



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Talking About American Marten Reintroduction in Pennsylvania

Getting Started

- The American marten was a native species to Pennsylvania that was lost primarily due to human caused deforestation.
- The American marten is an important missing part of the ecological community in Pennsylvania, and it is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's responsibility to help manage for the health and well-being of this community to which we belong.
- Species reintroductions are not a decision that the Pennsylvania Game Commission takes lightly, and we are taking a responsible approach by developing a feasibility assessment, a reintroduction and management plan, and soliciting review and comment from stakeholders outside the agency and the public.
- Like the public, the Pennsylvania Game Commission cares deeply for our wildlife resource and is listening to all comments and concerns regarding American marten reintroduction.

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 system.
- This is a culturally significant species to many of the Indigenous peoples of the Commonwealth.

Ecology

- Martens average 24 inches from nose to tip of tail, weigh an average of 2 lbs., and are the same length as a fox squirrel.
- Martens eat primarily rodents, followed by a high percentage of insects and plants. Infrequently, species such as grouse and rabbits are eaten. **Turkey, including eggs and poults, and northern goshawk were not identified as prey items within marten diet research.**
- Martens coexist with many species of concern, having no impact on their populations, and share many of the same habitat needs such as a healthy, diverse and structurally complex forest.



American Marten



Fisher