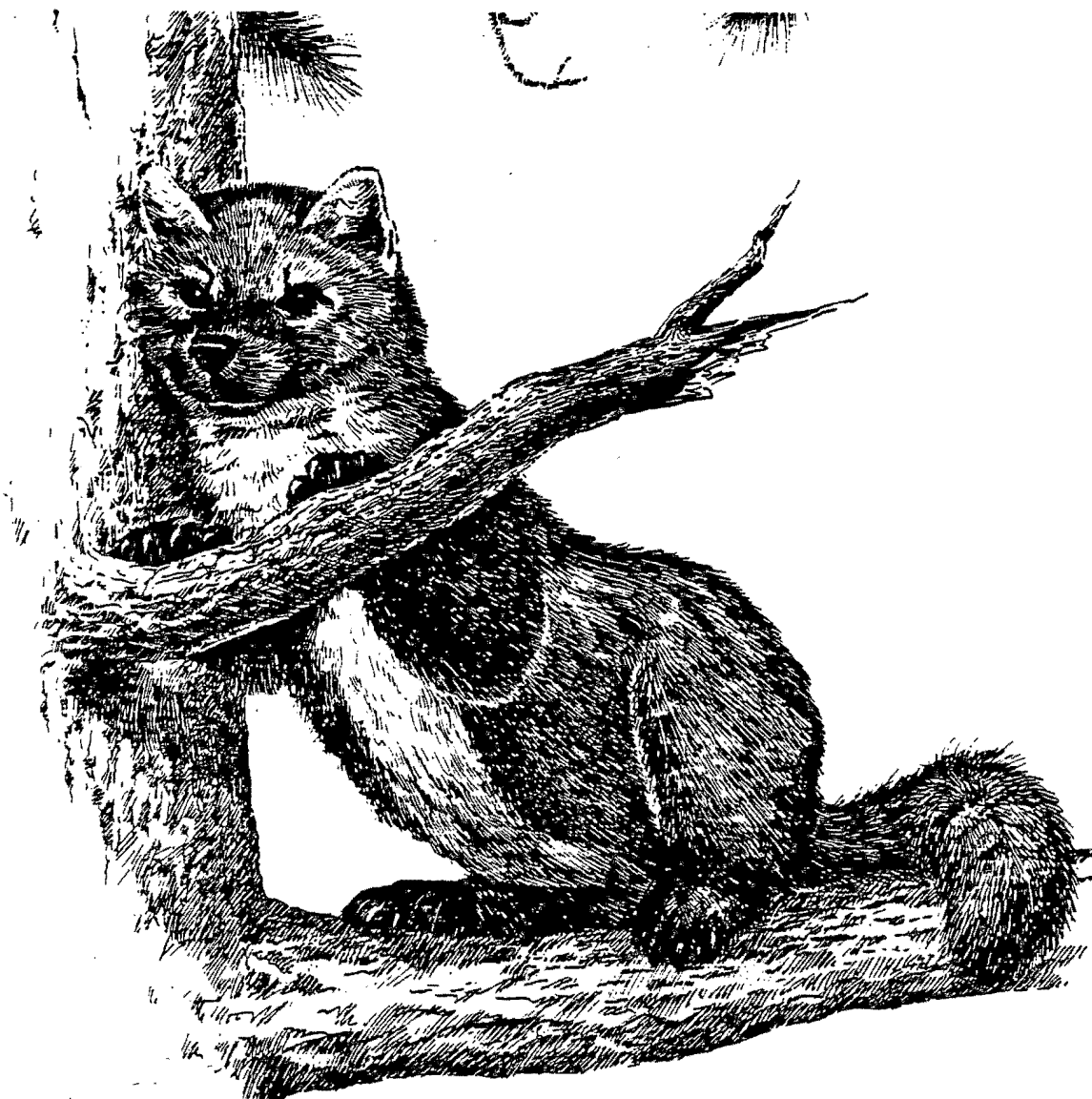
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Knowledge of marten (Martes americana) and river otters (Lutra canadensis) in coastal Alaska is limited. In view of loss of habitat through clear-cut logging at a current rate of 18,000 acres annually with unknown results on these species, studies have been designed and initiated to determine the effects of logging upon marten and river otters.

Year-long activities of otters will be monitored through radiotelemetry in cooperation between Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company and University of Alaska. Food habits will be studied through scat analysis and examination of stomach contents on hand. Specimens will be analyzed to provide body size-weight-age ratios and reproductive information. Marten investigations include base-line standard body size-weight-age ratios, from specimens provided through purchases of carcasses from trappers. Habitat requirements, especially responses to alteration of old-growth coastal forests will be measured in a three part investigation. Relative densities of marten and the small mammal food base are being measured prior to and shortly after (3-4 years) clear-cut logging to document short-term impacts. Long-term (30-60 years) impacts are being measured by comparing densities of marten and their food base on known age stands of managed forests and adjacent similar old-growth stands. Year-long habitat requirements will be delineated through radiotelemetry. Food habits, analysis of reproductive materials, natal denning requirements and year-round movements will be documented in conjunction with the radiotelemetry phase of the study.

ABSTRACTS
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