

[LIST](#)

WILDLIFE OF THE IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests are home to over 300 wildlife species. These include large animals like woodland caribou, grizzly bears and bald eagles, and small ones like Coeur d'Alene salamanders, calliope hummingbirds and pygmy shrews. Our wildlife program focuses on 17 species. Click on any species to learn more about it.

These species have been listed under the Endangered Species Act as either threatened or endangered on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests:

- [woodland caribou](#)
- [Canada lynx](#)
- [grizzly bear](#)
- [gray wolf](#)
- [bald eagle](#)



[Gray wolf](#) (photo courtesy of Sarah M. Atkins).

The Forest Service also manages the following sensitive species. They receive special management emphasis to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered.

AMPHIBIANS

- [boreal toad](#)
- [Coeur d'Alene salamander](#)

BIRDS

- [common loon](#)
- [harlequin duck](#)
- [peregrine falcon](#)
- [flamulated owl](#)
- [black-backed woodpecker](#)
- [northern goshawk](#)

MAMMALS

- [Townsend's big-eared bat](#)
- [northern bog lemming](#)
- [fisher](#)
- [wolverine](#)

Last updated: 06/17/05

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**GRAY WOLF**

(Canis lupus)

Habitat and Biology:

Gray wolves live in all types of habitats in the Intermountain West. Wolf packs are groups of related individuals. Deer, elk and other large mammals make up most of a wolf's diet. Lone wolves which don't belong to a pack eat more rabbits, beavers and other small mammals. Pups are born in an underground den, and the pack brings them food there for several weeks before they are strong enough to follow the pack.

Management:

Idaho's wolf population is growing and expanding into new areas. In 1995 the wolf population estimate was 14 wolves; in 2003 it was 362. In 2004 there were two wolf packs in the St. Joe Watershed. Gray wolves north of Hwy. I-90 in Idaho are endangered and fully protected under the Endangered Species Act. Wolves south of I-90 are an experimental population with more flexibility to control or relocate wolves which pose safety threats to people or livestock.

Interesting Facts:

- It's not unusual for a wolf to travel 30 miles in a day.
- Most wolves live about 6 years, but they can live to be as old as 13.
- A wolf can run 45 mph.

Learn more about the gray wolf:

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

[Idaho Department of Fish and Game](#)

[University of Michigan Museum of Zoology](#)



Photo courtesy of Sarah M. Atkins

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**WOODLAND CARIBOU**

(Rangifer tarandus)

Habitat and Biology:

Woodland caribou are usually found in mature or old growth conifer forests. Subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, western redcedar and western hemlock are their preferred habitats. Their primary food is lichens which grow on trees (arboreal lichens). Other foods include huckleberry leaves, sedges and mushrooms. Caribou cows move to high elevations to calve in areas isolated from humans and other predators.

Management:

Woodland caribou are the most endangered mammal in the lower 48 states. The Selkirk Mountains population is estimated to be 41 caribou, and doesn't appear to be increasing. These caribou move back and forth from Idaho to Canada and Washington. Logging and other forest management is only allowed on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests if it won't harm caribou habitat.

Interesting Facts:

- Female caribou are called cows. Unlike deer, elk or moose, they grow antlers, but these are smaller than bull caribou's antlers.
- The name caribou probably comes from a Micmac word meaning "the one who paws." Caribou winter high in the mountains, where their large feet act like snowshoes and allow them to walk on deep snow and paw through the snow to find food.

Learn more about Woodland Caribou:

[Situation Summary and Management Strategy for Mountain Caribou on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#)
[International Mountain Caribou Technical Committee](#)

Last updated: 12/17/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**CANADA LYNX**

(Lynx canadensis)

Habitat and Biology:

Lynx live in many forest habitats at high elevations in subalpine fir, spruce and lodgepole pine forests. Lynx mostly hunt at night. Their primary food is snowshoe hares. They also eat red squirrels, other small mammals and birds. A lynx has 2 or 3 kittens in a single litter in late spring. Lynx seek out areas with fallen trees for dens where they give birth and raise their kittens.

Management:

Young, dense forests about 15-40 years old provide snowshoe hare habitat and hunting areas for lynx. Lynx also hunt in older forests with abundant red squirrels. Although lynx trapping is not legal in Idaho, lynx occasionally die in traps set for other furbearers.

Interesting Facts:

- A Canada lynx can travel over 5 miles in a day.
- Sometimes a lynx will stay in one spot for hours, waiting to pounce on a hare or other animal that passes by.
- The tip of a lynx's tail is completely black, compared to a bobcat which has black on top and white on the bottom of the tip of its tail.

