

Species at Risk Act (SARA) Consultation,
Cooperation and Accommodation Project
Wolverine Early Engagement Workshop for:
Environment and Climate Change Canada –
Canadian Wildlife Service - Northern Region
Participant Summary Report

Created by:
The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)
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CIER
Centre for Indigenous
Environmental Resources

Acknowledgements

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Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Introduction	3
Participants	3
Workshop Purpose	3
Overview of Presentations	4
Key Themes/Discussion Summary	7
Appendix A: Wolverine Early Engagement Session Agenda	8
Appendix B: Participant Names and Contact Information	8
Appendix C: Transcript (Q&A)	8

Introduction

The objective of the multi-year *Species at Risk Act (SARA) Consultation, Cooperation and Accommodation Project* is to facilitate Indigenous communities' and organizations' participation in Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) listing and recovery planning processes for terrestrial species as part of implementing the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*.

The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) role is to support and facilitate a range of activities between Indigenous communities, organizations and governments, and ECCC on developing recovery documents, sharing knowledge and language, addressing threats to terrestrial species at risk survival and recovery. CIER also manages the provision of funds on behalf of ECCC, including SARA participation fees, capacity funding and Expression of Interest funding for Indigenous-led species at risk (SAR) projects.

Participants

The invite for this online event was distributed by ECCC to its contacts to all Indigenous communities in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon, as well as to territorial governments, and in total, 29 of the 36 individuals registered attended.

Workshop Purpose

The purposes of these national Wolverine workshops are to engage early on the development of a National Wolverine Management Plan and help build our relationships with, listen to, learn from, and collaborate with Indigenous Peoples, and to deepen our understandings of wolverines to improve their well-being. We are also holding these workshops to support meaningful approaches to include Indigenous perspectives and knowledge about Wolverines in Canada's National Management Plan.

Specific objectives of the workshop included:

- Communicate details of the federal process for developing a management plan for Wolverine under the federal *Species at Risk Act*,
- Discuss the current status of Wolverine in Canada including threats and reasons for the Special Concern designation;
- Provide a venue to build relationships and start a broader discussion on how you might like to be involved in the developing this management plan;
- Have regional ECCC staff available to engage in a Q&A to clarify the *Species at Risk Act* recovery process and available funding opportunities to support Indigenous participation in this process.

Overview of Presentations

Presentation 1: Overview of the Species at Risk Act and Wolverines

The objective for this presentation was to share information about the federal process for assessing and listing under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) using Wolverine as an example.

The *Species at Risk Act* is intended to protect wildlife species at risk in Canada and work in a complementary fashion with Provincial and Territorial legislation to allow for the recovery of those species and their habitats. Wolverine is currently listed as a species of Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Wolverine is designated as special concern due to a multitude of factors;

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Low reproductive rates
- Increased harvest pressures
- Population numbers declining; there are currently an estimated 10,000 mature individuals and between 15,000 and 21,000 total individuals:
 - o 3,500 to 4,000 in Yukon
 - o 3,500 to 4,000 in Northwest Territories
 - o 2,000 to 2,500 in Nunavut

When deciding whether to list a species, the Minister considers:

- Recommendations and feedback from the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge sub-committee, Wildlife Management Boards, governments, communities, and the public;
- If the species supports livelihoods (e.g., through harvesting, subsistence, or medicine);
- Potential impacts to people's activities including cultural, social, or economic costs or benefits to individuals, communities, or organizations if listed;
- Any current/planned activities that may overlap the species' range or harm the species and/or destroy part of its habitat;
- Any other information people choose to share during consultation.

