

Part of the

Species At Risk Act Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Project

With support from the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

Environment and Climate Change Canada Canadian Wildlife Service – Prairie Region



MDT-AB	AGENDA
10:00 am	Welcome, Introductions, Purpose
10:20 am	Overview
	Word Cloud- we invite you to share the name of wolverine in your language
	o Wolverine Assessment and Status
	o Overview of a Management Plan
10:35 am	Wolverine Distribution
	o Summary of the information ECCC currently has
	Open discussion on Wolverine Distribution
11:15 am	Wolverine Population Abundance and Trends
	o Summary of the information ECCC currently has
	Open discussion on Wolverine Population Abundance and Trends
12:00	Lunch Break (45 mins)
12:45 pm	Threats to the Wolverine
	Open discussion on Threats to the Wolverine
1:45 pm	Conservation Measures
	Open discussion on Wolverine Conservation Measures
2:55 pm	Workshop Wrap-Up and Closing Comments

#### Introductions



Wendy Eskowich – Consultation Biologist

Engagement Process for the Wolverine draft Management Plan



Michelle Sawatzky – Wildlife Biologist

Key sections of the Wolverine draft Management Plan

# SARA Overview Status – How "at risk" is the Wolverine?

**Extinct** – No longer exists anywhere in the world.

**Extimpated** No longer exists in the wild *in Canada* 

Endangered

Facing imminent extirpation or extinction (close to disappearing from Canada)

**Threatened** 

Likely to become endangered unless threats are removed

Special Concern

Assessed as SC by COSEWIC in 2014



May become threatened or endangered because it is sensitive to human activities or natural events

#### THE SARA PROCESS: WHERE IS WOLVERINE AT?

Species are re-<u>assessed</u> every 10 years

#### **Assessment**

- Independent body
   of experts
   (COSEWIC) sends
   assessment of
   species to Minister
   of the Environment
- Species may be assessed as:

Extirpated (EX), Endangered (EN), Threatened (TH), Special Concern (SC) or Not at Risk

Assessed as SC in 2014

#### Listing

- ECCC "Pre-listing" consultations on whether to add species to SARA
- Minister makes recommendation to Cabinet
- Decision on listing is made by Cabinet
- If listed, SARA and prohibitions apply
- Recovery Planning Starts

Prelisting consultations LISTED as SC in 2018

#### Recovery Planning

- SARA: "Plans must be developed"
- Recovery Strategy (EX,EN TH)
  - Action Plan
  - Critical Habitat Identification
- Management Plan (Special Concern)
- Consultations on draft recovery documents

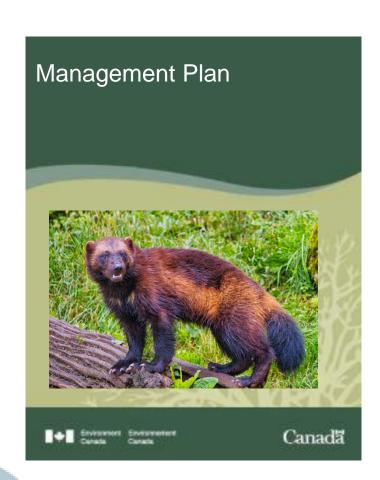
#### Implementation

- Undertake conservation measures described in the plans
- Protect Critical Habitat (if EX, EN or TH species)

We are here now. Engaging with HTOs, WMBs, Indigenous groups and P/T

# **Management Plan Sections**

- Species Information
  - Population distribution & abundance, species needs
- Threats
  - Description of threats
- Management Objectives
- Broad Strategies & Conservation Measures
  - Actions underway, recommendations
- Measuring Progress



# Purpose of this workshop

- Share the information CWS has on Wolverine
- Seek feedback and input from Indigenous partners on specific sections of the Management Plan
- To deepen our understanding of wolverine to improve their wellbeing and prevent them from becoming more at risk



## **Word Cloud Activity**

# What word comes to mind when you think of Wolverine?

Would you also like to share the name for wolverine in your language?

