

## American Marten - *Martes americana*

Abundance: Uncommon

Status: NSS4 (Cb)

NatureServe: G5 S3

Population Status: distribution is secure and species is widely distributed; harvest is not increasing significantly; The IUCN considers the rangewide population to be decreasing.

Limiting Factor: Habitat (and Human Activity and Climate Change): limiting factors are severe; increase in pine bark beetle kill in primary habitat

Comment:

### Introduction

The marten occurs across most of North America from Alaska through much of forested Canada, into the northeastern US, and south along the major mountain ranges in the western US. It inhabits the mountains of western, south-central, and north-central Wyoming. The marten is considered uncommon in Wyoming.

### Habitat

The marten inhabits mature and old-growth conifer and mixed stands, including spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, and various deciduous forests. It usually selects mesic stands that are characterized by at least 30 to 50% crown closure, living branches on the lower boles of trees, abundant coarse woody debris, herbaceous cover, and lengthy fire-return intervals. The marten usually avoids large openings in the forest, such as clear cuts, but it will use riparian areas, meadows, forest edges, and rocky alpine areas, especially for foraging. It occupies a den in a tree cavity, rotten log, or underground.

### Problems

- h Species is vulnerable to population declines resulting in loss of habitat due to climate change (e.g., mountain pine beetle kill).
- h Population densities and trends are not well known.
- h Habitat specialist that occurs in a disjunct pattern within a limited portion of the state.
- h No ongoing efforts to delineate important habitats in Wyoming.

### Conservation Actions

- h Monitor population densities and trends. If monitoring data show that populations are declining, provide information to the WGFD Commission to allow them to evaluate and consider an appropriate response.
- h Conduct inventories for species in all suitable habitats in the state.
- h Delineate important habitats and work cooperatively with land management agencies to maintain these within the designated areas
- h Design vegetation treatments, fire management plans, and grazing regimes in habitat that mimic and restore natural landscape patterns and disturbance processes, retain and recruit old growth and woody debris, maintain habitat connectivity, and maintain the native composition of herbaceous plant and shrub communities.
- h Designate important habitats, habitat corridors, and identify where habitat conservation and management efforts should focus to protect, enhance, or improve suitable habitat.
- h Work cooperatively with the US Forest Service to conduct surveys for species in all potential habitat.
- h Integrate management actions with those that benefit other boreal forest carnivore species (e.g., American marten, Canada lynx, Wolverine, etc).

### Monitoring/Research

Monitoring conducted through harvest reports.

### Recent Developments

None.

## References

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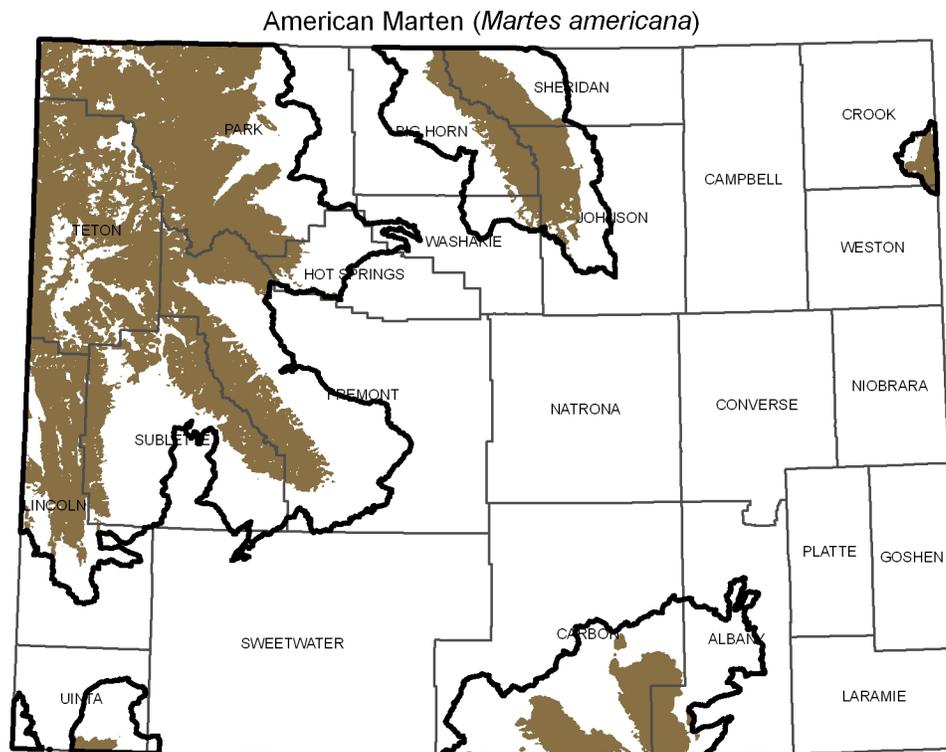
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution of the species; heavy black lines indicate outermost boundaries of possible occurrence.