Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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Stora Enso and
Plum Creek.
For more information, contact
Eunice.Padley@dnr.state.wi.us
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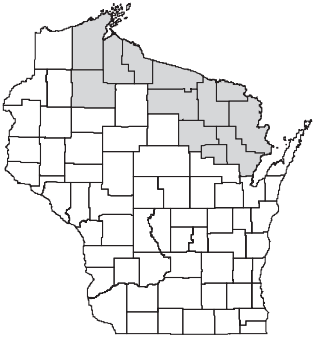
WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

American Marten

(Martes americana)

Federal Status: Not Listed
State Status: Endangered

Description: The American marten looks similar to the much larger fisher. Martens have thick fur that ranges from reddish-brown to dark brown, with darker colors on the legs and bushy tail. Martens weigh 1-3 pounds compared to 5-15 pounds for the fisher. Martens have proportionally larger ears than the fisher and have a bright yellow chest patch.

Habitat: Martens prefer a habitat of mature conifer forests or a mixed forest, with much woody debris in the understory. Martens avoid large open areas.

Forestry Considerations: Practices that benefit martens include selective cuts that leave treetops scattered throughout stands, and retention of large, dead trees. Limited road access also benefits the marten by reducing opportunities for accidental death and trapping, and by avoiding the creation of barriers to movement.