# Changing Predator-Prey Relationships on Vancouver Island and Effects on Species-At-Risk.

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Habitat loss is often assumed to be the greatest cause of recent species-at-risk population declines. While habitat loss and change is a critical factor in certain vertebrate population declines, its influence on predator population levels and resulting changes in predator-prey relationships, may currently pose the most immediate threat for some species-at-risk on Vancouver Island. We explored this hypothesis by examining available historic population data for Vancouver Island marmots, wolves, cougars, black-tailed deer, Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, owls and cormorants. We conclude that shifting levels of habitat availability and distribution, predator management, and pollution contamination, explain significant predator-prey oscillations through time. We discuss the biological and social aspects associated with these oscillations and implications for managing species-at-risk on Vancouver Island.