



Bringing the Adventure and Science Communities Together

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Military Veterans and Teachers Search for Lynx Activity on the Helena National Forest

Helena, MT March 4th, 2013 - [Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation](#) (ASC), Helena National Forest (HNF) and the Montana Discovery Foundation have partnered to offer veterans who suffer from PTSD the opportunity to participate in a lynx tracking survey in the mountains outside of Helena, MT. This is the second annual data collection survey offered to veterans from the Fort Harrison VA, and the research collected over the weekend will be used by forest service biologists to better manage this highly threatened species.

This program gave veterans a chance to explore this beautiful and remote area as well as put to use the detail oriented skills honed during their time in the military. Denise Penegroth, biologist for the Helena National Forest explains, “This project affords veterans an opportunity to engage in their communities and reengage in their own lives by playing an important role in extending the Forest Service’s understanding of this species.”

The Big Belt Mountains are on the edge of the known lynx range, and the group scoured several drainages, into which the elusive cats may be expanding. The vets learned to read the environment as they searched for tracks and inspected the area for hairs and scat which can be analyzed for DNA evidence, “Our hope is that veterans will walk away from the outing knowing that they have contributed to this important conservation effort while serving alongside one another in a new way,” says ASC Executive Director, Gregg Treinish.

Earlier this month ASC lead a similar outing for Helena area teachers. For more information please visit

www.adventureandscience.org.

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About Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation

Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation was founded in January of 2011 with the understanding that many people traveling in the outdoors genuinely want to do more for the places they visit but often struggle with how to help. ASC exists to bridge this gap by pairing adventure athletes already traveling to some of the earth's most difficult-to-reach places with the scientists who need information from these areas. ASC also has the goal of creating unique and innovative learning experiences about science while also saving the scientific and conservation communities millions of dollars in data collection costs. For more information visit

www.adventureandscience.org

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