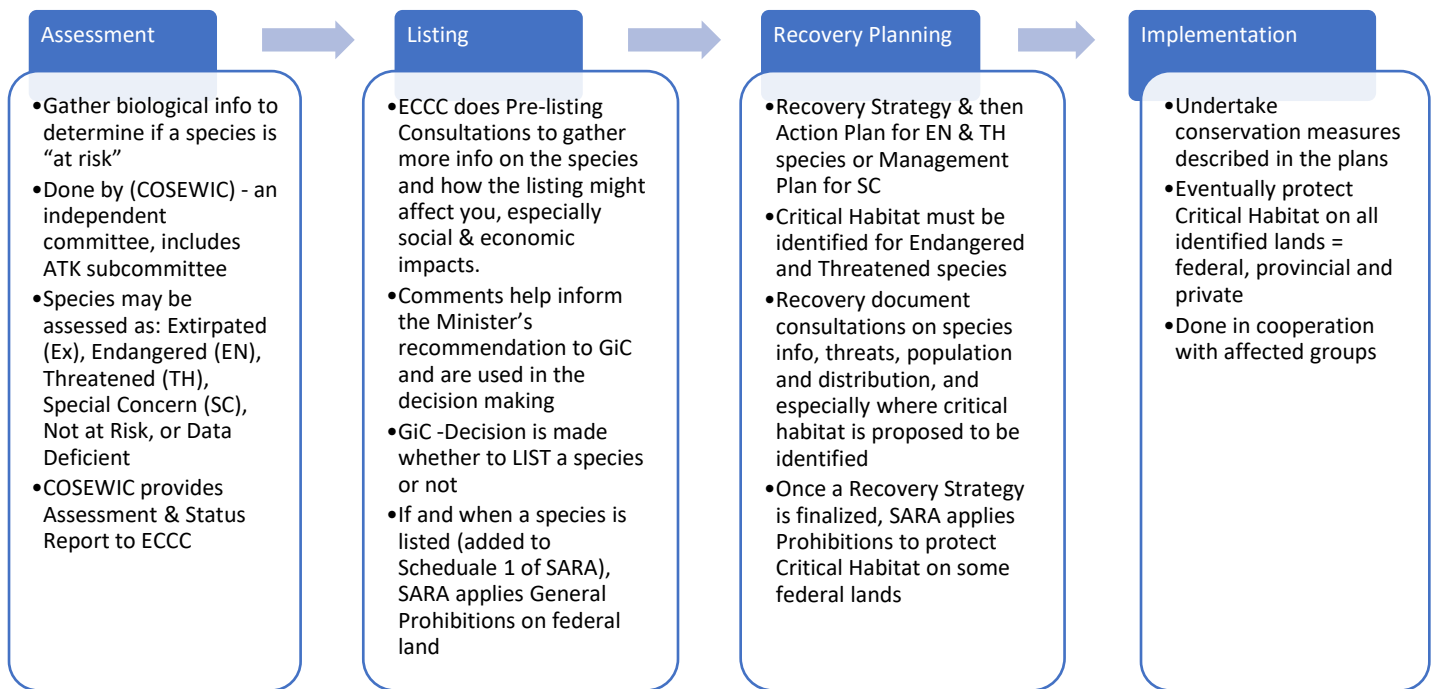


Figure 3. The SARA process. Species are generally re-assessed every 10 years.

Presentation 2: Current Status of Wolverines in the SARA Process in Canada

Currently Wolverine are in the recovery planning process. There are two components toward recovery planning:

1. Coordinated Approach Across Canada:
 - Wolverine are a wide-ranging species therefore the needs of the local population can be treated separately while being included in the federal management plan;
 - Continued collaboration and acknowledgement of local management authority;
 - Process for incorporating local plans
2. Developed Cooperatively with all Key Partners:
 - Communities, organizations, and governments;
 - Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO's), Wildlife Management Boards (WMB's), Indigenous Organizations;
 - Territorial governments

As Wolverine is considered Special Concern there will be a management plan for broad recovery goals. A management plan includes:

- Species Information
 - o Description, needs of species, distribution;
- Threats
 - o Description of threats;
- Population and Distribution Objectives
 - o Objectives, timelines;
- Broad strategies and general approaches to meet objectives

- Actions already underway, conservation measures, priorities, knowledge gaps
 - e.g., Improving population data;
- Measuring Progress
 - Indicators to measure whether the species is doing better or worse than it was;
 - e.g., Population, habitat connectivity.

The current outline for the federal Management Plan is as follows:

- Species Information
 - Focus on broad habitat types
 - As Wolverine may have different life histories, foraging habits and habitat needs across Canada;
- Threats, Objectives, Conservation measure sections
 - Split between regions to reflect regional differences;
 - Additional distinction within the North when appropriate;
- Inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge/ Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit
 - Any existing sources of Indigenous Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit available.

Moving Forward – Engagement Path:

- Continue open communication with partners throughout the development of the management plan;
- Hold 3 workshop per territory in Winter and Spring 2023
 - Workshops will cover different sections of the management plan;
 - Provide opportunities for comments to be received before the draft management plan is completed.

