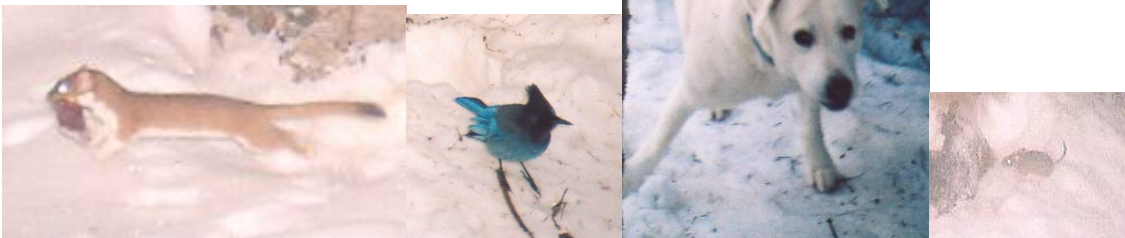


Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species Program
Pacific Fisher Survey
FY2006



Lakeview District Bureau of Land Management (Klamath Falls Resource Area),
Fremont-Winema National Forests (Klamath Ranger District), and Rogue-Siskiyou
National Forests (Ashland Ranger District)

Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species Program Pacific Fisher Survey Results Report

Introduction

In the fall of 2005, Steve Hayner, wildlife biologist for the Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) of Lakeview District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), submitted a proposal to the Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species Program to conduct a Pacific fisher survey on public land south of Lake of the Woods. The project was funded and the survey began in January 2006. The project funded Trisha Roninger, wildlife biologist for the Fremont-Winema National Forest and James Ross, hydrological technician for the KFRA to work for 2 months on the survey.

The Pacific fisher is listed as a Federal Candidate species and its current range is thought to be limited to 2 populations in Oregon, the Southern Cascade Mountains and the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon. Prior to the Canada lynx being listed under the Endangered Species Act, survey efforts for large carnivores occurred on both the Fremont-Winema NF and the KFRA. Survey efforts are currently being conducted on lands managed by the Medford BLM. This project focused in on the Pacific fisher and potential suitable habitat. Sightings have occurred on Forest Service lands near the survey area and habitat conditions may be suitable to support fisher. The land surveyed is allocated as matrix land, Late Successional Reserve (LSR) and also Designated Critical Habitat for the Northern spotted owl.

Survey Area

The survey area is located in southern Oregon, west of Klamath Falls. The study area is located on the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains near the crest. The study area is south of Lake of the Woods and west of the Mountain Lakes Wilderness. The study area is in Township 37 South and Range 5 East. The study area is 16 sections of federal land, including lands managed by the Klamath Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema National Forest and the Ashland Ranger District of the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest.

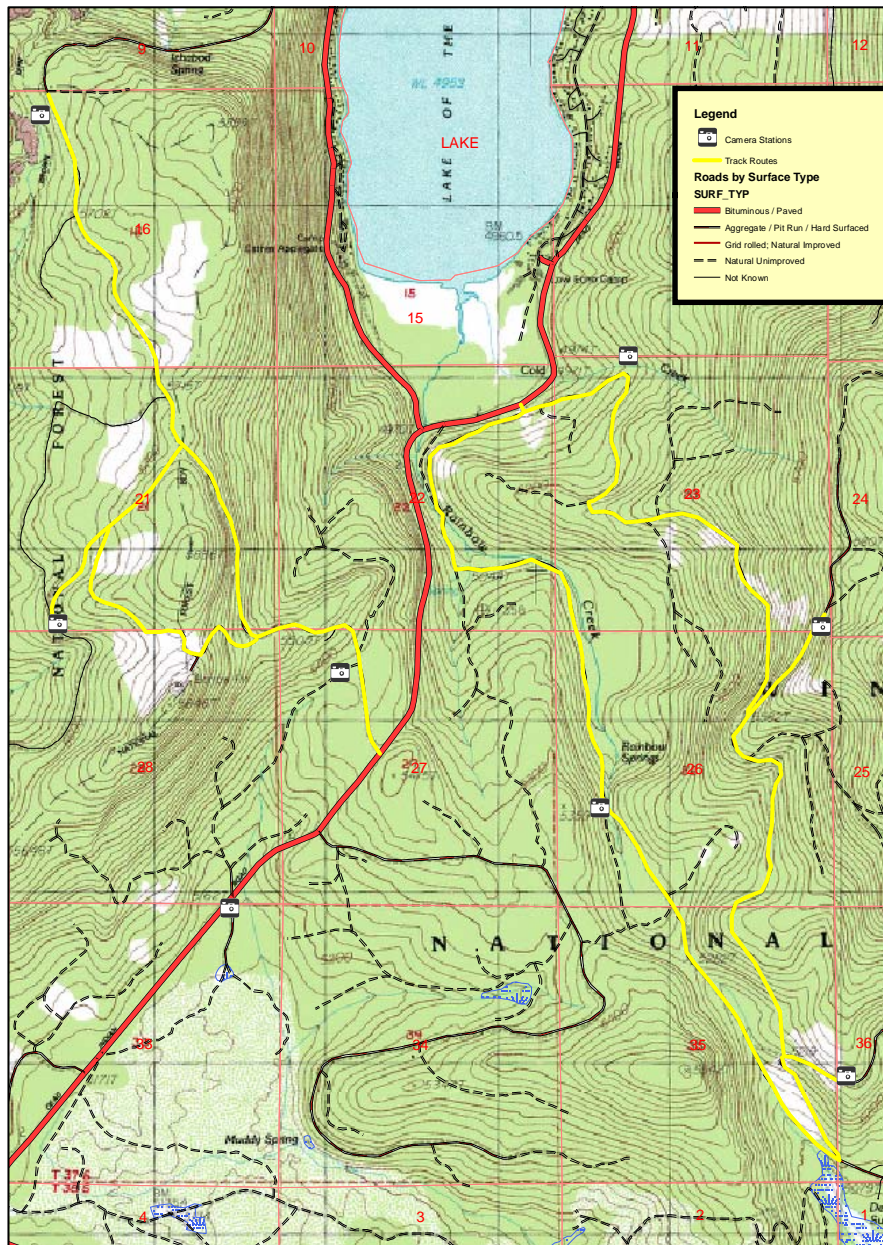
Habitat within the study is a mixture of Douglas fir, white fir, Shasta red fir, western white pine and lodgepole pine in the drainages.

