

Humboldt Marten and Timber Operations

On January 12, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced a 90-day finding on a petition to list the Humboldt marten (*Martes americana humboldtensis*) as endangered or threatened in coastal northern California and in coastal central and southern Oregon under the Endangered Species Act. Based on its review, USFWS found that the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing the Humboldt marten may be warranted. USFWS will now conduct a 12-month comprehensive status review to determine whether listing the Humboldt marten is warranted. Unlike state law, species under review for possible listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act are not given special legal status, nor does USFWS develop emergency rules allowing incidental take or mitigation guidelines. While the status review proceeds, registered professional foresters should consider the following:

1. Even though the take prohibitions of the Endangered Species Act do not apply, CAL FIRE will assume that timber operations proposed within the current range of Humboldt marten could potentially cause a significant adverse impact to the species.
2. For discretionary projects (timber harvesting plans, modified timber harvesting plans, program timber harvesting plans and non-industrial timber management plans), the registered professional forester should determine: (1) whether the project is located within the species' range (Current Range – Petition on range map); (2) the likelihood of the species being present on the project area; (3) the nature of the proposed timber operations and whether they may cause a significant adverse effect to the species; and Item (4) based on (1)-(3), whether the project should incorporate appropriate measures to mitigate significant adverse effects to the species.
3. For non-discretionary projects (exemption and emergency notices), the registered professional forester or timber owner, whichever applies, should determine: (1) whether the proposed timber operations are located within the range of the species (Current Range – Petition on range map); (2) the likelihood of the species being present on the area where timber operations will occur; (3) the nature of the proposed timber operations and whether they may cause a significant adverse effect to the species; and Item (4) based on (1)-(3), whether the licensed timber operator should apply appropriate measures to mitigate significant adverse effects to the species.

Important Links

[Federal Register 90-Day Finding on Petition to List Humboldt Marten](#)

[Humboldt Marten Species Information](#)

[Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office's Humboldt Marten Information](#)

[Humboldt Marten Range Map](#)