

**WILDLIFE SOCIETY CONFERENCE
ORAL PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS**

STRUCTURES USED AS DENS AND RESTING SITES BY AMERICAN MARTENS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

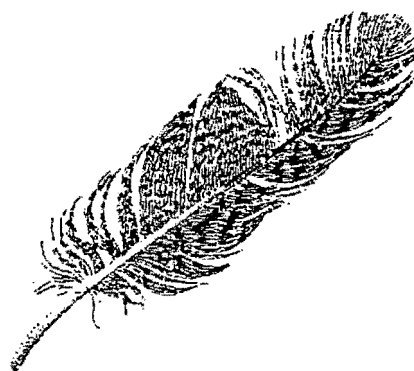
Thomas V. Schumacher** and Rodney W. Flynn (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 240020 Douglas, AK 99824)

We studied structures used as dens and resting sites by American martens (*Martes americana*) on northeastern Chichagof Island, Southeast Alaska from 1994-1998. Specifically, we investigated whether structures used as dens differed from those used as resting sites, and whether features of structures used for denning and resting differed from mean values for features of available structures. We located 29 dens (15 natal, 14 maternal) used by 13 martens and 52 resting sites (32 summer, 20 winter) used by 21 martens. Natal dens usually were within the boles of trees or snags, or inside hard logs. Maternal dens most often were in underground cavities beneath the roots of trees or snags, or inside hard logs. In summer and winter martens most often rested in cavities beneath the roots of trees or snags. Structures used as dens were larger in diameter and less decayed than structures used as resting sites. Martens strongly selected denning and resting structures, using among the largest diameter trees, snags, and logs available. They also chose snags and logs in specific decay classes and live trees with cavities caused by decay. Our findings demonstrate the value of old, large-diameter woody structures to martens, and the importance of retaining such structures to maintain marten populations in managed forests.

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