Learn more about Canada lynx:

[University of Michigan Museum of Zoology](#)

[U.S. Forest Service](#)



Photo courtesy Natural Resources
Research Institute / U.S. Forest Service

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)



LIST

GRIZZLY BEAR

(Ursus arctos)

Habitat and Biology:

Grizzly bear habitats include forests, shrubfields, snowchutes and meadows. They eat a wide variety of animals and plants. Females breed every 2 - 4 years, and cubs are born in January when the mother is hibernating. Hibernacula (where the bears hibernate) can be under fallen trees, or in natural openings in rocky areas, or in a hollowed out place in the ground.

Management:

About 35 - 40 grizzly bears live in the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho. Another 30 - 40 occupy the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem of Idaho and Montana. For everyone's safety, it's important to keep food and garbage stored where grizzly bears can't get to them. Once a bear learns to eat human food, he will remember it and cause problems for other people the rest of his life. The Forest Service manages the national forests to provide areas of secure habitat with relatively low levels of motorized vehicle traffic; that is why some roads are closed in grizzly bear country.



Photo courtesy of Wayne Kasworm

Interesting Facts:

- The grizzly bear population in the lower 48 states has shrunk to less than 2,000 from an estimated 50,000 in the early 1800s.
- The average home range of a grizzly bear in the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem is 500 square miles (1,294 square kilometers) for males and 142 square miles (367 square kilometers) for females.
- A grizzly bear can run almost 30 miles per hour (50 km / hr.)

Learn more about grizzly bears:

[Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee](#)

[Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Bear Identification Program](#)

[Digital Atlas of Idaho](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

[Grizzly Bear Outreach Project](#)

[Be Bear Aware](#)

Last updated: 10/17/05

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**BALD EAGLE**

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Habitat and Biology:

Bald eagles nest in very large nests in tall trees close to lakes and large rivers where they can fish. They sometimes eat waterfowl, rabbits and carrion. Bald eagles usually lay 2 eggs. Nest trees are often the tallest tree in a stand, so the eagles have a clear view of the area around them.

Management:

The Forest Service monitors and protects bald eagles nests in cooperation with other natural resources agencies. In 2003, ten of the fifty-two bald eagle nests in North Idaho were on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. DDT and toxic chemicals from mining are still present in some bald eagles in the Northwest. Maintaining large trees near lakes and rivers is key to providing future habitat for bald eagles.

Interesting Facts:

- Some bald eagle nests have been used for over 35 years.
- A large bald eagle nest can weigh up to two tons !
- A bald eagle doesn't grow its characteristic white head and tail feathers until it is 4 or 5 years old.

Learn more about the bald eagle:

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

<http://www.baldeagleinfo.com/>

[American Bald Eagle Foundation](#)



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
photo

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**BOREAL TOAD**

(Bufo boreas)

Habitat and Biology:

Boreal toads live at all elevations and use a variety of habitats in North Idaho. They seek out warm water such as ponds, river oxbows and slow moving streams to lay a long string of eggs. Tadpoles develop fastest in warm water. Boreal toads eat a wide variety of insects and other invertebrates, especially beetles, ants and bees. They usually overwinter in burrows which were dug by squirrels or other rodents.



U.S. Geological Survey photo

Management:

Western toad populations have crashed in many western states. Many surveys have not found toads where they used to occur. Motorized vehicles can be a major source of toad mortality. This is particularly a problem when toads cross roads moving between the seasonal habitats - breeding ponds, foraging areas and winter hibernacula. Extensive use of heavy equipment can collapse the shallow burrows which toads need for wintering.

Interesting Facts:

- Toads can navigate by the stars and their sense of smell to move 2.5 miles (4 km) from a pond or other water body.
- Toad tadpoles are vegetarian but adults are carnivorous.

Learn more about the boreal toad:[Digital Atlas of Idaho](#)[U.S. Forest Service](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**COEUR D'ALENE SALAMANDER**

(*Plethodon idahoensis*)

Habitat and Biology:

Coeur d'Alene salamanders live in cool, damp habitats such as the spray zone of waterfalls and in springs and moist rocky areas.

They usually only come above ground at nights when the temperature is above 45 degrees F. (7 degrees C.). Females lay eggs underground and juvenile salamanders hatch from these eggs in mid-September. Coeur d'Alene salamanders eat aquatic insects and other invertebrates.



Photo courtesy of Digital Atlas of Idaho

Management:

Many Coeur d'Alene salamanders are isolated by several miles from other populations. Roads, timber harvest or other vegetation management can further isolate populations and fragment habitat. Removing rock from salamander habitats can also be detrimental to Coeur d'Alene salamanders. A draft conservation strategy written by several wildlife management agencies gives management guidance for Coeur d'Alene salamanders.

