WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PR 14-004-270

Protecting California Wolverine Dens

Date: August, 1999
Application: All west-side forested ecosystems covered by the Habitat Conservation Plan, including the Olympic Experimental State Forest, that are located within designated northern spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging management areas.

DISCUSSION

The California wolverine is an unlisted species of concern. One of the department's overall objectives is to contribute to demographic support of populations of unlisted species with large home ranges on federal reserves. This objective will be accomplished for wolverines by implementing the spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and riparian conservation strategies, and by minimizing disturbance to known den sites.

The spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and riparian strategies, and the landscape's habitat objectives are expected to ensure the development of large landscapes of mature and old-growth forests. Additionally, road use management measures which will limit human disturbance increase the likelihood of wolverine denning success.

Comply with this procedure to ensure that known California wolverine den sites are protected

Action

Obtain the assistance of a region or division wildlife biologist to determine if a California wolverine den that occurs within 0.5 mile of the management activity is active (i.e., is in use or was likely used in the most recent breeding season).

(a) If it is inactive, end the procedure.

(b) If it is active, restrict any part of a proposed management activity that includes timber harvest or road construction within 0.5 mile of a known active California wolverine den between January 1 and July 31 where such activity would appreciably reduce the likelihood of denning success. Examine road access to denning areas and consider seasonal road closures around denning areas.

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August, 1999