

Resolution #10
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

**PROTECT PACIFIC FISHER, CALIFORNIA WOLVERINE, AMERICAN MARTEN,
AND SIERRA NEVADA RED FOX in California**

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee

Background: Current Forest Service policy allows visitors to bring their dogs into the national forests. However, Forest Service rules in many areas state that visitors should leave vicious or unusually noisy dogs at home, and keep dogs on a leash no more than 6 feet long or otherwise restrict their freedom to roam at will.

California hunters are exempt from these rules and are allowed to release packs of uncontrolled hunting hounds into our national forests. This policy raises many concerns. It unfairly exempts one group of recreational users (houndsmen) from rules that apply to all other recreational users. It exposes endangered species and other imperiled wildlife to life threatening diseases like rabies, parvo, and distemper. It violates the concept of “fair chase” hunting because it creates an insurmountable disadvantage to wildlife and subjects wildlife to harassment or attack from hounds when they are out of their handlers’ immediate control. It jeopardizes the safety of other citizens and their pets when confronted by a pack of hounds, regardless of the proximity of the hound handlers. We are asking all National Forest land managers that have, or may have, a Pacific fisher, California wolverine, American marten or Sierra Nevada red fox population within their jurisdiction, to ask the California Department of Fish & Game to direct hunters to comply with current Forest Service dog control rules when hunting in fisher/wolverine/marten/red fox habitat.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges the Forest Service and the California Fish & Game Commission to prohibit the practice of releasing hunting hounds in fisher, wolverine, marten, and red fox habitat to prevent the incidental take of these rare animals, and to reduce the likelihood of exposing them to canine transmitted diseases.

Contact: Joe Fontaine, PO Box 307, Tehachapi, CA 93581. fontaine@wildblue.net
(661) 821-2055