

WISCONSIN ENDANGERED RESOURCES REPORT 76

STATUS OF THE PINE MARTEN 1990 - 1991

by Adrian P. Wydeven

SUMMARY

Pine marten surveys were conducted along 5 transects in the Nicolet National Forest. A total of 36 marten tracks were observed along 229.5 miles of survey route. Pine martens continue to occur mainly in the marten/fisher closed area of the Nicolet Forest.

Pine marten stocking was completed in the Chequamegon National Forest with the release of 41 in fall 1991. A total of 139 martens were released in the Chequamegon National Forest between 1987 and 1990.

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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RECOVERY OF THE PINE MARTEN

PERFORMANCE REPORT

JULY 1, 1990 TO JUNE 30, 1991

Prepared by Adrian P. Wydeven, Nongame Wildlife Biologist

Job:	106.2.1	Monitor population
	106.2.2	Determine recovery levels (inactive)
	106.2.3	Enhance population
	106.2.4	Communication

Background: The Wisconsin Pine Marten Recovery Plan was approved for implementation on September 30, 1986. The plan calls for the establishment of a population of at least 300 pine martens in the Nicolet National Forest and the stocking of 100 pine martens in the Chequamegon National Forest. This report covers activity conducted from July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991.

Job 106.2.1 MONITOR POPULATIONS

Wildlife research personnel conducted winter track surveys of martens in the Nicolet National Forest (Table 1). A total of 36 pine marten tracks were found along 229.5 miles of survey route. All but 1 set of pine marten tracks were along routes 1-3, which occur within the pine marten/fisher closed area. The closed area was the original stocking area within the Nicolet National Forest in 1975-1983. Apparently martens have not colonized areas for beyond this core area.

Because logistical problems, no track surveys were conducted in the Chequamegon National Forest. One set of pine marten tracks was detected along a Forest Road northeast of Clam Lake during a wolf track survey. Ray Anderson of UW-SP reported sighting a road-killed marten northeast of Clam Lake.

Job 106.2.3 ENHANCE POPULATION

A total of 41 pine martens were released in the Chequamegon National Forest northeast of Clam Lake. these included 25 males (14 juveniles, 11 adults) and 16 females (12 juveniles, 4 adults). Since 1987, 139 pine martens (94 males, 45 females) have been released into the Chequamegon National Forest. the fall 1990 release was the last year for the reintroduction program. Evaluation of this newly stocked population will be conducted over the next few years.

Job 106.2.4 COMMUNICATION

A news release on pine martens was prepared by the Northwest district for statewide release during winter. The article appeared in numerous newspapers throughout the State.

TABLE 1. Furbearer tracks observed in and near the Fisher Management Unit, Nicolet National Forest, 1990-91 winter.

Date	Route #	Snow Depth (inches)	Miles Run	Numbers of Tracks Observed				
				Marten	Fisher	Coyote	Bobcat	Other
12/06/90	1	2	28.9	9	28	36	1	3 Otter
01/15/91	1	8	28.8	10	13	15	0	2 Fox 1 Otter
01/09/91	2	7	21.3	4	11	9	0	1 Otter
01/24/91	2	10	21.3	4	11	7	1	4 Fox 2 Otter
01/09/91	3	6	28.4	3	9	7	2	3 Fox
01/24/91	3	9	28.4	5	20	2	0	
01/16/91	4	9	28.5	0	11	12	0	4 Fox 2 Otter 1 Mink
02/16/91	4	7	28.4	1	27	22	1	3 Fox 1 Mink
02/28/91	5	12	15.5	0	16	18	1	
		Totals	229.5	36	146	128	6	2 Mink 16 Fox 8 Otter
		Tracks/100 mi./night		15.7	63.6	55.8	2.6	

NOTE: All routes were run one night after snowfall.

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