SIERRA NEVADA ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
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Wildlife - Fisher

Research Objective

Quantify the effects of Strategically Placed Land Area Treatments (SPLATS) on the fisher in a southern study site. We hypothesize that the fisher will respond negatively to the treatment.

Methods

- At least 20 fisher will be monitored daily via aerial radio-telemetry throughout the eight-year study at the southern study site.
- Untagged fisher will be detected by camera traps.
- Reproductive rate, mortality rate, dispersal rate and cause of mortality will be quantified annually.
- Diet and health will be monitored by collecting scats and sampling tissues from live-caught fisher.
- Habitat preferences will be assessed by comparing annual behavior data with vegetation data.
- All results will be used to compare fisher with home ranges within versus outside of treated areas.

Opportunities for Public Participation

- Interested public will be considered for volunteer field assistants in monitoring wildlife at various times according to abilities and interests.

Immediate Next Steps

- Hire project leader.
- Hire field staff.
- Establish a field laboratory.
- Purchase vehicles and other equipment.
- Establish camera traps.
- Deploy live traps where fisher are known to occur.
- Continue process until all fisher in the area are radio-collared.
- Monitor all collared fisher daily by ground and air for location and mortality.

Opportunities for Integration

- Habitat relationships will be assessed by comparing wildlife locations with vegetation and other habitat information provided by other research team members.
- Wildlife staff will assist data collection by other teams whenever possible.
- Wildlife staff will regularly interact with other teams regarding the reporting and analysis of all findings throughout the study.

Products and Opportunities

- Habitat relationship models and population viability models will be published at the end of the project.
- Conclusions will be drawn about whether fisher are affected or not by the SPLAT treatments.

Investigators

Reginald H. Barrett, rbarrett@nature.berkeley.edu

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