Key Themes/Discussion Summary

The discussion and comments that followed broadly covered the following topics:

- The current population data for Wolverine is outdated
- Wolverine harvesting is important both culturally and economically in the North:
 - Harvesting one Wolverine can help offset bottom line hunting costs;
- The change in morphology of Wolverine overtime;
- The need to increase connectivity of information/resources on Wolverine between territories and provinces
- Concern on whether Indigenous Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is suitable for federal plans as it is often place-based;
- Interest for in-person engagement sessions for the sharing of traditional knowledge as it should be shared in a more meaningful way as it is a lived experience.

Appendix A: Wolverine Early Engagement Session Agenda

AGENDA
Welcome, Consent, Introductions, Purpose
Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wolverine Range and Assessment○ SARA Process
Discussion of Recovery Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Management Plan and Objectives○ Coordinated Approach
Break
Discussion of Recovery Planning Continued
Workshop Wrap-Up and Closing Comments

Appendix B: Participant Names and Contact Information

The contact information from participants has been left out of this public document. Participant information will be kept private internally, to help ECCC with report writing and the engagement phase of their SARA work.

Appendix C: Transcript (Q&A)

Nunavut

Q: Is it a special concern in both Eastern and Western populations?

A: This status is special concern for Wolverines across Canada. It is considered one big population now and as such there is no longer individual status for Eastern or Western populations.

Q: I'm just wondering about if it's a special concern in both Eastern Western populations, but I came across a recovery report for the Eastern population specifically from 2016. I'm Just a little confused at the at the kind of what would it be called the evolution of this process? In 2016 apparently there were eastern and Western just differences. But that's changed. I'm just curious is there a what would be called a timeline. That you might be able to provide it's not necessary right now. But I just like a timeline of what the various reports decided at different times, because this goes back to 2003. I think, was the first assessment was initiated it by COSEWIC. But I'm just a little confused because there does seem to be a quite dramatic difference in the safety or the actual continued safety of the Wolverines in the West, but in the East it's a big issue on this, because they are so rare. It just seemed to be two different subjects to me naturally and if you wouldn't mind providing me with a kind of a timeline of when these decisions were made and what would the rationale is behind them.

A: Certainly, I can see how it can be confusing when populations are assessed separately and then combined when COSEWIC does a reassessment and change what's called the "designatable unit". A designatable unit can be a population, a subspecies, and so Wolverine was previously assessed as two populations, and then in 2014 they were considered a single unit and assessed together. And you'll see

coming that the report you saw did come out in 2016. The new Wolverine assessment was done in 2014 but was not listed until 2018 so that is why you'll see that that report came out on the old designated populations. Because it hadn't been officially listed under the new assessment done by COSEWIC yet. So, we were still operating under the old assessment at that point.

Q: As you mentioned that plan is to get the updated population information so to collect that information. Do you guys have any allocated specific funds for that by the Federal Government?

A: Just so there's no misunderstanding. I didn't say that we are going to do that. I'm saying that as part of the management plan, we can identify these shortcomings, and then those are things that can be remedied moving forward. So, for example, let's say we do identify population numbers as an area where we would like new information. When we write the management plan, then that would be identified as an information need. And then, theoretically, at that point there could be money allocated to that. But just so we're clear that would be a few years down the road at this point because we still have to start work on the management plan, consult on the management plan, finish the management plan, and go through that whole development process first. So, it's kind of hard to say if there'll be money allocated to that when we're still probably a few years out from when that work could be happening.

Q: ECCC are you aware there are some regulatory and legislative issues here in Nunavut, that will need to be addressed by the Federal Government, and I am not sure you guys will try to address that issue in the management plan, or before. Do you have any information about that?

A: So, I think that's something we'll have to consider, and something we are considering. Sorry I don't have an update for you right now about those. Just so you know, we're working on it, really we know about it and we're trying to find a solution.

Open-Discussion: Comments on the Implications of Listing Wolverines

Participants were invited to share information or answer a few of the questions provided from Environment and Climate Control Canada (ECCC) below:

Are there any management plans that you know of? Or updates coming up?

What do you think of the suggested structure?

What do you think of this engagement format? Any suggestions on how we can engage with our partners?

