

## Region 2 Sensitive Species List

### **American Marten (*Martes americana*)**

#### Recommendation Rationale:

On one hand, the marten is widely distributed through the upper-elevation forests of R2, and can be comparatively abundant at local scales where large amounts of high-quality habitat remain. A 1996 amendment to the Colorado State Constitution eliminated or substantially reduced the mortality threat associated with trapping. Rangelwide the species seems secure. At the same time, the marten is closely associated with a relatively narrow ecological range. The best marten populations are found in mature and old-growth spruce-fir forests with well-developed structure and abundant coarse woody debris. Past, and in some cases current, logging has substantially reduced this habitat type, leading to younger more even-aged forests, with reduced structure and coarse woody debris. As a result, marten populations have declined unevenly across the region. Typical of carnivores, the marten exists at relatively low density, with comparatively large home range requirements. Consequently, habitat alteration, development, and the natural patchiness of suitable marten habitat in R2 together create some vulnerability for marten population viability by reducing habitat function through the effects of fragmentation. This has created an overall downward trend in effective habitat and population health. For these reasons, and because habitat and, therefore, population fragmentation and isolation is an increasing and recurrent theme with forest carnivores generally, especially in the more southerly portions of their ranges, we determine that Regional sensitive species status is warranted at this time.

Revised on January 13, 2003 by Gary Patton