## Cultural significance & perspectives

- Would you like to share anything regarding the cultural or spiritual significance of wolverine to your people?
- Would you like to share about your culture's past and/or current relationship with wolverine?

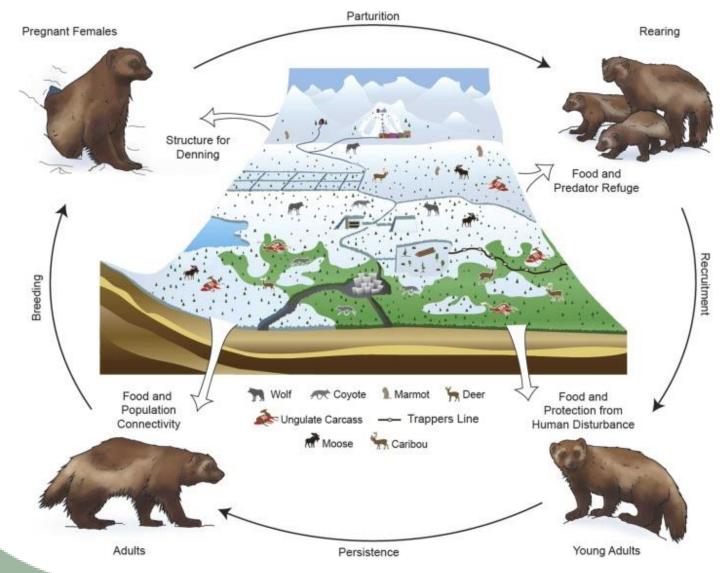


# Wolverine (Gulo gulo)



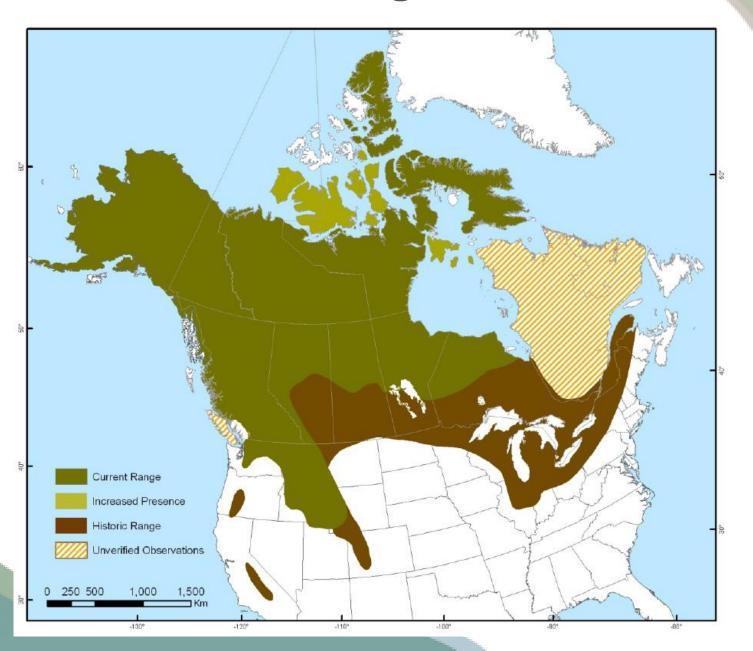
What we know, and don't know

# Life Cycle & Species Needs

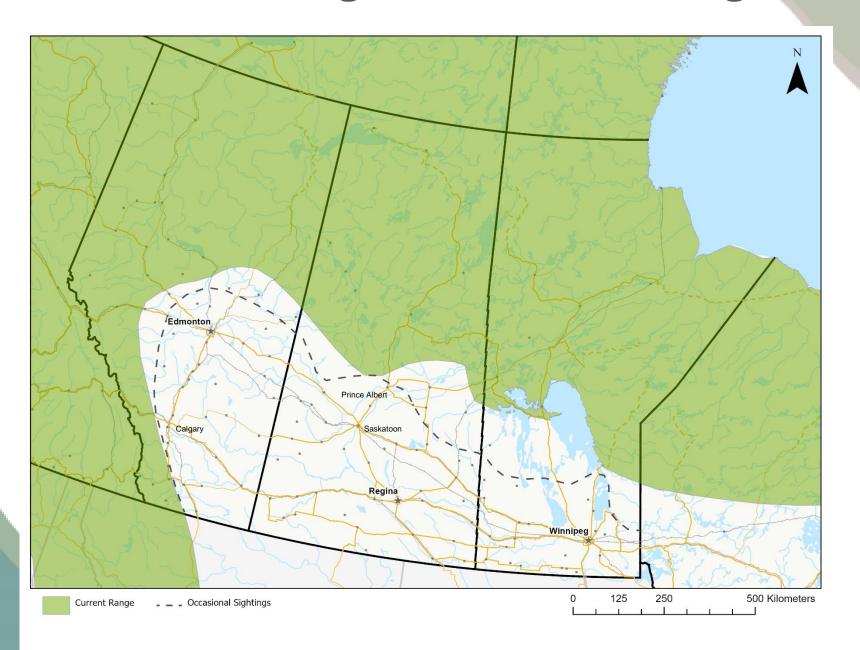


Graphic from: Fisher, J. T., Murray, S., Barrueto, M., Carroll, K., Clevenger, A. P., Hausleitner, D., Harrower, W., Heim, N., Heinemeyer, K., Jacob, A. L., Jung, T. S., Kortello, A., Ladle, A., Long, R., MacKay, P., Sawaya, M. A. 2022. Wolverines (Gulo gulo) in a changing landscape and warming climate: A decadal synthesis of global conservation ecology research. Global Ecology and Conservation, 34.

