

CURRENT STUDIES ON MARTEN ECOLOGY IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Rod Flynn, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Box 20, Douglas, Alaska, 99824

In 1990, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service, began a 5-year study on the habitat ecology of martens (Martes americana) in logged and unlogged landscapes on Chichagof Island, southeast Alaska. Old-growth, temperate rainforests, comprised of Sitka spruce (Picea sitchensis), western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla), Alaska cedar (Chaemacyparis nootkatensis), mountain hemlock (Tsuga mertensiana) and shore pine (Pinus contorta) plant associations, cover most of the study area. Portions of the study area have been extensively roaded and logged recently. The primary objectives of the study are to determine habitat selection patterns in relation to stand attributes and landscape patterns. The information collected from this study will be used to evaluate a habitat capability model under development by an interagency group for use in forest management planning and impact assessments. During the initial field season, 26 martens, including 19 males and 7 females, were captured and radio-collared. These martens were relocated from small aircraft to describe habitat and spatial use patterns. Preliminary results collected during the current field season will be presented and discussed.

SIXTH NORTHERN FURBEARER CONFERENCE

AGENDA AND ABSTRACTS

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