



The Eyes, Ears, and Voice of the Forest...

Upload a letter today to support protecting the beautiful Pacific Fisher!

Fisher (west coast population AKA Pacific fisher) *Pekania [Martes] pennanti*

Fishers are dark-brown, medium-sized members of the weasel family. They are endemic to North America and have roamed the northern and Pacific coast forests of the continent for tens of thousands of years; unfortunately, they have virtually disappeared from many forests in the Pacific states.

The fisher's western range was reduced dramatically in the 1800s and early 1900s because of trapping, predator and pest control, and alterations of forested habitats brought about by logging, urbanization, and farming.



People have trapped fisher for their fur, fragmented through logging the habitat of this old-growth dependent species, destroyed their breeding and foraging territory, killed their prey, accidentally killed them via vehicle collisions, and poisoned them directly or indirectly via rodenticides.

Over the past century, fisher have been disappearing at such a staggering rate that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is now addressing the threats this imperiled species faces and proposing to protect them under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Pacific fisher was first proposed for listing as threatened by USFWS in 1991, but rejected due to not enough data. The Service is finally ready to take action as long as politics does not trump science as it often does. In 2000, 16 conservation groups petitioned the USFWS to list the west coast fisher as endangered and in 2003 USFWS agreed that it qualified for that status. Political pressure is the only thing that keeps many species off the endangered species list for state and federal protections.

The fisher needs YOUR help TODAY to finally get the protection they so desperately need. We must speak for this charismatic species with voices that are loud enough to be heard over the din of the logger's chain saw and developer's blade. Without immediate action, fishers will lose their fight for survival and will continue to disappear from the Sierra Nevada, Klamath, North Coast, and Cascade Mountain Ranges.

Your voice makes a difference. Please tell USFWS that you support ESA protections for the fisher (western United States Distinct Population Segment)

What you can do to help:

Please write or upload a comment letter message to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) urging the listing of the west coast population of fisher as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Email messages must be received before 5 p.m., Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Points to include in your letter

RE: Support listing the Pacific fisher as threatened

- ✦ I support listing the fisher (western United States Distinct Population Segment) as a threatened species fully protected by the Endangered Species Act in the states of California and Oregon;
- ✦ I support fisher re-introduction to its native habitats, currently underway in the state of Washington;
- ✦ I support removing this species from state trapping programs;
- ✦ The fisher was originally petitioned for listing in 1991, in twenty-four years their population has reached a critical point where the time to act is now;
- ✦ I applaud the efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for listing the fisher as a candidate for threatened status under the Endangered Species Act and request that they finalize the listing immediately;
- ✦ Part of North American ecosystems for tens of thousands of years, the west coast population of fisher barely persists after two centuries of human exploitation of it and its habitats;
- ✦ The fisher is an important animal in the ecosystem as a small carnivore controlling rodent populations;
- ✦ Now more than ever, fishers need protection from old-growth forest logging, trapping, and poisoning;
- ✦ Their small population puts them at high risk for catastrophic extinction;
- ✦ Thank you for this opportunity to comment on behalf of fishers that need us to protect them and their habitat, so future generations of Americans can enjoy ecosystems that contain all of their critical elements.

- Electronically enter your comment or upload your message and information where requested at this website: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=FWS-R8-ES-2014-0041-0148>

- Paper copy, via the U.S. mail or hand delivery, to:
Public Comments Processing
Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2014-0041
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.



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