Comment: I am sure you are aware and will address it. But maybe my understanding, compared to other provinces and territories that Wolverines here for our hunters are important cultural and economic resources. Traditionally people, they are harvesting. But now from my observation is, you know the costs, costs gas costs on the land is very expensive and actually Wolverines are maintaining the harvesting activity of our hunters. Say, for example, one of our hunters is planning or going on a land trip to get the Caribou and one or two Caribou for meat and while on the trip, if they will see or harvest, one Wolverine. That high prices of Wolverines help the maintain the cost of the harvest. So then, if on one trip, and we get one of the Wolverines, he will sell the hide buy the gas, or the part for a machine, and then can go for another event. So, this is maybe one difference compared to the other provinces are there that is Wolverine harvest is helping our hunters maintain the harvest activity.

CWS: So yeah, definitely. We understand that and we've heard that similar in the Yukon meeting that we had last week. We did hear similar things that Indigenous groups still harvesting Wolverine. There are no automatic prohibitions put in place under a management plan, and as well Indigenous harvesting is protected under the Section 35 of the Constitution. So, the management plan, just so we're clear, the

management plan would not impact Indigenous harvesting. It would not put a limit on it, or anything like that. It would be status quo when we are concerned with Indigenous harvesting.

Comment: I think in the Northwest Territories. There was a Wolverine visibility report that was created. So that's just information. I suppose for you and then the other question I had was, if the management plan doesn't affect Indigenous harvesting could you give examples of what the management plan could do?

CWS: Yeah for sure. So, it doesn't affect Indigenous harvesting, and same with recovery strategies, because that's protected under the constitution. The goal of a management is to stop a species from becoming threatened or endangered in Canada. So, the goal of the management plan could be to put in broad recovery strategies that could help that species. So, one of the things that I've heard from people down South and this is very, very tentative, so I want just to make that as clear as possible at this point. But one of the things we've heard from some people who study Wolverines down South is that habitat connectivity is a real problem down there with all the development. And so, one of the things we could look at is how to bridge those habitat sections. So maybe developing land bridges to go over highways or things like that. So, the plan could identify strategies like that. The other thing the management plan could do is, if the data isn't very good around Wolverines in a specific region, so maybe we don't know what the threats are in a region, or we don't know what the accurate population estimates are then the management plan could suggest studies to go into that. So that moving forward when we review these plans, because plans are automatically updated every few years, that we could have new information when we update that management plan again. So, the management plan could focus on conservation actions that could specifically help Wolverines. But they can also focus on addressing knowledge gaps in other parts of the country. And then one thing as well to flag is that this goes into what someone else was saying that with Wolverines in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon it could well be very different. So, any conservation actions taken could only be applicable to the South. It may be that we don't need those conservation actions in the North, and so we may be focusing our conservation actions and our objectives down in the southern in the southern provinces.

Comment: I was just wondering more like if you have examples. Maybe not for Wolverines, but other species maybe where you have a management plan. Like who's responsible for implementation and where does that funding come from and what power does the management plan have to implement action.

CWS: So, they highlight the action, so I don't know if I want to give too many specific examples, because it's hard for me to come up with other management plans off the top of my head and say this is exactly what's been happening in other regions. But I can say, for example, if we take Boreal Caribou in the Northwest Territories. There was a Section 11 agreement signed between the Federal Government and the Government in Northwest Territories to basically provide funds to the Territorial government, so that they can work with local Indigenous groups and wildlife management boards to actively identify and protect critical habitat in the Northwest Territories. So, the actions that we identify in a management plan, there's no guarantee that they'll be funded. They're not even necessarily a framework for implementation but they just provide guidelines and goals that we can hit, and we can work as a federal government with these local organizations potentially moving forward on addressing these conservation actions, knowledge gaps whatever is outlined in the management plan.

Comment: If the species is considered data deficient. Could it provide direction on utilizing and emphasizing Indigenous knowledge that is extensive in northern regions. And if it is as in a management plan so could the management plan provide direction.

CWS: The management plan definitely can provide direction if there's a lack of Indigenous knowledge that's one of the things that could be flagged in the document as something to work on moving forward. Gather more Indigenous knowledge, gather more scientific knowledge, to identify better conservation actions. All of the above can be included. I'm going to act optimistically and take your question as emphasizing additional information. Are you saying that you're aware of extensive like

studies that have been done in northern region? Are you just saying that there's a lot of knowledge held by knowledge holders in the northern region?

