



American Marten Reintroduction FAQ's

Why is the Game Commission considering the reintroduction of American Martens?

- The American Marten is a native species to Pennsylvania that was extirpated 100 years ago due primarily to human caused deforestation.
- Bringing species back to a community where they are currently absent is an important step towards ecological restoration, increasing biodiversity, and returning ecological processes such as seed dispersal or rodent population management.
- Species restoration supports economic growth within the outdoor recreation industry as well as considers the cultural importance to Indigenous peoples.
- The Game Commission found that Pennsylvania does have suitable habitat within the state, that negative impacts to other species and from other species would be minimal, and that the public strongly supports restoration.

Isn't the release of another predator just going to cause or add to the further decline of species such as the wild turkey, northern goshawk, ruffed grouse, Allegheny woodrat, or rabbits?

- As part of the [Feasibility Assessment](#) the Game Commission conducted extensive diet research from across the marten's range and found that marten eat primarily rodents, followed by a high percentage of insects and plants. Species such as grouse and rabbits are eaten infrequently while **species such as turkey, including eggs and poults, and northern goshawk, were not identified as prey items in the diet research.**
- American marten weigh between 1-3 lbs. and are the same size as the American mink and the same length as an adult fox squirrel.
- American martens have large home ranges averaging over 3.2 mi² and populations have relatively low density in comparison to many of the above-mentioned species.
- There is significant range overlap and coexistence with marten and many of these species throughout the northeast and upper mid-west.
- American martens require a diverse and structurally complex forest habitat which aligns with many of the habitat requirements of these species.

Is the American marten a threat to livestock such as chickens?

- No, martens are a species that require un-developed habitat and shy away from any human development. If poultry is protected from weasels and mink, they will be safe from martens.

Will reintroduction of the marten inhibit land management practices such as forestry or oil and gas development?

- No, this will be considered an experimental population and will not be classified as threatened or endangered or a Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Will there be restrictions on trapping regulations when targeting other species where martens are found?

- No, because Pennsylvania does not allow body-gripping traps outside of an established waterway, martens won't experience mortality from trapping as seen in other states. Although they may accidentally be caught in a foothold, a trapper can easily release them back into the wild.