

# Making a Difference for Wildlife

Hundreds of local conservation projects are undertaken annually by SCI Chapters. They are reinforced by many notable conservation initiatives funded by the SCI Foundation.



## Northern Lower Peninsula Marten Project Michigan, USA Total Funds: \$200,000

After being absent from the lower peninsula of Michigan for more than 75 years, in 1985 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) reintroduced 85 martens to sites in the Huron-Manistee National Forest and the Pigeon River Country and Pere Marquette State Forests. However, the plan to eventually release up to 240 martens was not realized and the small founder populations have not expanded significantly from the original translocation sites.

In recent years several groups including the MDNR, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and the Forest Service have expressed interest in evaluating the extent of existing populations and the potential for future reintroductions to increase population levels.



will be made between two populations in the NLP and one from the Upper Peninsula (UP) to determine whether genetic stocks from the UP would be a potential source for further reintroductions to the NLP. In addition, a landscape level model of existing marten habitat is being developed.

Field work for the study started in late 2004 and is slated to end in 2007. This work includes trapping and radio collaring martens, as well as laboratory work to extract and evaluate genetic samples.

To complete this evaluation, MDNR has partnered with the Michigan Involvement Committee (MIC), the Grand Traverse Band, the Forest Service, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Central Michigan University.

The MIC consists of SCI Detroit, Flint, Michigan, Mid-Michigan, Northeast Michigan, West Michigan Bow, Lakeshore Sportsmen, Kensington Valley, Lansing, Novi, Northwoods, and Southeast Michigan Bow Chapters.

Specifically, the study is evaluating two critical aspects of Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP) marten ecology. Comparisons

