

THREAT LEVEL

IDAHO FISH & GAME

Imperiled (S2):
Species is rare or declining



WDFW PRIORITY HABITAT AND SPECIES PROGRAM

Species of Great
Conservation Need



CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ Increase population monitoring
- ▶ Research species distribution and abundance
- ▶ Establish habitat protection throughout their range
- ▶ Implement protections that prevent excessive harvest



Fisher

Pekania pennanti

Photo Credit: wdfw.wa.gov

OVERVIEW

The fisher is imperiled in northern Idaho due to hunting, habitat degradation, and climate change. Human interference, wildfire, and logging degrade their habitat and contribute to increased mortality rates and stress on fisher populations. Climate change poses a direct risk to habitat, increasing the frequency of wildfires and forest insect outbreaks. However, decreased snowfall may aid their winter hunting efforts by increasing fishers' winter range and making it easier to track and hunt prey. Ongoing research and monitoring of populations and core habitats will be important for maintaining and establishing protections for this species.

CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

VULNERABILITY RANKING

CLIMATE

MODERATE - HIGH

NON-CLIMATE

HIGH

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

Physiological, phenological, or ecological factors to consider when planning conservation projects:

- ▶ Fishers have a relatively large range and are capable of broad migration
- ▶ An omnivorous diet allows fishers to adapt to shifting food availability
- ▶ Fishers have low reproduction rates due to small litters and delayed sexual maturity

Vulnerability Rankings Methodology

These priority species have been assessed for climate and non-climate vulnerability using a process adapted from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Methodology for ranking the Climate Change Vulnerability of Species. WDFW's approach includes rating each species' climate sensitivity and exposure. These two rankings are then averaged for a climate vulnerability ranking. The Tribe developed a non-climate vulnerability ranking to capture species' relative risk and adaptability to factors such as human-caused development, predator/prey relationships, or low population numbers. Confidence rankings were assessed based on the availability of scientific research.

KEY THREATS

Habitat Degradation & Loss

Fishers were historically trapped for their pelts, which contributed to significant population decline. Now, populations are threatened by habitat alteration caused by wildfire, logging, and agriculture. Urban development also fragments the habitats and increases human interaction, creating further stress on fisher populations.

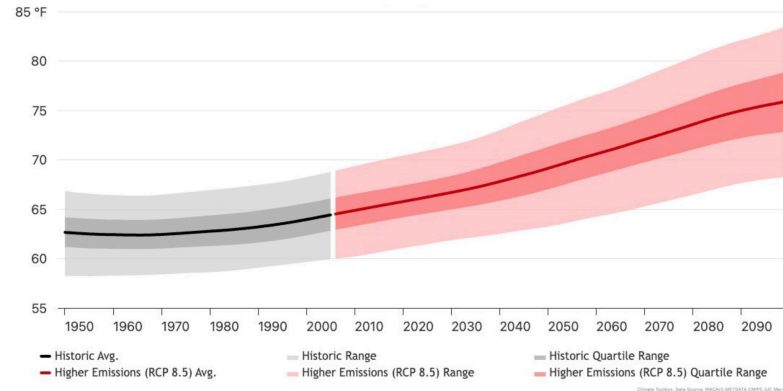
Climate Change

- ▶ Warmer, drier conditions may increase the likelihood of wildfire and the proliferation of insects that spread disease, threatening the forest habitat fishers prefer.
- ▶ Decreased snowpack caused by warmer temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns may benefit fishers by potentially increasing the amount of suitable habitat and improving their ability to travel and hunt in the winter.

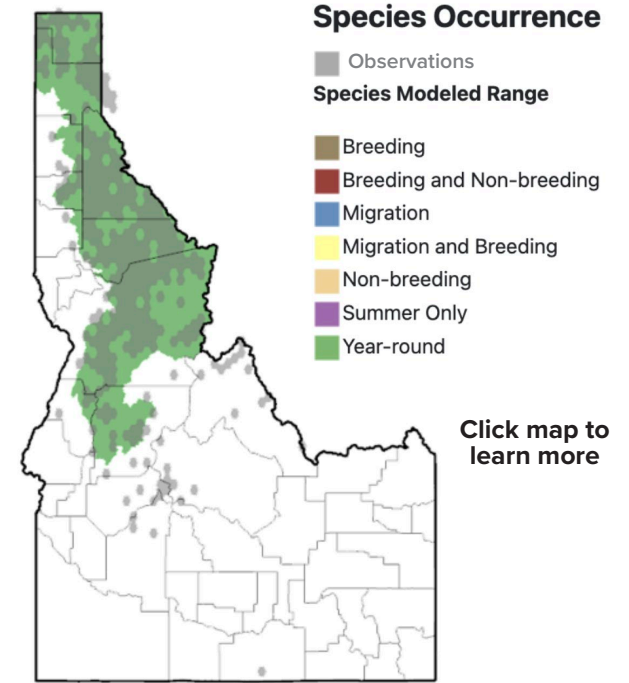
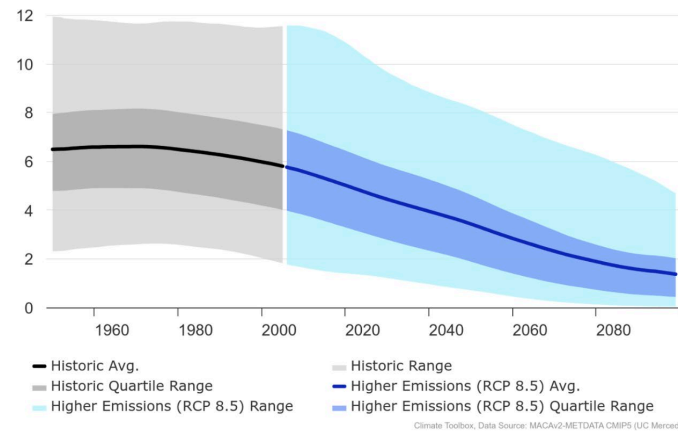


Photo Credit: Wolf Education & Research Center

JUN-JUL-AUG MAX TEMPERATURE BOUNDARY COUNTY, ID



DEC-JAN-FEB SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT (MWBW) BOUNDARY COUNTY, ID



Source: Idaho Fish & Game

REFERENCES

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PRIORITY AT-RISK SPECIES KOOTENAI TRIBE OF IDAHO