

## SPECIES AT RISK MANAGEMENT:

# AMERICAN MARTEN

American Marten (*Martes Americana*) were trapped extensively throughout Nova Scotia from the 1700s up until the season was closed in the early 1900s due to low numbers. Extensive budworm infestations, habitat loss and incidental trapping are thought to have further contributed to population decline. The Cape Breton population of American Marten was listed as endangered in the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act in 2001. Since then, PHP has worked extensively with the recovery team; collaborating with biologists, researchers and Department of Lands & Forestry Staff on the development and implementation of an American Marten Recovery Strategy.

## MARTEN HABITAT MANAGEMENT ZONE

The Marten Habitat Management Zone (MHMZ) in the Highlands covers 72,725 ha. This zone is managed to ensure that adequate marten habitat is continually available. Close to 70% of the marten habitat management zone is now protected. On the 20,373ha where forestry operations take place, Special Marten Habitat Management Practices apply.

Marten Habitat Management Zone

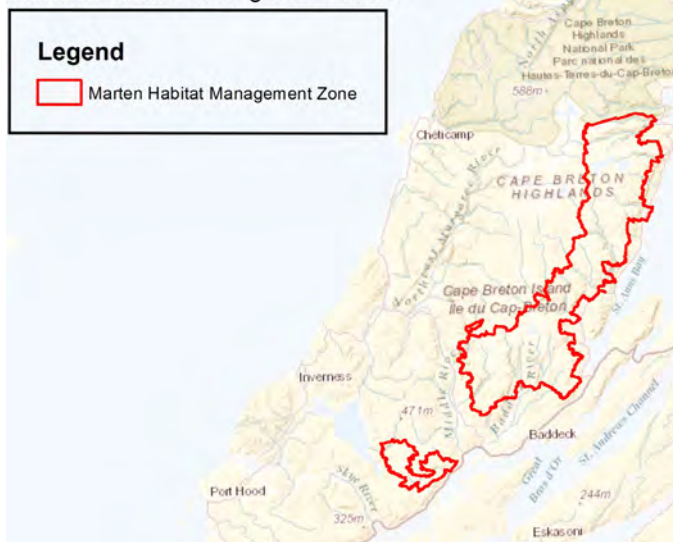


Figure 1 - Marten Habitat Management Zone



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## MARTEN HABITAT SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

- 12-14 standing and live mature trees per ha must be left evenly spaced throughout the harvest site
- These are in addition to all other requirements of the Wildlife Habitat and Watercourse Protection Regulations
- Large Yellow Birch trees should be left standing where possible
- Harvest sites should maintain at least 100 m<sup>3</sup> of coarse woody debris/ha and mean maximum diameter of downed logs should exceed 22cm

## PHP ADDITIONAL PRACTICES:

- PHP's average annual harvest within the MHMZ is 295ha (less than half a percent of the total area)
- 78% of our average annual harvest within the MHMZ is through thinnings and similar treatments (20m<sup>2</sup> basal area remains intact; see picture for example)
- An average 64ha/yr of variable retention harvesting takes place within the MHMZ, strictly following Marten Habitat Special Management Practices



Thinning Harvest in Marten Habitat Management Zone, Oct 2020