Interesting Facts:

- North Idaho, NW Montana and SE British Columbia are the only places this species lives.
- The stripe on the back of a Coeur d'Alene salamander can be greenish-yellow, orange or red.
- This salamander has slightly webbed, very short toes.

Learn more about the Coeur d'Alene salamander:

[Digital Atlas of Idaho](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)



LIST

COMMON LOON

(Gavia immer)

Habitat and Biology:

Common loons nest on lakeshores where they can quickly dive into the water. They prefer islands for nesting. A pair of loons raises one or two chicks, feeding them invertebrates and fish. Ravens, raccoons and skunks prey on loon eggs. Bald eagles and fish are predators of loon chicks. A loon's tremolo or laugh is an alarm call that the loon feels threatened - by someone too close, or a predator nearby. North Idaho's lakes are very important stopovers for loons migrating between Canada and the Pacific Ocean during spring and fall.



Canadian Wildlife Service photo

Management:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing a national conservation plan for common loons. The Forest Service developed management recommendations for this species in 1994. Most years no loon chicks are produced in the Idaho Panhandle. Loons nest right at the water's edge, in a place protected from waves, boats and human disturbance. On lakes where the water level fluctuates because of dams, floating rafts can provide reliable sites for loons to nest because they adjust to water level changes. Loon parents leave the nest if boats or jetskis come within 150 yards, leaving their eggs vulnerable to predators and overheating on a hot day.

Interesting Facts:

- A loon with a radio implant stopped at Lake Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene Lake on its spring migration; later it was found nesting in NW Saskatchewan and wintering on the California Coast.
- "Loon" may come from a Scandinavian word meaning "clumsy," because loons have great difficulty walking on land.
- Each loon has its own distinctive call. Biologists studying loon calls can determine how many loon territories are on large lakes.

Learn more about the Common Loon:

[Montana Loon Society \(pdf\)](#)

[Darwin Long](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**HARLEQUIN DUCK**

(*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

Habitat and Biology:

During the summer, harlequin ducks can be found on fast flowing mountain streams with clear water and rocky bottoms. They winter on the ocean. Harlequin ducks nest on streambanks and islands, close to the water. Nests are well hidden by vegetation, and can be on the ground, on woody debris, or in a cavity in a tree or cliff. A typical clutch has 4 to 8 eggs. Harlequin ducks eat aquatic insects, other crustaceans and mollusks.



Photo courtesy of www.avesphoto.com

Management:

The Forest Service surveys several streams each year on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests to monitor harlequin ducks. Human activities in harlequin duck nesting streams or along their banks, such as boating and fishing, can displace harlequin ducks, especially during spring and early summer. Erosion and siltation can clog the holes between rocks on the stream bottom, resulting in less aquatic insects for food. A draft conservation strategy written by several wildlife management agencies gives management guidance for harlequin ducks.

Interesting Facts:

- The harlequin duck is the only one in North America that migrates inland from the ocean to nest. By early July the males leave again for the ocean.
- A harlequin duck is about half the size of a mallard.

Learn more about the Harlequin duck:

[Digital Atlas of Idaho](#)

www.txwaterfowler.com

[National Wildlife Federation](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)



LIST

PEREGRINE FALCON

(Falco peregrinus)

Habitat and Biology:

Peregrine falcons nest on tall cliffs where they have easy access to their prey, large birds. Peregrine falcons don't build a nest; they lay their eggs on a ledge on a cliff. Waterfowl, shorebirds, pigeons, starlings and jays are among the species they eat.

Management:

As DDT has become less common in the U.S., peregrine falcon populations have increased. Captive breeding has allowed this species to be reintroduced to areas where they used to live. Peregrine falcons' status in Idaho is still "critically imperiled." Only one eyrie (nest site) is known in the Idaho Panhandle. Loss of wetland habitats and prey, illegal shooting and contamination from chemicals remain threats to this species.



Photo courtesy of www.avesphoto.com

Interesting Facts:

- The peregrine falcon is the fastest bird in the world, able to fly 200 miles per hour in a dive.
- Peregrine falcon chicks are referred to as eyases.
- Peregrine means wandering. Some peregrine falcons migrate to South America for the winter.

Learn more about the Peregrine falcon:

[Seattle Audubon Society](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**FLAMMULATED OWL**

(*Otus flammeolus*)

Habitat and Biology:

Flammulated owls nest in open, mature and old growth Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forests. This species depends on pileated woodpeckers and northern flickers to create nest holes they can use. Almost all flammulated owl nests are in snags (dead trees). Moths are the mainstay of their diet; they also eat beetles and other insects. Two to four owlets fledge (leave the nest) in June or July.

