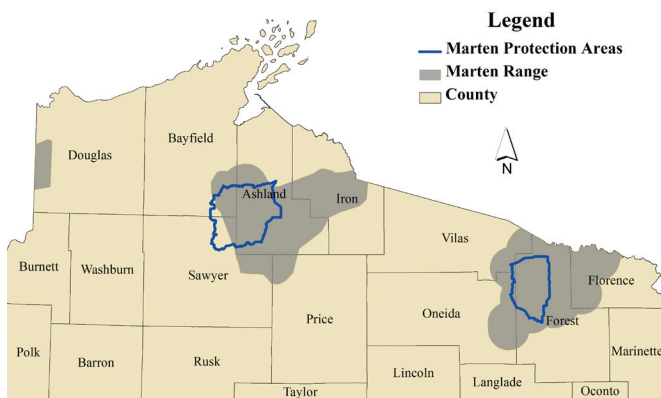


The American Marten

The American marten (also called pine marten) was extirpated from Wisconsin due to habitat loss and unregulated take in the early 1900s. Beginning in the 1970s, martens were reintroduced to areas of the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests. A member of the weasel family and roughly the size of a mink, martens are found in forested habitats, especially those with fallen and partially-fallen trees. Today, martens are only found in a few areas across northern Wisconsin. Martens are classified as a state-endangered species and their survival in Wisconsin is unlikely without your help.



Marten core range (gray) in northern Wisconsin and Marten Protection Areas (blue lines) where special trapping regulations apply.

You can make a difference!

The Wisconsin Trappers Association, Wisconsin Conservation Congress and Wisconsin DNR encourage all trappers to use these alternative techniques when trapping in upland habitats in and around the marten range. Thank you for your willingness to consider these methods. Your help will assure marten existence in Wisconsin for our children and future generations.



To learn more about American marten, visit our webpage:

dnr.wi.gov

keyword: “furbearers”



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication can be made available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call (608-261-6452) for more information.

Marten Avoidance Techniques



Avoidance Techniques

Martens prefer intact, older forests and rarely use riparian and aquatic habitats, open meadows, wetlands or pastures and cropland areas. To avoid catching martens when trapping smaller furbearers such as mink, place trap sets in habitats that martens tend to avoid.

Weasel Boxes

Enclosed box traps designed to catch long-tailed, short-tailed and least weasels (i.e., “weasel boxes”) can be constructed to minimize the chance of incidentally catching martens and other non-target species.

- Keep all openings 1 3/8 inches or smaller in diameter to prevent access by martens while still allowing access by weasels.
- Securely anchor the box to an immovable object to allow foot-captured raccoon and skunk to pull free of the trap.

Cage Traps

A cage or box trap is the best trapping system for use in upland habitats within marten range.

- Allows for release of marten or other non-target species safely and easily.
- Dispatch of target animals caught in cage traps may be done easily using a .22 caliber “short” bullet for species like raccoons, or a body-grip trap placed over the opening of the trap when set vertically on the ground for species such as fisher.



Body-grip Traps

Trigger placement and set location of body-grip traps can be altered from the factory settings to avoid accidental take of marten.

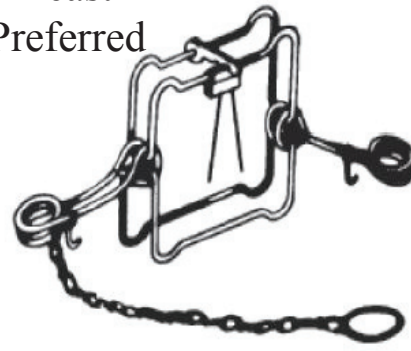
- Providing larger openings on body-grip traps by bending or cutting the triggers will help you to avoid smaller animals such as marten, while still enabling you to catch larger furbearers such as fisher and raccoons.
- Adjusting the trigger placement is especially important when setting body-grip traps on fallen or partially-fallen logs, which marten prefer for travel.

Pan Tension

When trapping larger furbearers (e.g., fisher, raccoon, coyote or bobcat) with foothold traps, increasing the pan tension will help avoid incidental captures.

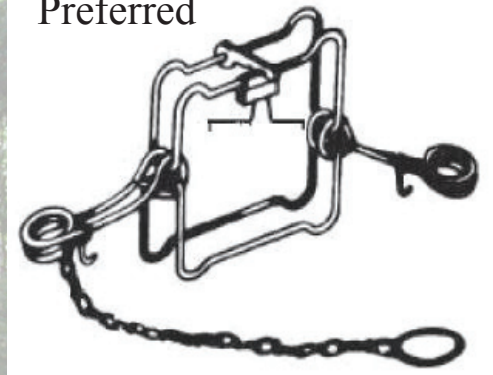
- Martens rarely weigh more than a large squirrel (about 2.5 lbs maximum).
- By increasing pan tension, smaller animals are unlikely to trigger foothold traps.
- Larger animals will be caught in a more ideal location on their foot as the trap will only trigger once the animals have fully committed themselves.
- Increasing pan tension to target larger animals will result in better productivity.

Least Preferred



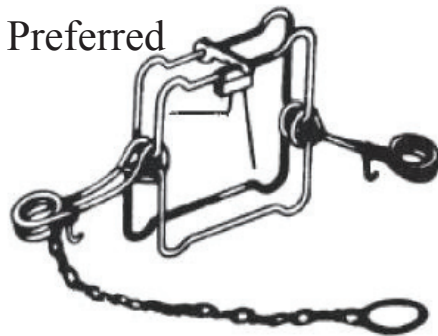
Body-grip trap with factory-set trigger

Preferred



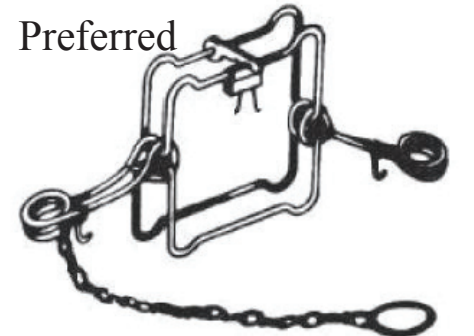
Body-grip trap with trigger spread

Next Least Preferred



Body-grip trap with trigger spread

Most Preferred



Body-grip trap with trigger cut to 3/8" long