

REMOTE CAMERA SURVEYS FOR FOREST CARNIVORES ^{TWS}

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TrailMaster brand infrared camera stations have been used to detect and document the presence of forest carnivore species on the Bozeman Ranger District of the Gallatin National Forest since 1997. Target species for the project include Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), fisher (*Martes pennanti*) and American marten (*Martes americana*). The project is undertaken during the winter months to facilitate snow tracking of animals, avoid conflicts with bears, and take advantage of the winter food scarcity period to lure target species to the stations. Camera stations are baited with pieces of deer and/or beaver carcass and scented with a long distance commercial trapping lure. Chicken wings are suspended from a wire to provide a visual stimulus for attracting cats. The meat baits are hung from a wire so as to minimize the potential for providing a food reward to animals that visit the site. When an animal enters the site to inspect the lure and bait, an infrared beam is broken which triggers the camera to take a picture. Through this project, we have detected the presence of wolverine, marten, and possibly lynx, along with non-target species such as mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, red fox, red squirrel, snowshoe hare, moose and numerous bird species. A workshop will present the setup, maintenance and use of the camera stations.