

# Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) Denbox Study





# Why are we doing this study?

- Large areas of mature – old forest habitat being lost to land alienation or temporarily lost due to seismic lines, insect infestations, and salvage harvesting.
- Large old cavity trees are important forest elements for reproduction.
- Fisher have a low reproductive rate – only 2-3 kits at a time and do not breed every year.
- Suitable cavity trees are rare in natural landscapes and will be more limiting in

# Natural Denning Habitat



# Can we make an artificial den and what are fisher looking for?



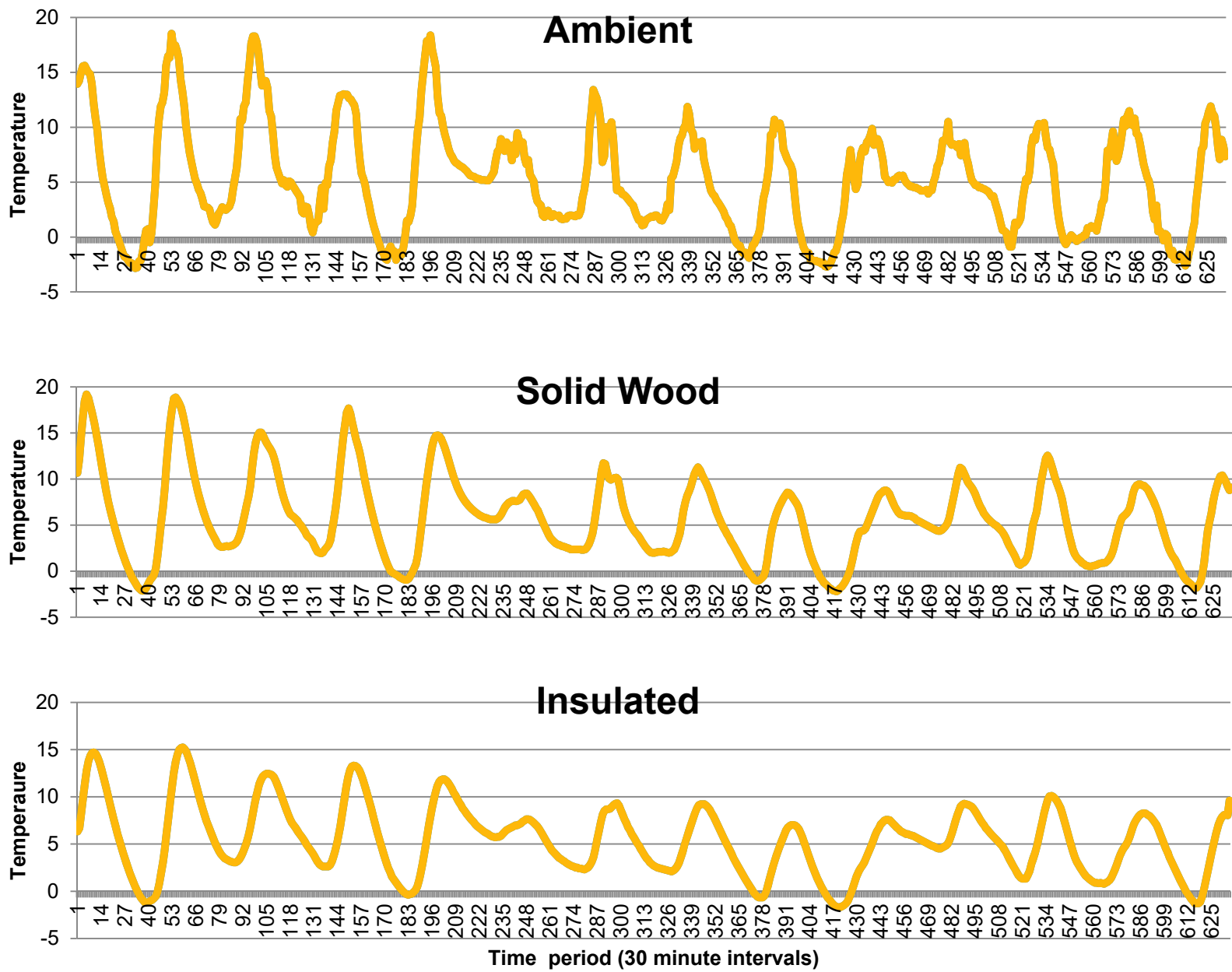
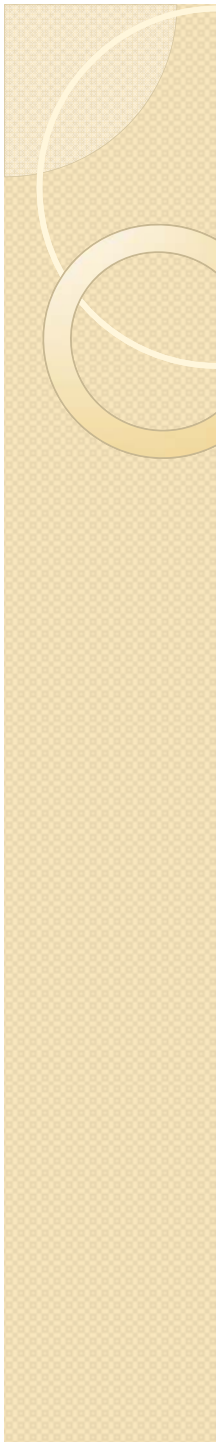
- Security
- Warm microenvironment
- Relatively large internal diameter
- Goldilocks sized access hole