Survey Methods

Surveys were conducted using a combination of track surveys and baited camera stations. Zielinski and Kucera's (1995) protocol for baited camera stations for the marten, fisher, lynx and wolverine was followed. The 16 sections in the study area were divided into 4 blocks of 4 sections. Two cameras were placed in each block of 4 sections at least one mile apart in distance. A total of eight camera stations were placed in the study area. Six of the cameras were placed on the Fremont-Winema National Forest and 2 of the stations were placed on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest. Trailmaster 1550 and 500 setups were used with 35 mm cameras at the stations. At one station (Camera 16), we used both a Trailmaster 500 and a StealthCam digital camera. Camera stations were setup on January 5th and 10th and were taken down on February 28th and March 1st. The objective was to have each camera station running and collecting data for 28 days.

Tracking survey routes were identified in conjunction with the camera stations and surveyed during camera station monitoring. While traveling between stations, we identified and recorded locations of tracks of carnivores. Tracks were recorded at the location of where they were first encountered, therefore, if an animal traveled along the track route versus crossing the track route, the point on the results map represents the location of the first encounter with the tracks.

Carnivore Study 2006 - Track Routes and Camera Locations



Camera Station Results

The table below shows the results of the monitoring conducted using the camera setups. Bobcats were the only large carnivore documented during the survey period. No Pacific fishers were found during the survey period. Other species documented at the camera stations include Northern flying squirrel, longtail weasel, chickaree, bushy-tailed woodrat, rabbits that were not identified to species due to photo quality, deer mice, Stellar's and gray jays and common raven.

Station Name	Legal Location	Total Days Running	Species Found
Camera 16	37S-5E-16	27 days	Northern flying squirrel, deer mouse, rabbit spp., bobcat, Stellar's jays, gray jays and common raven
Camera 21	37S-5E-21	29 days	Gray jays and chickaree
Camera 23	37S-5E-23	38 days	Bobcat and gray jays
Camera 24	37S-5E-24	29 days	Longtail weasel, chickaree, rabbit spp., bushy-tailed woodrat and common raven
Camera 26	37S-5E-26	32 days	Bobcat
Camera 27	37S-5E-27	33 days	Bobcat and gray jays
Camera 33	37S-5E-33	44 days	None
Camera 36	37S-5E-36	31 days	2 bobcats, gray jays and Stellar's jays

