

# Furbearer Regulations: Marten in Coastal Oregon



Oregon  
Fish and Wildlife Commission

September 13, 2019  
Gold Beach, Oregon

**DEREK BROMAN**  
CARNIVORE-FURBEARER COORDINATOR

# 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

# Petition History

- ▶ 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

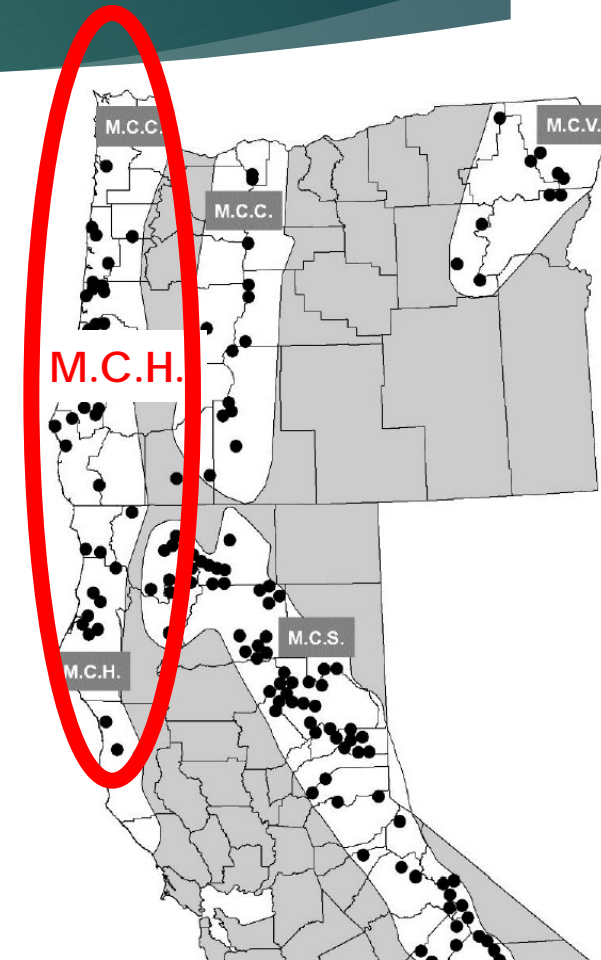
# Oregon Classification

- ▶ Marten are classified as a furbearer
- ▶ Oregon Sensitive Species list
- ▶ Oregon Conservation Strategy Species:
  - Special Needs
  - Limiting Factors
  - Data Gaps
  - Conservation Actions

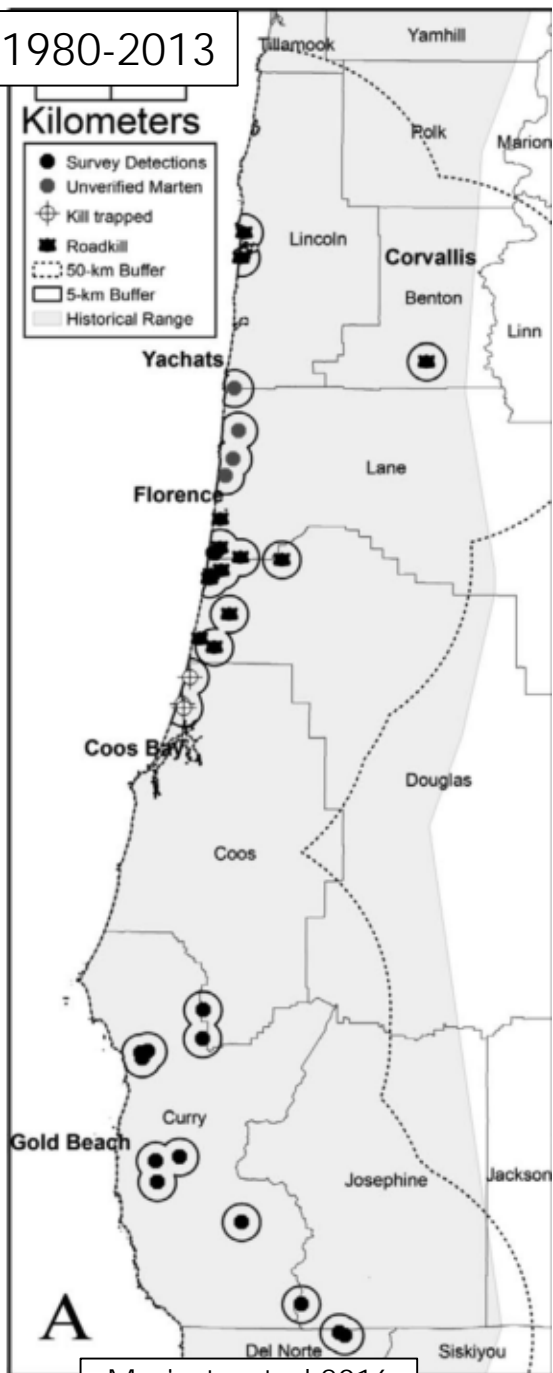


# Distribution and Range

- ▶ North American marten recently (2012) split into two species: American marten and Pacific marten
- ▶ 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

