



Abstracts of Contributed Papers

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Presenter names are capitalized; those presenters with an * are students

ACKERMAN, BRUCE, M. Beucler, and L. Hebdon. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, Idaho, 83707. ***ENGAGING THE CITIZENS: THE 2012 IDAHO WILDLIFE SUMMIT.***

Wildlife management in Idaho was established through a 1938 citizens' initiative, lead by hunters and anglers. Since then, Idaho's human population has tripled, from 525,000 in 1940 to 1.6 million in 2010. People's values about wildlife and their needs, expectations, and interests about wildlife are changing as well. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has operated and been funded essentially the same for years. IDFG manages wildlife in trust for all the citizens of Idaho, yet hunters and anglers pay nearly the entire bill. As a result, IDFG struggles to address emerging wildlife conservation issues while retaining core hunting and fishing programs. On August 24-26, 2012, IDFG hosted the Idaho Wildlife Summit, in 7 cities at once. The purpose was to convene a conversation among Idahoans about the current status and direction of wildlife management in Idaho; to keep it relevant to changing values, needs, and interests of Idahoans; and to hear what they expect from their state wildlife agency. Desired outcomes were to: create a renewed understanding, commitment, and enthusiasm for wildlife conservation in Idaho; motivate more Idahoans to support wildlife conservation and engage in wildlife management; give IDFG a clear sense of what Idahoans want; and help Idahoans better understand what IDFG does and how those efforts benefit wildlife. The Summit was ground-breaking for IDFG in that all wildlife stakeholders were encouraged to participate: hunters, anglers, as well as wildlife-watchers and others. Technology was used to engage anyone with an internet connection. Surveys were conducted of participants and compared to a random phone survey of 1,600 Idahoans, to assess their opinions about wildlife and IDFG. This presentation will describe how the Summit was designed, as well as lessons learned and how the information is being used to transform the wildlife management model in Idaho.

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EFFECTS OF SNOW ON FISHER AND MARTEN DISTRIBUTIONS IN IDAHO.

Studies have suggested that deep snow may limit fisher (*Martes pennanti*) distribution, and that fisher populations may in turn limit marten (*Martes americana*) distribution. We tested these hypotheses in the Northern Rocky Mountains of Idaho, a region which differs from previous study areas in its climate and relative fisher and marten abundance, but in which very little is known about their distributions. We hypothesized that due to the assumed disparity in abundance between the sympatric members of the *Martes* genus (i.e., much greater marten abundance than fisher) fishers would not limit martens and their distributions would be indistinguishable based on snow attributes. We compiled data from multiple detection efforts conducted by various agencies where non-invasive hair-snaring devices were used to obtain DNA for species identifications of several mid-sized carnivores. We compared a suite of modeled snow attributes from fisher ($n = 123$) and marten ($n = 173$) detection sites and used logistic regression to combine our snow variables with habitat attributes at *Martes* detection sites. We found only minor differences in fisher and marten detection sites based on snow variables alone, and sites were indistinguishable based on combined climatic, vegetative, and topographic variables. However both species appeared to avoid the deepest snow zones. Our results support our hypothesis, suggesting that martens are more abundant than fishers in Idaho, and that snow attributes alone cannot be used to distinguish their distributions. Our research underscores the potential vulnerability of Idaho's fisher populations, and the importance of maintaining connectivity to known fisher population centers. Since both species appeared to avoid the deepest and softest snow, managers should consider snow attributes as well as vegetative and topographic factors when assessing habitat suitability for *Martes*. Furthermore, fisher reintroduction efforts may be more successful in areas with relatively low snow accumulations.