



# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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## American Marten Reintroduction Feasibility in Pennsylvania: A Synthesis

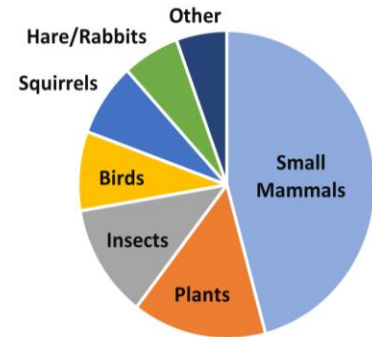
### American Marten in Pennsylvania

- American marten was once a common, native species to Pennsylvania.
- Martens were extirpated by 1900 due to habitat extensive deforestation and unregulated harvest.

### American Marten Ecology

- Marten's average 24 inches from nose to tip of tail, weigh an average of 2 lbs., and are the same size as a mink.
- Martens eat primarily rodents, followed by a high percentage of insects and plants.

Marten Diet: % Freq. of Occurrence



### American Marten Habitat in Pennsylvania

- Marten habitat is defined as being structurally complex having coarse woody debris, vertical and horizontal structure, cavities, and an understory, midstory, and overstory within the forest.
- Currently, Pennsylvania has suitable marten habitat in quantity, quality, and connectivity.

### Reintroduction Impacts

- Negative impacts from marten to other species and from other species to marten are minimal within the state.
- Climatic impacts to marten within the future are also predicted to be minimal.
- Martens coexist with many species of concern, having no impact at population scale, and share many of the same habitat needs such as a healthy, diverse, and structurally complex forest.

### Reasons for Reintroduction

- We can return one of the last extirpated native mammals back to the wilds of Pennsylvania and continue our strong legacy of ecological restoration.
- The public, including hunters, supports reintroduction of the American marten (92%).
- To increase forest health by returning missing ecological processes to the community.
- This is a culturally significant species to many of the Indigenous peoples of the Commonwealth.