Comment: Yeah. So, one of the common things that come across when it comes to assessing species in northern regions is that often when we're looking at Western studies or a big block of data. So, when management decisions need to be made in some Northern governments are faced. There's been a lot of research supporting ways of what can say, braiding not just so incorporating Indigenous knowledge with Western science and there's many studies where they see them as both equal partners, But in northern regions. There's the argument that Indigenous knowledge is much more abundant than Western science. So, if that knowledge is the dominant knowledge system, would there be ways to continue with that collection, and therefore support those knowledge holders? Or the communities that have that knowledge so that they can do studies to support kind of the stewardship goals that they want to reach. essentially.

CWS: So, I would say, Yeah, the management plan could say if there's insufficient surveys done, and studies done on traditional knowledge and I would say, that is something that the management plan can identify as something to address moving forward. I did want to clarify one thing, and it could have just been wording choice by you there. The assessment is done by COSEWIC, which is a third party we don't feed into them when they're doing their assessments they do that separately, and they just provide us with that assessment. We can, in a management plan, identify a knowledge gap and hope that there's more studies done, and then COSEWIC could use those studies, but we can't direct them to do anything, they're an independent third party there meant to incorporate the scientific knowledge and the Indigenous knowledge that is available to them.

Comment: Assessing species is data deficient as part of the assessment process done by COSEWIC. We can update population estimates as part of the management plan.

Comment: I do know some of them in management plans. One of them is the Dolphin Union management plan. I hope bringing it up to that basically in the gathering information, and so on, and so forth. And then I had a little bit of experience with the implementation of that management plan. It was really a great call to approach with through meeting, for the engagement section and that structure was really important in the management plan. When we had to move into the implementation or the when the management plan, most likely was referred to. Was the threat section The threat section was brought out differently. To mention the importance of future study or why we're doing this. but also, to create independence on the ground. The threat section is really important. and another important section that we're putting a lot more effort into having to redo it again. It would actually like put more effort with knowledge gap because it's each funding your funding, or each project monitoring project that we had on the ground that management fund was giving us a baseline to ground future study and to try to get that information, for when the management plan would be review or also, maybe the species will move to a different status of listing. One of the kinds of like question and recommendation that I might have to you to start thinking of like very early in the process might be because I'm hearing right now that There's two populations of Wolverines.

They might be very significant difference in the habitat or management. The East and the West. but also, some differences in perception might also rise from traditional knowledge study and science. So, I'm just wondering how or if there's any thought at this point in the process, to how to keep track, maybe of those first different perceptions in the Wolverine management plan.

CWS: So, we're still in the very early stages and we have not started writing the management plan, so there's definitely been a little initial thought been given how to reflect the difference knowledge between Indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge. But we haven't come up with a final answer yet, or even a suggested path forward at this time. We are looking to work with species experts, whether their from governments, whether they're NGOs, whether they're academia, whatever the experts are, we are looking to work with them and like get their feedback, into the approach, how the acknowledge will be

reflected in the management plan so at this time yes, we're considering it. But we don't have an answer yet.

Comment: Does the Yukon Government need to respond to the management with its own locally generated plan?

CWS: No there's no requirement. If the Yukon Government had a plan, and they wanted us to incorporate it then that's a perfect example of a plan that we could incorporate into our Federal management plan. But there's no requirement for them to make their own management plan. There's no requirement for Indigenous governments to make their own management plan. Nothing like that. It's just whether these plans already exist, and then, if they do exist, we would like to see them. That's the only reason we're asking about existing Management plans.

Comment: I see the climate change effects on this species, and I am assuming, and say, for example, all the territories and provinces. They are mostly doing the harvest management and all the population information. And this climate change is beyond the boundaries of territories and provinces. So is there any plan for you, or maybe one or two related experts are updating any Literature Review for this, on how climate change is affecting the species or will affect the species. So, is there any plan for that?

CWS: Yeah. So, for the plan climate change is definitely on our radar I think it's probably on most people's radar at this point. We are planning on engaging experts in the process, and we have started doing a literature review of the available data out there. I can't honestly say that I've read all the papers yet, because we've pulled a lot at this point. Probably like hundreds of papers on Wolverines so I can't say that I've read every one so I can't say what the information we have right now on climate change is but it's definitely on our radar and it's definitely something we're looking at, getting enough information so that we can as accurately as possible reflect the threats caused by climate change in the management plan.

