



Bringing the Adventure and Science Communities Together

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Skiers and Biologists to Partner in Search of Martens in the Olympics

Olympia, WA December 17th, 2012 - [Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation](http://www.adventureandscience.org) (ASC), a nonprofit organization that facilitates partnerships between outdoor enthusiasts and researchers, is seeking backcountry skiers and snowshoers to help search for the elusive American marten in the Olympic National Forest (ONF) this winter. In partnership with ONF biologists, ASC will be leading a series of field trainings in which volunteers will learn to track wildlife as well as setup and maintain remote wildlife camera stations. The goal of the project is to gain a better understanding of marten activity in the forest and to improve management policy.

The American marten's numbers have been greatly reduced in the Olympic National Forest since the reintroduction of the fisher in the late 1990's. According to ONF head biologist, Betsy Howell, "If martens are documented, then further survey efforts could ensue in specific areas to better understand the resident populations. If martens are not documented, the results would be helpful in efforts to potentially list coastal martens as a regionally sensitive species."

ASC will provide mandatory field training for participants on January 11-13, 2013 and February 1-3, 2013 during which they will learn non-invasive winter tracking techniques and how to access and maintain baited wildlife cameras. "This project can potentially have a big impact on wildlife conservation," says ASC Program Director Brendan Weiner. "It provides a great opportunity to connect the needs of scientists and the desire of the outdoor community to be involved in conservation."

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No wildlife tracking or scientific experience is necessary to join this project, but participants do need to have experience travelling in the backcountry during winter on skis or snowshoes. Lodging will be provided at forest service cabins. For more information or to sign up, visit the project's guided outing page at <http://www.adventureandscience.org/pine-marten.html> or call 406-579-9702.

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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