

Groups seek federal protection for fisher

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HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Four groups are seeking federal protection for the Northern Rockies fisher, a member of the weasel family.

The groups petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the fisher under the Endangered Species Act. They say fisher populations have declined because the animals have been trapped and their habitat logged.

Fishers, which have some similarity to otters and minks, prey on porcupines, snowshoe hares and other small mammals and birds.

The petitioners are Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Clearwater, Friends of the Bitterroot and the Center for Biological Diversity.

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