Yukon

Comment: Their teeth are getting bigger they're losing two they're losing four teeth, and their existing teeth are getting bigger. So, whoever put up ferocious is they're getting more ferocious interesting, And if I think if we had more time we could dive into the reasoning for that.

Q: The question I got is increase harvest pressure Is that from what is the estimates from? Is that just from over hunting, or crafting,

CWS: My understanding which again I'm just taking this from the COSEWIC report, so that I can just lay out the assessment, and the reason they assessed it at that point. These are things that we would look into. A lot may have changed since 2014 so just keep that in mind. My understanding is that there is still hunting and trapping that goes on across their range, by indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals. So, I think they just mean trapping and hunting.

Q: I guess a little concern for me is how this plan is going to go, and is it going to affect us as trappers?

CWS: so I'll just clarify one thing. Indigenous harvest rights are protected under section 35 of the constitution. We do not have the authority to just come in and say Indigenous harvesters are no longer allowed to harvest the species, or hunt the species, or pick this plant, whatever. It doesn't matter whether it's a plant, insect, or fish. We just don't have that right. There are communities, for example, around barren ground caribou that have voluntarily decided with their hunters and trappers' committees, and working with the wildlife management boards in that area that have voluntarily decided to put quotas in place and limit Indigenous harvest themselves. But that was their choice and we don't pressure them into that. We don't have the right to come in and say you're not allowed to do anything harvest wise. So. that is harvest and harvest restrictions for Indigenous trappers is not something that would really be discussed in this management plan. There could be recommendations put in that saying yes, harvest pressure is a threat, but that would be the extent to it. It wouldn't say anything about you're no longer allowed to harvest them as Indigenous individuals.

CWS: Does Yukon Government have better estimations of population sizes within the Yukon?

Comment: No, not at all. and that's actually why I put my hand up to address that. So. I've been through a few of these iterations with COSEWIC, and I will say for the record that in 2014 those estimates across the whole country were really you know at best uneducated guess. We don't have good information for Wolverine abundance anywhere in Canada. Although we're starting to in some small pockets start to get there. And there's a lot of talk about trying to do a better job of that. But really their best guess is that's what they are.

Comment: Yeah. First, I'm not a huge fan of this process. So, splitting us all up province by province territory by territory. I think there's a lot to be learned to, at least for me personally, maybe others think differently to hear what folks you know in Northern British Columbia, or in the Northwest Territories are seeing and thinking it's important to shape at least my context of some of the recommendations or decisions that I would like to see made in the Plan, so I don't like this. Isolating us by just by territory or province. So, I'd like to hear perspectives. of the others so that they can inform my thoughts as well.

CWS: Yeah, that's fair and there are a few reasons we chose this. First of all, I will say all the workshops held in the territories can be attended by others. For example, we had our Northwest Territories workshop on Tuesday we had people from Nunavut, and people from Yukon attend that Workshop because they couldn't attend the other one that's more than fine. We're not limiting it by geography, and keeping it strict. We're just splitting up the groups so that everyone has as much time to discuss, to provide comments as possible. If people are interested in attending all three workshops, you may find the content a little repetitive, because it's the same presentation, but we are open to having people, especially in the North, attend other workshops if that's what you would like. If we started getting I don't think this will happen, but like, let's say for the North. If we started having 40 to 50 people trying to attend every workshop, then we may have to rethink that because we do want to keep the groups a little smaller, so that everyone has a chance to provide their input and it doesn't just go to whoever's the most vocal that day. On incorporating with other regions we can definitely work out if we can have people from across regions. Could regions join other meetings? I don't see why that would be a problem. We've also talked about doing summaries where we have information from all workshops. We have information coming out as a summary of what we've heard across the country. For example, if we held meetings on threats, we could put out a summary document that shows all the threats we've heard, and people provide feedback on that. So, we are aware that we need to get information shared across these boundaries, and we are working on how to move forward. With that our main goal, with splitting up by territory was just so that the groups could be small, and that everyone would have a chance to participate. So, we kind of have those competing priorities, and at least in my opinion, there is no perfect approach. But we are open to suggestions if you have any.