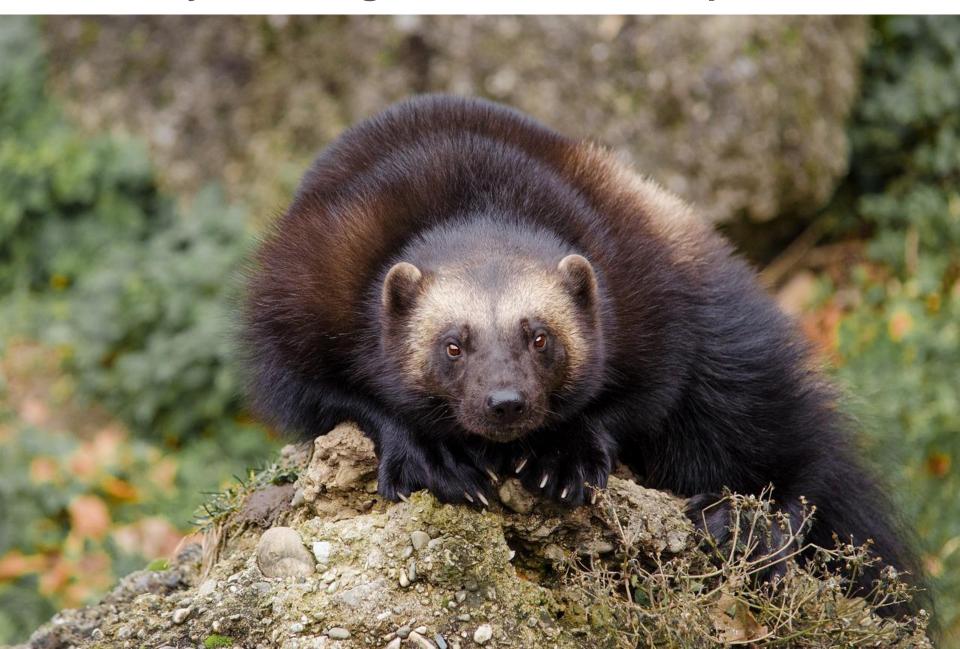
# **Wolverine Range in Canada**



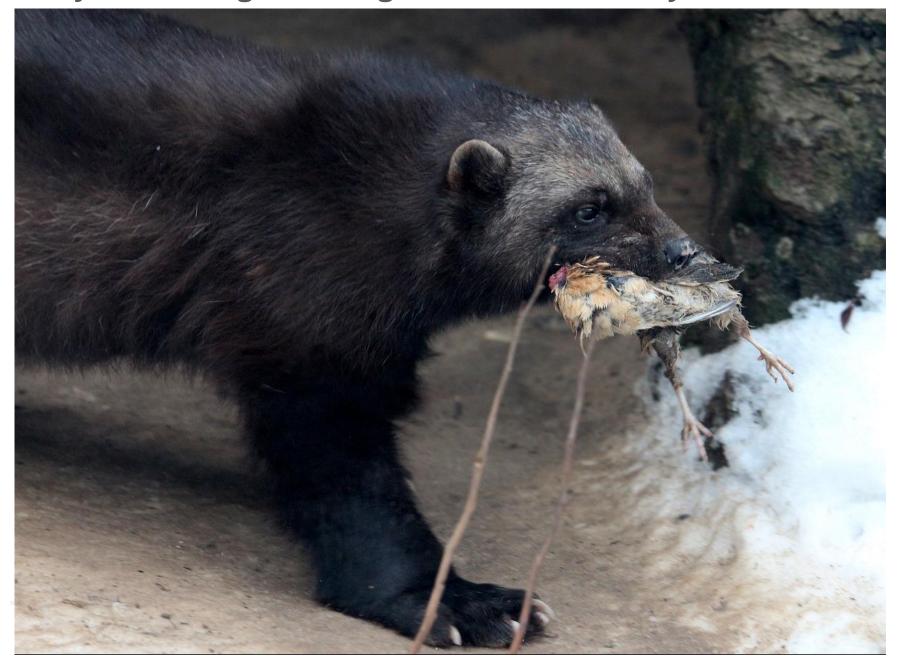
# Wolverine Range in the Prairie Region



# Are you seeing Wolverine in new places?



Are you no longer seeing Wolverine where you used to?



## **Population Size & Trends**

#### **Population Size**

- COSEWIC estimated between 15,000 and 20,000 individuals in 2015
  - 1,500 2,000 in Alberta?
  - < 1000 in Saskatchewan?</p>
  - 1,100 1,600 in Manitoba?

These estimates were based on very little information!

## **Population Size & Trends**

#### **Wolverine Density**

- Estimates range from 0.5 6.8 individuals per 1000 km<sup>2</sup> in BC, AB and ON
- The province of AB is working on an updated population estimate

#### **Population Trend**

- No information on trend for most of Canada
- 42% decline in wolverine population in Rocky Mountains of AB and BC over 10 years

