

Preface

This book assesses the scientific basis for conserving the American marten, fisher, lynx, and wolverine. It consists of literature reviews for each species and a discussion of management considerations and information needs. The species' accounts were written by recognized authorities who were asked to review and synthesize existing knowledge about the biology and ecology of each species, paying particular attention to aspects of their natural histories that affect the conservation of populations in the western montane regions of the conterminous United States. In Chapter 6, we evaluate this knowledge base and discuss considerations for land managers. Chapter 7 describes what is critically needed to develop scientifically sound conservation strategies for each species. Throughout the text, we have used the term "unpublished" as an integral part of a citation when reference is made to a document that has not been peer reviewed and is not widely available as a printed document. We hope readers will find this helpful in evaluating the nature of a citation without constantly referring to the literature cited sections.

Our efforts and those of our collaborators build on the foundation of information that has been established by others. In addition to the researchers who produced the information summarized in this book, we acknowledge the important contributions of Bill Ruediger and John Weaver. Bill is responsible for organizing the Western Forest Carnivore Committee, a group dedicated to coordinating the activities and concerns of state and federal agencies and various nongovernmental organizations. In his role as Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Program Manager for the Northern Region of the National Forest System, Bill also sponsored the development of useful literature reviews on the fisher, lynx, and wolverine. Finally, Bill suggested to Jack Lyon a method by which Forest Service Research could synthesize existing information on the fisher, lynx, and wolverine and develop a research approach. The result was a contract with John Weaver, through the Intermountain Research Station, for a synthesis and recommendations for needed research.

John's work stands out as an important contribution to our knowledge of forest carnivores. Both of these individuals have made significant contributions to the conservation of forest carnivores, and we are indebted to them for their efforts.

The material in Appendix C was developed through considerable effort by our management partners. Chris Jauhola and Diane Macfarlane of the Pacific Southwest Region of the National Forest System led the management portion of our conservation assessment team. We greatly appreciate their efforts. Special thanks to Erin O'Doherty of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station for assistance in compiling the maps in Appendix B. We thank the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks, Wildlife Branch, especially Ray Halladay, for cooperation in producing the ecological stratification scheme presented in Appendix A. We also thank Tom Hoekstra and Mike Lennartz of Forest Service Research and Phil Janik and Dale Bosworth of the National Forest System for their guidance throughout the conservation assessment process.

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