Management:

It is important to maintain enough large snags in the forest for this species and others that depend on snags. In North Idaho, the trees are often too dense to provide good habitat for flammulated owls. Careful thinning of the forest, keeping large trees and snags, improves habitat for flammulated owls. Insecticides used to control spruce budworm and other moths may impact flammulated owls' food supply.

Interesting Facts:

- The flammulated owl is the only small owl with dark eyes in the United States.
- Flammulated owls fly to Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador for the winter.

Learn more about the Flammulated owl:

[Seattle Audubon Society](#)

[Digital Atlas of Idaho](#)

www.owling.com/Flamm_nh.htm



Photo courtesy of www.avesphoto.com

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)


[LIST](#)

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER

(*Picoides arcticus*)

Habitat and Biology:

Black-backed woodpeckers help maintain healthy forests by eating wood-boring beetles, ants and other insects. This woodpecker uses a variety of forest habitats where snags are abundant. It nests in live and dead trees (snags) that are at least 7" in diameter and have dead heartwood. Usually 4 eggs are laid. Highest densities of black-backed woodpeckers have been found in forests which have been burned in the previous 3-5 years.

Management:

Black-backed woodpeckers select habitats with a higher density of snags than other woodpeckers. One threat to this species is salvage logging on burned areas; leaving part of the burn unlogged, or retaining at least 42 snags per acre, provides habitat for black-backed woodpeckers.

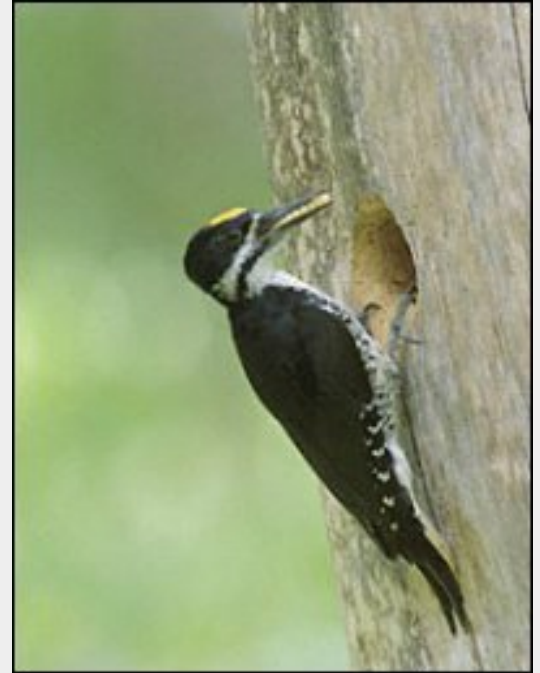


Photo courtesy of www.avesphoto.com

Interesting Facts:

- One black-backed woodpecker can eat over 13,000 insects each year.
- This woodpecker often feeds by flicking the bark off a tree, rather than digging a deep hole into the tree trunk.
- Black-backed woodpeckers occasionally eat tree cambium and some fruits.

Learn more about the Black-backed woodpecker:

[Seattle Audubon Society](#)

[Montana Natural Heritage Program](#)

[National Park Service](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)



LIST

NORTHERN GOSHAWK

(Accipiter gentilis)

Habitat and Biology:

Northern goshawks nest in many kinds of dense, mature and old growth forests. Their stick nest is built on a high limb close to the tree trunk, and lined with wood chips, bark and/or down. A goshawk usually lays 3 or 4 eggs. The male does most of the hunting while the female cares for the young before they fledge (leave the nest). Goshawks primarily feed on grouse and other birds, but also eat snowshoe hares and rodents. Goshawks winter in Mexico.

Photo courtesy of www.avesphoto.com**Management:**

The Forest Service conducts surveys to find goshawk territories and nests. Goshawks require a large foraging area around their nests to provide food for their young. On national forests, the area around a nest is generally managed so logging and other changes don't make it unsuitable for goshawks. A draft conservation strategy written by several wildlife management agencies gives management guidance for northern goshawks.

Interesting Facts:

- The way a goshawk flies distinguishes it from larger raptors. It flaps quickly several times and then glides a short distance.
- An adult goshawk has red eyes.
- Goshawks are known for "dive-bombing" people who get too close to their nest.