Comment: We have a lot of bad internet like the sound is so bad here. It's hard to hear and just find these workshops aren't very useful as virtual.

CWS: I understand that it's definitely a concern. There's still, whether you there's a few things for us to consider as the Federal Government on this the first is, unfortunately, we still do have covid restrictions in place on our employees, so it's not super simple for us to travel right now. it's a much more complicated process than it used to be. So, if there are specific requests for smaller like just working with a smaller group, maybe a few people on the phone at a time or just a phone call, we can definitely include that and any specific requests just email me and I am very willing to find a path forward so if that's an individual phone call, or just a meeting with one board at a time because they can't hear very well, or their technology is not there I'm happy to consider all of that. Unfortunately, at this time in person workshops are not really an option for us.

Comment: Even if there are no sponsored workshops from this process, with Environment and Climate Change Canada, Sandy, and others. We could always get together and talk about things that we would like to promote in a plan on our and bring them to the next workshop. Whether you do that yourself, or I'd be happy to come and have those discussions with you, and maybe other RC's as well. So yes, we I my

point is I don't feel we should be limited. Wolverine are an important species to us despite what budget the Federal Government may have, and if there's a need to talk things through and come to a common Understanding in the Yukon I'd be happy to try to facilitate some of that. if I can, or at least participate. Secondly, I the reason I put up my hand actually and I'm sorry I'm talking so much. You mentioned that there is going to be some national oversight Committee. Who is that I hope it's not just employees especially since this is again a species that's under the management jurisdiction of the provinces and territories and Indigenous governments. I hope that there's representation from Indigenous governments and provincial and territorial governments as well as boards and councils, that there's some representation on that oversight committee.

CWS: currently there's a few things in the works. There is an internal working group that just is planning consultations, workshops, things like that. There are workshops being held and hosted by Canada wildlife service environment across Canada. Since the work is for planning consultations and workshops like this, it is a group of Canadian wildlife service staff, and we've also had some parks Canada staff involved in that. We are working on a group to actually work on writing the plan. I've already reached out to people outside of outside of the Federal Government about joining that group. For example, I reached out to the Yukon Government already about that. So, we are looking to have external people like that involved in the process. But the other thing is because this group is so big. One of the goals of these workshops is, rather than arriving and handing a finished document and asking what people think, is that we can get these comments, and we can have these groups reviewing these sections and providing comments saying you're missing this, or you're over emphasizing this, or we would really like to highlight this recovery action. So, our goal of these 3 to 4 workshops that we're planning to hold moving forward is to invite those groups to the table and have them provide comments on the management plan rather than just have CWS write a management plan, and then hand it to you and say What do you think? We don't want to take that approach. We want to have sections incomplete, but with an outline and rough points we want to hit. So that Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, territorial governments, wildlife management boards, everyone can provide feedback into this process.

Open-Discussion: Comments on the Implications of Listing Wolverines

Participants were invited to share information or answer a few of the questions provided from Environment and Climate Control Canada (ECCC) below:

Are there any management plans that you know of? Or updates coming up?

What do you think of the suggested structure?

What do you think of this engagement format? Any suggestions on how we can engage with our partners?

Comment: Hi! I have a few things, so I figured I would just keep it and say it all at once. So, first of all, thanks for the session today. I really liked at the beginning the opportunity to do introductions and share stories and photos. I think that's an important piece of these kinds of engagement Sessions pre covid. That is often lackluster in virtual settings. So, I just wanted to extend my appreciation for that. And I also really like the word cloud, and I nerd out on those kinds of things. So, thank you for that. Secondly, I do want to express that I agree with Tom Jung, not, you know, if this is a federal initiative, we need to have that national discussion rather than by province and territory all the while. recognizing limitations of trying to keep manageable group sizes and things like that. But perhaps you know, there could be a number of different sessions. With a limit of people that can join rather than by spatial scope. It could just be the number of people available for that discussion. Lastly, there was a bullet on one of your slides. About traditional knowledge first of all I'm happy to see that it's included. But I do want to say, though you know their sensitivity is around traditional knowledge. Historically. It was in it's an oral knowledge and

oftentimes there's even sensitivities having it written down. It's also a lived knowledge so it's just a different way of life, and a different way of knowing so it's often hard to you know, participate with traditional knowledge in a meaningful way, especially for at the national level and meeting only virtually. so, I would suggest that you know moving forward in these initiatives. That there's room made in the budgets to allow for in-person meetings and time spent out on the land with land users and people that hold this knowledge. This specific knowledge is also. TK is often place based, and maybe not suitable for a federal plan. So those are just some things that I wanted to say. And then, lastly, there was a comment about consultation. And I just wanted to be clear that we do not view this engagement session as consultation.