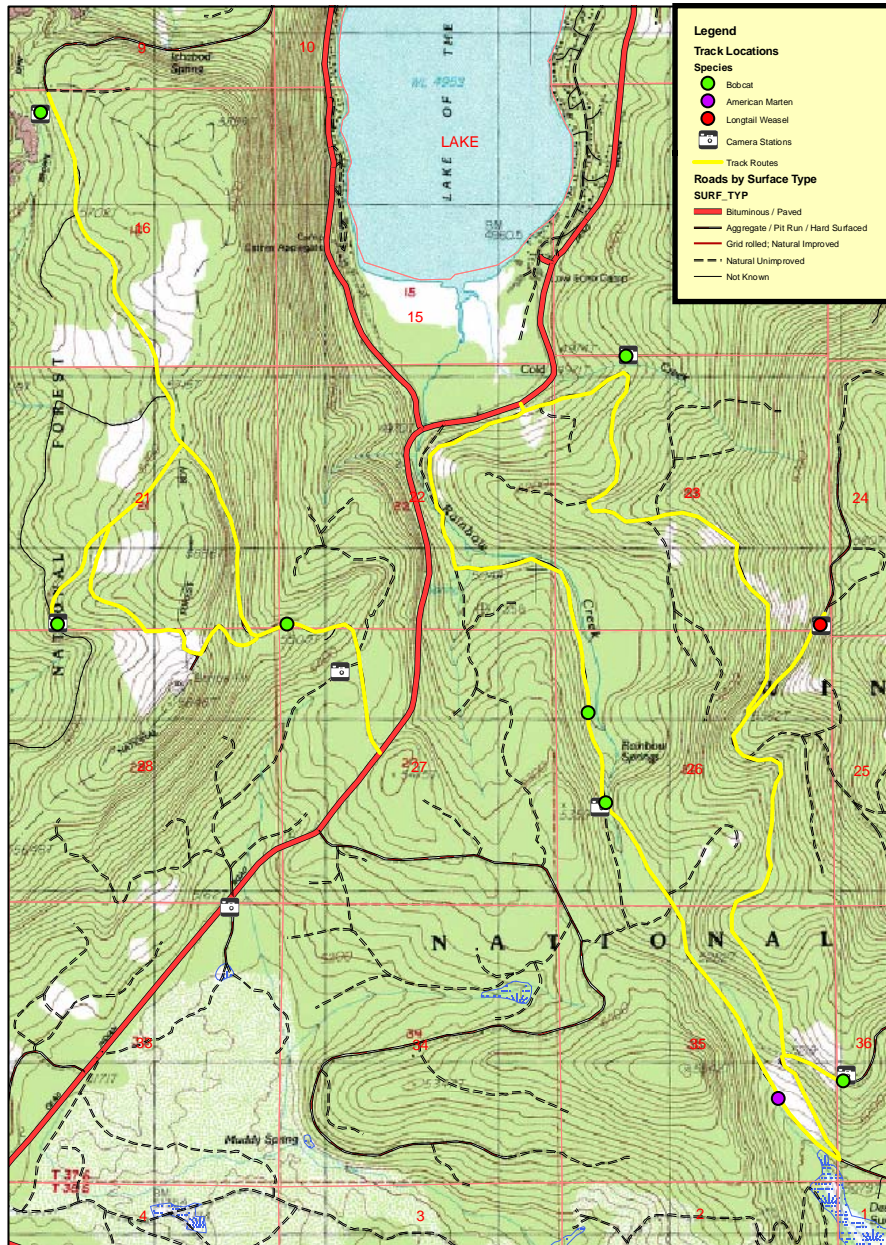
Track Route Results

Track route surveys were conducted while traveling between camera stations. One set of American marten tracks were encountered on January 26, 2006 on FS rd. 3750 at 37S-5E-35. No American martens were documented at the camera sites. Bobcat and longtail weasel tracks were also documented during the track surveys. Coyote tracks were not recorded, though many tracks were encountered. See the map below for the location.

Data Management

Camera locations and species detection information will be entered into BLM's Geographic Biotic Observations (GeoBOB) database as well as the Forest Service's NRIS Fauna Database of Sensitive Species. The carnivore survey data will also be submitted to the Forest Carnivore Surveys in the Pacific Northwest website (http://svinetfc2.fs.fed.us/wo_jsp/carnivore/map.jsp) managed by the Forest Service.

Carnivore Study 2006 - Track Routes and Track Locations



Contributors

We would like to thank Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for loaning us Trailmaster equipment and cameras to use during the survey.

We would also like to offer our gratitude to Oregon Department of Transportation for notifying us of and delivering numerous road kill deer for use during the study.

We would also like to thank Steve Hayner, Robert Roninger, Matt Broyles, Grant Weidenbach and Larry Brooks from the BLM and Doug Laye from the USFWS for helping setup and check stations and helping with the collection of road kill deer used to bait the stations.

References

Zielinski, W.J. and T.E. Kucera, technical editors. 1995. American Marten, Fisher, Lynx, and Wolverine: Survey Methods for Their Detection. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-157. Albany, CA: Pacific Southwest Research Station, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; 163 p.