Identification and Conservation of Wolverine Reproductive Den Habitat in BC

John Krebs¹ and Eric Lofroth²

¹Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, 103-333 Victoria St., Nelson, BC V1L 4K3, <john.krebs@bchydro.bc.ca>, Ph: 250-352-6874. ²Biodiversity Branch, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, PO Box 9374 Stn Prov Gov, Victoria BC V8W 9M4

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.