

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/10/2014 11:02:02 PM

First name: Christina

Last name: Winters

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wolverine

One of the main issues with the "Wildlife" section of the plan is the complete lack of evaluation concerning the wolverine. They do in fact inhabit the Nez-Perce area and in the initial Draft Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Forest Plan Assessment from 2012, the information used to integrate the wolverine into the wildlife discussion is outdated. The source cited is "The Scientific Basis for Conserving Forest Carnivores, American marten, Fisher, Lynx and Wolverine in the Western United States (Ruggiero et al. 1994)", which is almost twenty years old to date. It is nice that the proposed plan is going to attempt to keep dispersed important ecological sites intact and refrain from fragmenting important habitat; however, the proposed prescribed burns will be detrimental to potential wolverine habitat. In the 2012 plan, it is explicitly stated that "Wolverines rarely utilize dense young timber stands, burned over areas or wet meadows (Forest Service 1998)". The prescribed burned areas will unintentionally fragment the wolverine habitat. Along with the prescribed burns, the increased recreation access and timber harvest will further impact the wolverine habitat. In the 2012 proposed plan under the "Wolverine" heading, it states "Wolverines rarely utilize dense young timber stands, burned over areas or wet meadows (Forest Service 1998)". By increasing the human presence in the Nez Perce area, the wolverine habitat will be further fragmented. In the 2014 proposed forest plan, it explicitly states "Wolverine numbers and population trends are unknown for Idaho (IDFG 2005)". We would like to see research done to analyze how prescribed burns and increased human presence will fragment their habitat. The results of this research should be factored into the forest plan so that the wolverine will have ample habitat to live and reproduce.

---

We would like to see research done in the EIS on the future impact of climate change on the ranges of both wolverines and lynx. It is possible that these ranges may shift, so studies should be done to predict how these shifts might occur. The results of these studies would need to be included in the plan, so that future ranges of these two threatened species may be provided and protected.