CWS: Yes, so I'll start with the last one because it's most fresh in my head, and we'll move backwards. We don't consider this consultation either this is just early engagement. We're going to have the workshops moving forward and there will be the usual consultation process of the jurisdictional reviews, where there's the first round to receive comments, and then a second round with the final documents for example, in the Northwest Territories there's some of the sub land claims they have approval for the plan. So, we go to the boards and seek a motion of approval or not, so we'll definitely be doing more consultation, and we also aren't really considering this consultation. I am aware of all a lot of the sensitivities around traditional knowledge. I won't pretend that I'm aware of all of them because I'm not an expert, and I don't think it really does anyone a credit for me to pretend to know all the sensitivities. However, I am willing to work with anyone who is willing to share a traditional knowledge document or share traditionally with us. If there's limitations that they want to put in place before they even speak with us, we can discuss that. We've had consent forms signed in the past. We've had data sharing agreement signed in the past things like that. So, I don't think there's a one size fits solution, all because everyone treats this information a little differently in their First Nation in their Indigenous government is responsible for gathering conducting a study because I do know there's studies sometimes done with traditional knowledge. So, I'm willing to work with that if you know of any and have any issues. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me we'll discuss these issues, and we'll see if we can find a good path forward.

For in person meetings at this time we are not planning any in person meetings.

Comment: Still and I recognize Covid, but at this point where we need to start making a bit more of an effort, and part of that with the inclusion of Tk, as they said it's a lived experience It's lived knowledge often it's not something that's to be written down things like that part of understanding and living with that knowledge is being present in person. And so again. more of a political comment. possibly But there needs to be some effort from Federal government to participate in person. Whether that's you know working with territorial governments and provincial governments on these approaches, or sending Federal staff out, there needs to be a better effort.

CWS: An example is the Grizzly bear workshops. As part of that process, there is traditional knowledge workshops that were held in all three territories and across the range for grizzly bear. So that is a pilot project. We are working on completing that process. We are working on doing lessons learned so that we can streamline that process, and that we can have that fit into management plans moving forward. All that being said, it's not done right now and so we are not using the same process, simply because it is a pilot. So, I recognize your comments, and I appreciate your comments, and I am aware of these shortcomings, and I'm hoping that moving forward we can have an answer for it.

Comment: Hi. I just wanted to touch back on those population estimates as it's something that has kind of come across my plate on a few different management plans that I've been dealing with is the fact of this using old data. and not having accurate numbers for management, and we're developing or the Federal government's trying to develop a plan to manage a population that we don't know the accurate numbers even like relatively, these were a best guess. But how do you manage a population without truly knowing even with some relatively what those populations are? Not just jurisdictionally from province to province, but okay, and like, what steps is the Federal Government really going to take to encourage that?

Because I see so many young people and so many youths that are going into the environmental field or looking for work. And the Federal Government really isn't opening opportunities for people to be on the land to go do the research that's needed to collect this data.

CWS: Yeah, I am aware that these population estimates for Wolverines are lacking. The assessments are done by COSWEIC. We may provide information, but, we don't really influence their assessments, and they do have an option to come back as assessment of data deficient so there's essentially it just means there's not enough data for them to assess whether species actually at risk or not. In this case I don't I'm not in their heads I wasn't even working for the Federal government when they did their assessment in 2014 so, I don't know exactly why they didn't do that, but they decided that there was enough data to warrant a special concern assessment. However, it is it is something that can be also reassessed. When COSEWIC does the reassessment which is normally every 5 to 10 years for these species if no one has put in the request. Wolverine is due for another assessment quite soon, and who knows? Maybe we'll see something different. The assessment came from them with those numbers and then it's gets listed at that. We have to work with what the listing was, what it was assessed as. We can't tell them they're wrong, and that they need to do it differently, but we can request a reassessment. But that's about it.