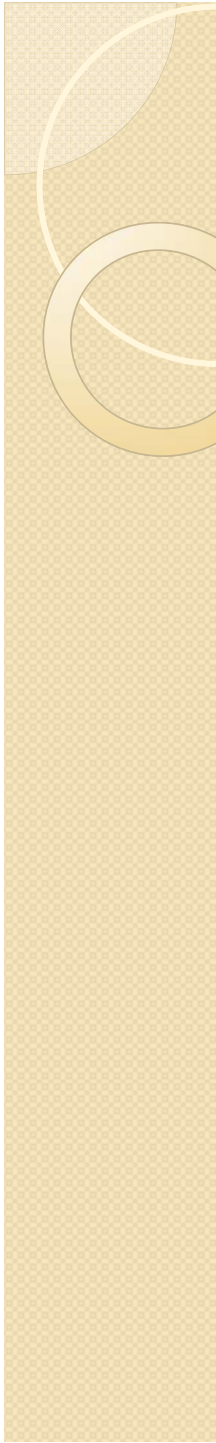
# Test 2 Denbox Designs



# Field Testing







# Deployed in Bridge Watershed



# 25 Boxes Set Up



# Hair snagger 1



# Hair Sample 1



# Hair snagger 2



First Winters Results: 4 hair samples  
though to be from fisher (2 verified by  
photos) and one thought to be from a  
marten.



First year results: total of 11 hair samples verified from fisher with pictures of fisher, marten, lynx, cougar and other curious visitors.





## 2014-15 Winter Season

- Expanded to Chilcotin with 29 more boxes
- Placed boxes in locations where fisher have denned in past and areas where trappers regularly capture fisher
- Focusing on areas where supply of den trees is likely to be limited
- Used bait in addition to lure during winter

# 2014-15 Winter Results

- 44 suspected/confirmed fisher visits by hair/photograph/video
- 13 confirmed fisher visits using video/photograph
- 5 videos of fisher entering the denboxes
- Three fisher went in/out quickly (1-3 minutes in the box), but one fisher used a box for 12 hours and another for 7 hours.
- We also have had 3 marten enter denboxes and visits from other



# Winter Monitoring

- Video



# 2015 Denning Season

- Fisher reproductive denning between late March – mid April
- Put cameras at location with lots of fisher activity
- Checked in early April, May, and June
- Two den boxes had female fishers give birth to kits
- Mother and kits returned at least once in both cases



# Fisher Mother and Kits

- 2 Videos

# Acknowledgements

Ministry of Environment  
West Fraser and Tolko Industries

