

NORTH CASCADES WOLVERINE STUDY – Project Update January 31, 2013

Greetings — Our 2012-13 winter trapping season in Washington began in early December. As in past years, John Rohrer is running a trapping crew based out of Winthrop with assistance from Scott Fitkin. Our collaborators in British Columbia are not live-trapping wolverines this year; however, Cliff Nietvelt (B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations) is continuing to operate run-pole camera stations just north of the Washington-British Columbia border in Manning Provincial Park and vicinity.

WOLVERINE CAPTURES

We captured our first wolverine of the 2012-13 winter season on Christmas Eve: Dasher, a new young male, was live-captured in the Twisp River drainage about 16 miles west of Winthrop on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. We live-captured a second new young male (Logan) on January 24th off of Highway 20 near Easy Pass, also on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Both males appeared to be in excellent health and were fitted with satellite telemetry collars that have an estimated battery life of about 8 months. We have now captured 12 different wolverines (7 females, 5 males) since the beginning of our study in 2006.

Additional details on our study, including the geographic extent and size of activity areas for the wolverines monitored thus far, are included in our 2012 Annual Report posted on The Wolverine Foundation's website:

http://wolverinefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/ncws_2012annual_rept.pdf

LEAD PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Keith Aubry (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station).

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: John Rohrer (USDA Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest); Cathy Raley (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station); Scott Fitkin (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife); Rich Weir (British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Victoria, BC).



Dasher weighed 11.6 kg



Logan weighed 11.5 kg



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Keith Aubry to learn more about our study (kaubry@fs.fed.us) and Cathy Raley (craley@fs.fed.us) to be added or removed from our project-update mailing list.