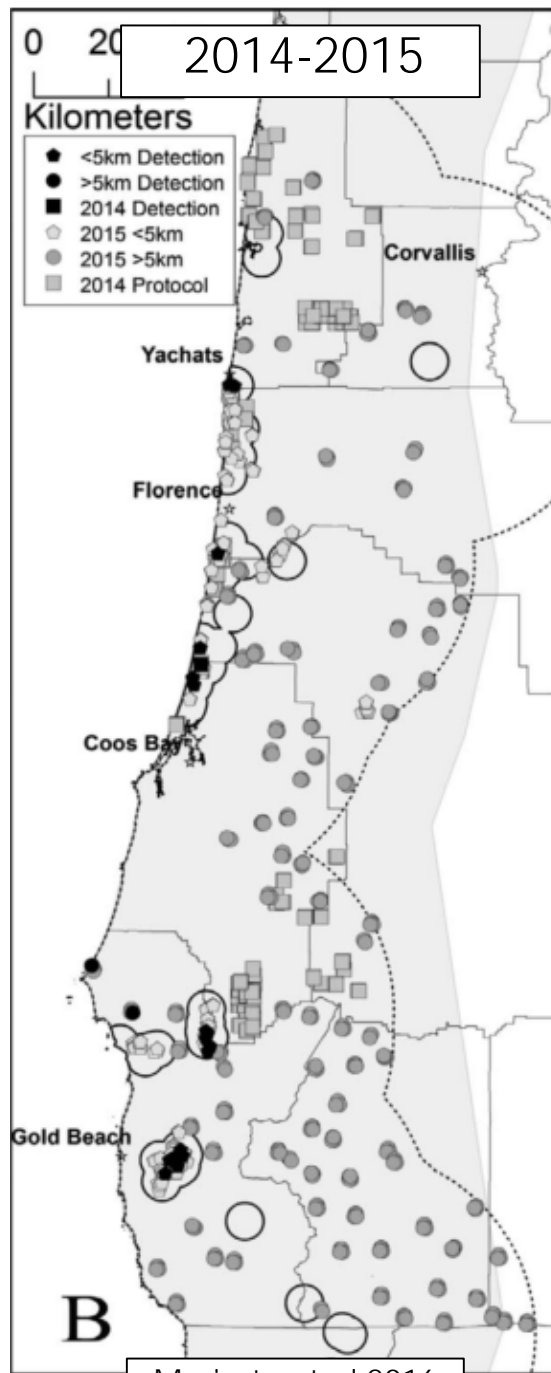


1980-2013



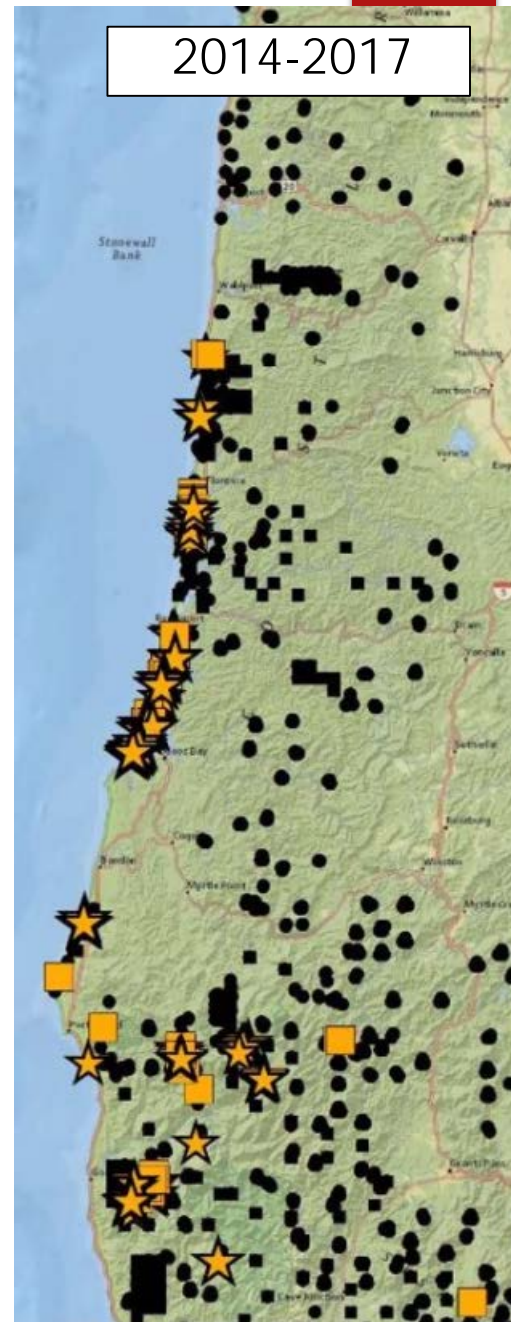
Moriarty et al 2016

2014-2015



Moriarty et al 2016

2014-2017



Moriarty et al 2018

# Evaluation of Petition Requests

#1. No harvest (hunting, trapping, or roadkill salvage) of marten west of Interstate 5

- ▶ 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



# Evaluation of Petition Requests

## #2. No furbearer and unprotected mammal trapping in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area

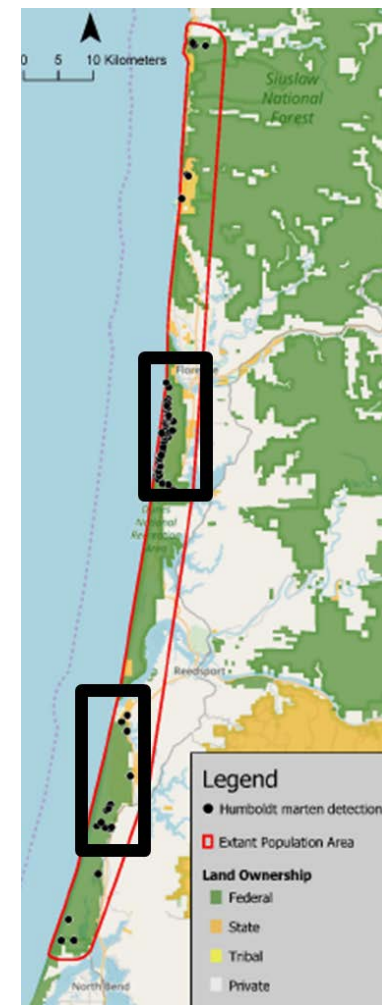
- ▶ The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA) covers areas of Lane, Douglas, and Coos Counties in the central coast
- ▶ Trapped marten in these counties include 10 in Coos County (last 2014) and 3 in Douglas County (last 2008), for ODNRA average trap mortalities of 0.42/year
- ▶ Total mortalities in or near ODNRA average 1/year, including 3 research mortalities



