

Identification and Conservation of Wolverine Reproductive Den Habitat in BC

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Wolverine are considered “Special Concern” by COSEWIC and “Blue Listed” by the province of BC. A focal point for conservation of this wide ranging species has been protection of reproductive den sites and habitat. Developing appropriate measures to protect these habitats has been hampered by lack of understanding of factors influencing selection of den sites at broad and fine scales. Using data from reproductive den sites identified in two BC studies, we examined terrain, snowpack, vegetation, human use, and prey distribution variables in a multivariate analysis to assess their contribution to den site selection at fine and broad scales. We used movement patterns of radio tagged female wolverine to establish scale definitions. Habitat protection recommendations are outlined.