



October 19, 2017

For immediate release

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Workshop focuses on forest carnivores

PORTLAND, Ore. – A workshop held today for forest landowners and wildlife biologists focused on several forest-dwelling carnivore species in Oregon that are currently being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The event, hosted by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, highlighted the need for collaboration between forestry and wildlife professionals to find ways to manage landscapes to protect the fisher, the Pacific marten and the Sierra Nevada red fox.

Forest carnivores play a key role in the ecosystems they inhabit, but relatively little is known about these species' population sizes, abundances, locations or even favored habitat types. New research being conducted throughout the state is looking to answer these questions.

Each of these species varies widely from the others, but they all inhabit forested areas of Oregon and are thought to have small population sizes. Theories for why these species' populations have declined include historic trapping, generally low reproductive rates, and habitat loss and fragmentation. And a new threat to these species has arisen over the past decade: poisoning from rodenticides used on illegal marijuana grow sites.

The full-day workshop featured speakers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State University, Michigan State University, the University of California, Davis, and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement.

Though there is still much to learn about these medium-size carnivores, participants of the workshop walked away with an increased knowledge of the biology and habitat requirements for fisher, marten and fox. In addition, participants learned some tools for managing for these species, such as fruit-bearing shrubs, retained structures such as "wildlife leave" trees, the timing of logging operations and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs).

About the Oregon Forest Resources Institute:

The Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute in 1991 to advance public understanding of forests, forest management and forest products, and to encourage sound forestry through landowner education. A 13-member board of directors governs OFRI. It is funded by a dedicated forest products harvest tax.

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