# Evaluation of Petition Requests

## #2. No furbearer and unprotected mammal trapping in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area

- ▶ 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 furbearer and unprotected mammal trapping in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area

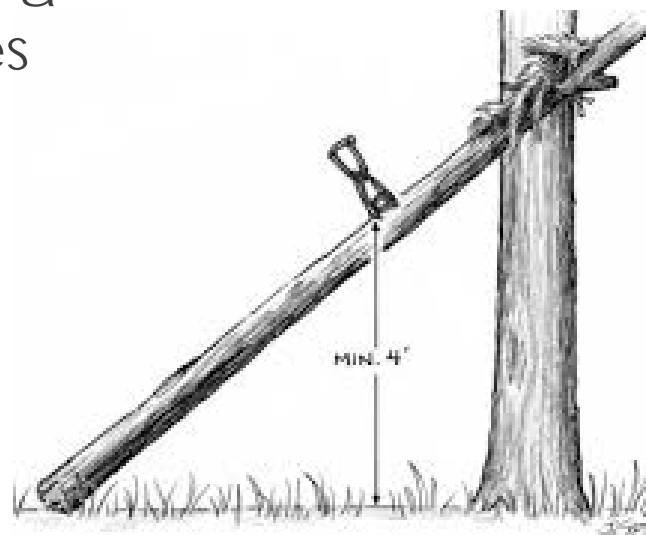
- ▶ Federal Agency trapping of furbearers and unprotected mammals occurs in ODNRA to benefit snowy plover nests
- ▶ Bobcats have been proposed as possible conservation threat to Coastal marten
- ▶ Prohibiting trapping by licensed furtakers may have negative unintended consequences



# Evaluation of Petition Requests

## #3. No use of traps or snares suspended in trees in the Siskiyou and Siuslaw National Forests

- ▶ 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



# Overall Evaluation

- ▶ 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

# Staff Proposal

- ▶ 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?

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