Wolverine Ecology And Management In The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, A Program Overview And Update[TWS]

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The status of wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) populations in the lower 48 remains uncertain and the ecological requirements of the species are not well described. Federal and state resource managers need information in order to make well-informed policy decisions that affect land-use practices and populations of wolverines. This project is designed to provide baseline ecological data and answer specific questions relevant to wolverine management and related land-use policies. Our study objectives are to document wolverine demographic parameters, determine if and how wolverine populations may be affected by human recreational activities, identify wolverine dispersal corridors and/or linkage areas between mountain ranges in the GYA, and collaboratively design and implement management strategies and actions aimed towards the long-term persistence of wolverines in the GYA. Two areas, the Madison Range Complex of southwestern Montana and southeastern Idaho (MFA) and the Teton Range of northwestern Wyoming (TFA), have been selected for intensive study. These areas are representative of the land management jurisdictions and human-use impacts that are common to the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). Seventeen different wolverines (9♀, 8) have been captured since 2001 and 11 (7♀, 4 ♂) are currently radio-instrumented. Four wolverines were fit with store-on-board GPS collars, and one was fit with a atellite collar. uccess and failure of collars and preliminary results regarding mortality and reproductive rates, habitat use, home range size, and winter recreational use will be discussed. This research program is designed as a comprehensive, long-term effort to address specific wolverine management questions and collect information that can be integrated into a landscape species approach to conservation planning in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.