

TRU Environmental Science Seminar Series

Thursday, February 11 - 4 to 5 pm

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TITLE

Evaluating the long-term success of reintroductions of British Columbia fishers to Washington State: how do we define and measure success?

SPEAKER

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ABSTRACT

Typically, the goal of a conservation translocation is the (re)establishment of a self-sustaining population, and that is exactly the goal of fisher reintroduction and recovery efforts in Washington State. To determine if fisher reintroductions are successful, we have to define what success is. Is it widespread and consistent occurrence in one or more recovery areas over a period of 10 or more years? Is it a population of >50 fishers? Is it a population that appears to have met carrying capacity in a portion of its restored range? Is it merely the persistence of the species where it was released, some number of years later? While we might agree that some of these measures are indicative of a self-sustaining population, how can we evaluate them to see if we've met this goal? If we agree on an acceptable definition of "self-sustaining" that we can't measure effectively, we may still need to find a different (e.g., better, smaller, cheaper, less clear?) definition to agree on that *can* be measured. We have been exploring these problems as we plan for a long-term monitoring project to evaluate the success of fisher reintroductions in the Cascades Mountain Range in Washington, and I look forward to presenting some of these ideas and discussing them with you.

ESSS Winter 2021 Schedule – <https://www.tru.ca/science/news/mscseminar.html>