Furbearer Regulations:
Marten in Coastal Oregon

Oregon
Fish and Wildlife Commission
September 13, 2019
Gold Beach, Oregon

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Petition History

- Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Petition received in May 2018

- Petition proposes three changes to current rule:
  - No harvest (hunting, trapping, roadkill salvage) of marten west of Interstate-5
  - No furbearer and unprotected mammal trapping in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA)
  - Prohibit the use of traps or snares suspended in trees in the Siskiyou and Siuslaw National Forests

- Commission accepted APA Petition in August 2018, initiating a rulemaking process
December 2018 lawsuit by petitioners to ban marten trapping. Judge denied request but before follow up hearing, settlement was reached:

- Schedule Commission meeting to conclude discussion on rulemaking process no later than September 13, 2019
- Summarize 2018-19 marten harvest in coastal Oregon counties, distinguishing between harvest of different marten subspecies
Federal Classification

- 2010 Petition for Listing under Federal ESA
- April 2015 USFWS determined DPS “not warranted at this time”
- Lawsuit challenged determination and Judge ruled USFWS to reconsider 12 month finding
- USFWS listing determination end of 2019
Marten are classified as a furbearer

Oregon Sensitive Species list

Oregon Conservation Strategy Species:
- Special Needs
- Limiting Factors
- Data Gaps
- Conservation Actions

Historically Oregon Coast and Cascade Ranges considered same subspecies.

Two subspecies in Oregon until coastal samples determined to be Humboldt marten (*Martes caurina Humboldtensis*) (2009).

Recent publications now assume full historical coastal range to be Humboldt subspecies, but history and range itself still being debated.

USFWS uses name Coastal marten.
Coastal marten primarily found west of I-5

Over the last 31 years:

- Average annual marten harvest is less than one per year (0.48) west of I-5
- No marten harvested west of I-5 since 2014
- No marten harvested in Benton, Lincoln, Lane, and Curry Counties
- Total documented marten mortalities (harvest, roadkill, other) average 1.1 per year
The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA) covers areas of Lane, Douglas, and Coos Counties in the central coast.

Trapped marten in these counties include 10 in Coos County (last 2014) and 3 in Douglas County (last 2008), for ODNRA average trap mortalities of 0.42/year.

Total mortalities in or near ODNRA average 1/year, including 3 research mortalities.
Interest in ODNRA marten populations from recent research projects

Population viability analysis (PVA) modeling exercise by Linnell et al. (2018) simulated population responses to varying mortality levels

Numerous model issues including assumptions of isolation and high human-caused mortalities per study area per year that far exceed documented range-wide mortalities

Despite issues, model findings support surveys documenting population persistence

Evaluation of Petition Requests

#2. No fur bearer and unprotected mammal trapping in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area
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- Federal Agency trapping of furbearers and unprotected mammals occurs in ODNRA to benefit snowy plover nests
- Bobcats have been proposed as possible conservation threat to Coastal marten
- Prohibiting trapping by licensed furtakers may have negative unintended consequences
Coastal marten are found in both the Siskiyou and Siuslaw National Forests. ODNRA occurs in a portion of the Siuslaw National Forest. Outside the ODNRA, no marten harvest has been reported in these forests.

Issues with interpreting and enforcing a prohibition of traps suspended in trees

Leaning pole sets are one trapping technique for marten, but is challenging to define and would be difficult to enforce.

Use of leaning pole sets are rare and not used to harvest other furbearers.
Request #1 encompasses the current range of the Coastal marten in Oregon but is broad in geography and activities to be restricted, reducing opportunity for data collection.

Request #2 represents the area the public is most interested in, but the restricted activities may have unintended consequences for snowy plover and marten.

Request #3 attempts to target a specific trapping method but finding language to do so is challenging and the ultimate value is lacking considering no marten have been trapped outside ODNRA in the Siuslaw and Siskiyou National Forests in the last 31 years.
Marten harvest be prohibited in the ODNRA
- The ODNRA contains marten, harvest has likely occurred there in the past, and the area is of interest for wildlife and habitat managers.
- To reduce negative unintended consequences, do not want to prohibit all trapping in ODNRA.

Mandatory submission of carcasses of marten harvested west of Interstate 5
- Desire to expand data collection opportunities.
Questions?