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## **Regulation of Trapping in American Pine Marten Core Range in Northern Wisconsin**

Previously native to much of Wisconsin, by 1925 the American Marten was extinct in Wisconsin through over-trapping and habitat decline. Since reintroduction in 1975, research suggests there has been little if any range expansion beyond the original two release sites.

The pine marten plays an important role in regulating the numbers of its prey species such as voles and other rodents.

Climate change scenarios for the next 45 years in Wisconsin predict reduced snow pack. This would substantially decrease the advantage the martens have over other carnivores during winter, and likely decrease the number of martens.

The American Marten is now confined to two areas on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest that are still open to trapping. The species is sometimes taken as a non-target animal, which further undermines recovery efforts. While these takings are recorded as low, it is not possible to know how many went unreported.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Waukesha County on April 8, 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change to expand the marten restoration special trapping regulations areas to include the entire marten core range in northern Wisconsin as shown on the DNR Pine Marten Range and Recovery Area map. The core range includes parts of the following counties: Bayfield, Ashland, Sawyer, Iron, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Price, Marinette, and Florence.

Linda Hiller Deppe  
Private Citizen  
326 Lake St., Pewaukee, WI 53072  
Waukesha County  
262-691-4081

*Linda Deppe*