Learn more about the Northern goshawk:

[Seattle Audubon Society](#)

[Cornell University](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)



LIST

TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT

(Corynorhinus townsendii)

Habitat and Biology:

In North Idaho, Townsend's big-eared bats mostly roost (rest) in mines. Where caves are available, they also use them. Young bats are called pups. Townsend's big-eared bats give birth to their pups in mines and buildings. Their diet is mostly moths. They also help keep forests healthy by eating beetles. Townsend's big-eared bats hibernate all winter in caves and mines where the temperature is generally above freezing but below 54 degrees Fahrenheit (12 degrees Celsius).

Management:

Townsend's big-eared bats are more sensitive to human disturbance than other bat species. When people go into mines where Townsend's big-eared bats live, the bats can abandon that habitat. If this happens when bat pups are not old enough to fly, the pups will die if abandoned by their mothers. The Forest Service has built gates on dozens of mines to protect bats and their habitat. A draft conservation strategy written by several wildlife management agencies gives management guidance for Townsend's big-eared bats.

Interesting Facts:

- Bats don't have a set gestation period. Females roosting in warm or hot environments have a shorter pregnancy than those in cooler sites.
- When it's roosting or hibernating, Townsend's big-eared bat curls up its long ears so they look like a bighorn sheep's horns.

Learn more about the Townsend's big-eared bat:

[Bat Conservation International](#)



Photo courtesy of Jenny Taylor

Last updated: 05/03/06

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**NORTHERN BOG LEMMING**

(Synaptomys borealis)

Habitat and Biology:

This rare rodent lives in wet meadows, fens and forests with moss or sedge understories. Sphagnum moss is a preferred habitat. The northern bog lemming creates runways or paths through the vegetation, and uses burrows which ground squirrels have dug. Most of their diet is grasses, sedges and other plants, but they also eat slugs and other invertebrates.

Management:

Maintaining mosses and other vegetation in wet meadows is important for bog lemmings. Snow compaction from snowmobiles or other activities can create barriers to the lemmings' travel between their feeding areas. Only a few lemming locations are known on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests; this species is difficult to trap.

Interesting Facts:

- Northern bog lemming droppings are bright green.
- Lemmings don't hibernate; they are active day and night all year long.

Learn more about the Northern bog lemming:

[Digital Atlas of Idaho](#)

[Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks](#)

[University of Michigan Museum of Zoology](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**FISHER**

(Martes pennanti)

Habitat and Biology:

Fishers usually live in mature and old growth conifer forests. During the winter they are more likely to use younger forests. They need snags (dead trees) or large down trees for dens where they raise their young. Fisher diets are quite varied. They eat snowshoe hares, porcupines, squirrels, mice, birds and berries, and scavenge deer carcasses. They don't catch fish.

Management:

Fishers need holes in large trees or snags for dens where they give birth to their young, which are called kits. These cavities are often excavated by pileated woodpeckers, so managing for fishers includes managing for pileated woodpeckers. Logging, fuels treatments and other forest management practices should maintain large trees for fisher habitat. Although fisher trapping is not legal in Idaho, fishers occasionally die in traps set for pine marten or coyotes.

Interesting Facts:

- "Fisher" may have come from the French word "fichet" which is the term for the pelt of the European polecat.
- Fishers were so abundant in North Idaho in the late 1800s that one trapper trapped 50 fishers in one winter.
- Fishers occasionally move over 60 miles (97 km).

Learn more about the Fisher:[Digital Atlas of Idaho](#)[U.S. Forest Service](#)[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)

[LIST](#)**WOLVERINE**

(Gulo gulo)

Habitat and Biology:

Wolverine natal dens (where kits are born) are on rocky hillsides like talus slopes with large boulders (2 meters in diameter) and avalanche chutes. The average home range of male Idaho wolverines was found to be 588 square miles (1,522 square kilometers). Wolverines are known as high mountain animals, but in winter and spring they're often found at lower elevations where they can scavenge on deer and elk. Wolverines also catch live marmots, ground squirrels, beavers and fish. They also eat roots and berries.



U.S. Forest Service photo

Management:

One threat to wolverines is human disturbance during February and March at their den sites where they give birth to their young. Backcountry skiers and snowmobilers too close to a den can cause wolverines to abandon the site.

Interesting Facts:

- A wolverine can dig or bite through snow, dirt or wood to find food.
- Wolverines may live 10 years in the wild.
- Males are larger than females and can weigh up to 25 kg (55 pounds).

Learn more about the Fisher:

[Digital Atlas of Idaho](#)

[U.S. Forest Service](#)

[Wolverine Foundation](#)

Last updated: 09/22/04

Go to the IPNF [Visitor Center](#) for a full listing of sections and topics on this website.

[Search our site](#) / [Search the USFS](#) / [Ask a question](#) / [Make a comment](#)
[Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#) / [USDA Forest Service](#)