# Are you seeing changes in the number of Wolverines in your area? If so, is the population increasing or decreasing?



# Are you seeing cycles in the number of Wolverines in your area?



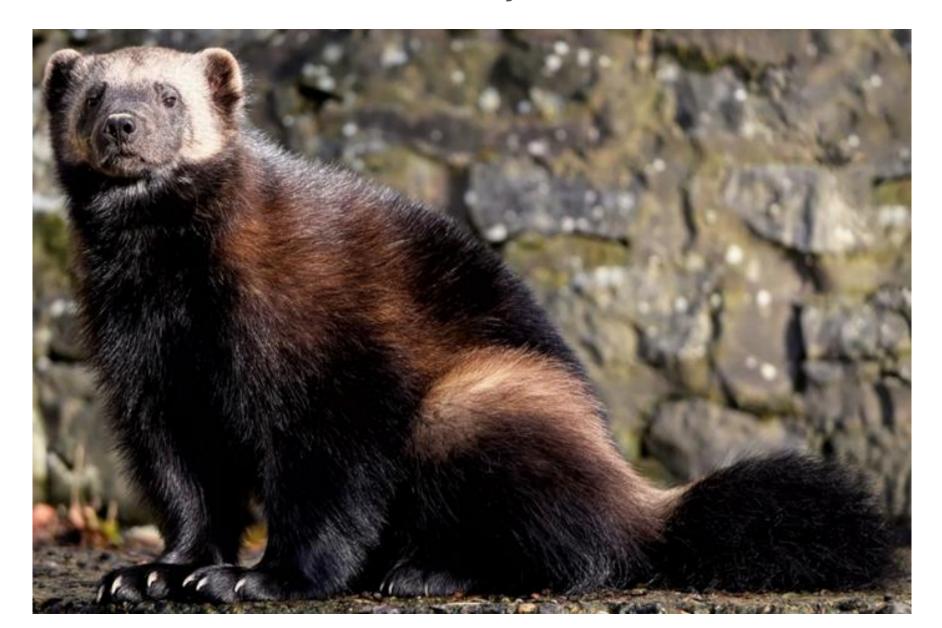
Check in with Graphic Recorder

Lunch Break (45 minutes?)

#### **Threats**

- Threats that have been suggested include:
  - Climate change
  - Forest fires
  - Housing & commercial development
  - Human recreation
  - Mining
  - Oil & gas development
  - Roads
  - <u>Unsustainable</u> harvest
- Not all of these threats exist in all parts of the wolverine's range

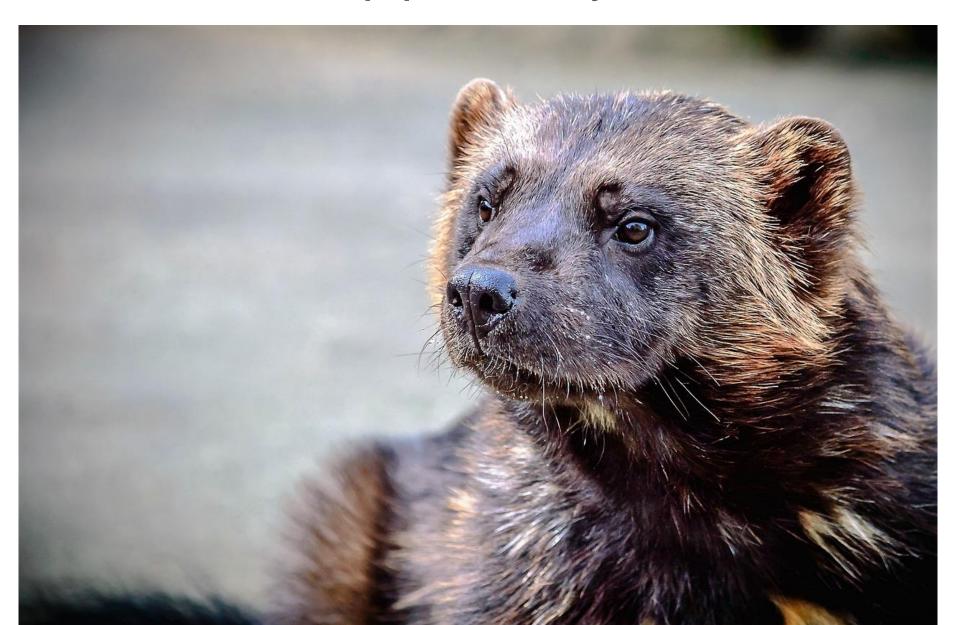
# What natural or human factors are affecting Wolverine or their habitat in your area?



#### **Conservation Measures**

- Actions that need to be taken to ensure survival of the species and promote healthy populations
- Set clear priorities for governments, partners, and funding bodies
- Conservation measures can fall into broad categories of:
  - Reduction or elimination of threats
  - Public education and outreach
  - Research to fill knowledge gaps

# What actions do you think would help ensure healthy Wolverine populations in your area?



## **Next Steps**

#### **Draft workshop summary report**

- Review by participants
- Validation of information

#### Final workshop summary report

- Consent
- Plan to complete by December 2023

#### **Preparation of draft Management Plan**

## **Funding for Wolverine Projects**

- There are several funding options available for wolverine and other species at risk projects
- Some applications are open year-round, others have deadlines
- Contact us if you are interested in hearing more:

Wendy Eskowich
<a href="mailto:Wendy.Eskowich@ec.gc.ca">Wendy.Eskowich@ec.gc.ca</a>

Michelle Sawatzky

Michelle.Sawatzky@ec.gc.ca

