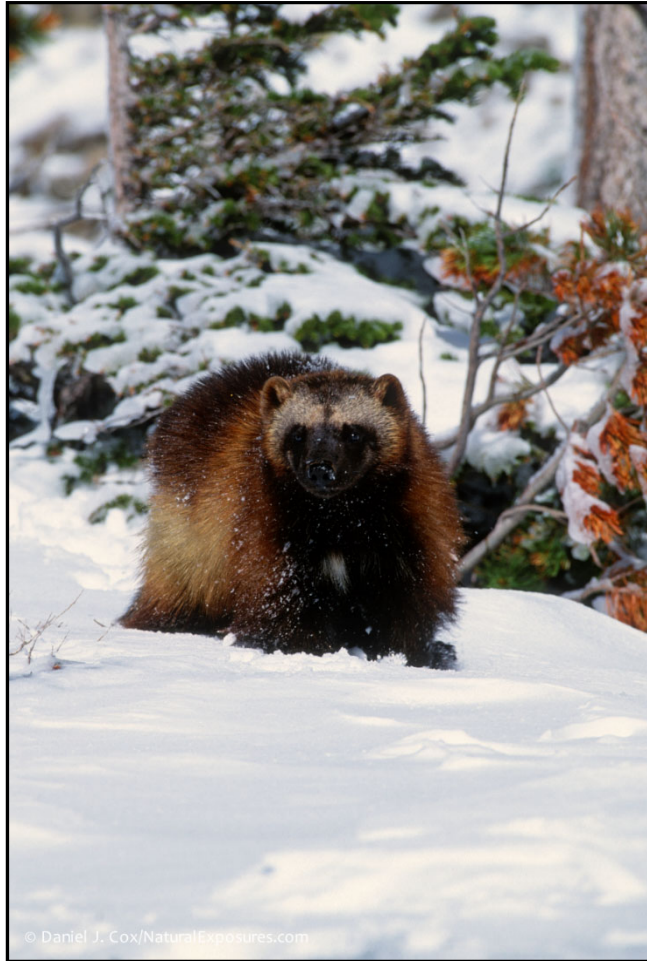


Wolverine Update



Reid DeWalt and Brian Dreher
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
16 March 2023



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© Daniel J. Cox/NaturalExposures.com

Wolverine Biology

- World's largest terrestrial weasel (15-40lbs)
- Solitary, large home ranges (8x larger than lynx; 20x larger than bobcats & coyotes)



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Wolverine Biology

- Well-adapted to cold, snowy environments
 - Denning
 - Food Storage
 - Delayed Implementation

Den Entrance

Photo Credit: Bob Inman



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Wolverine Biology



Photo Credit: National Geographic

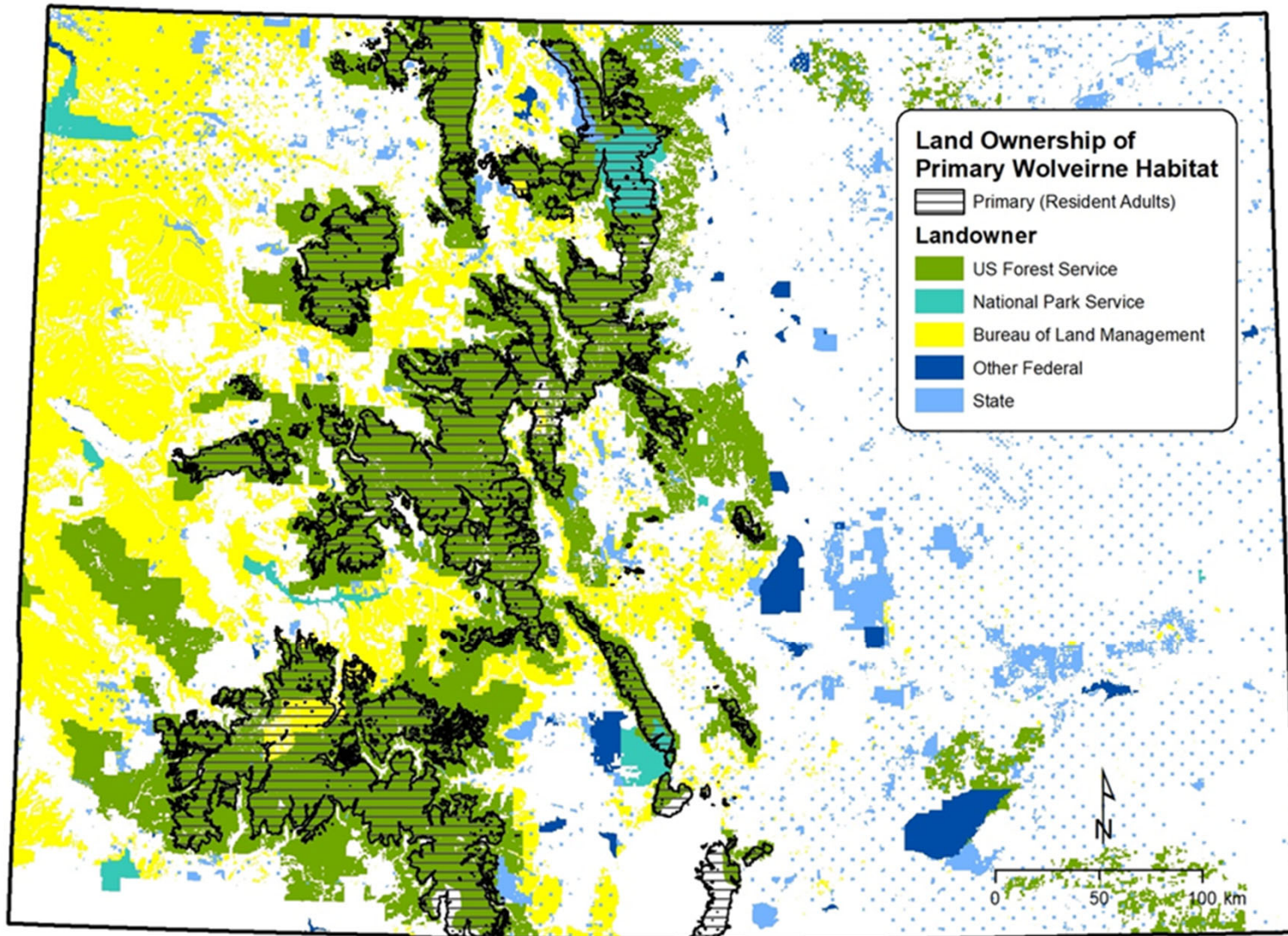


Photo Credit: Canadian Geographic



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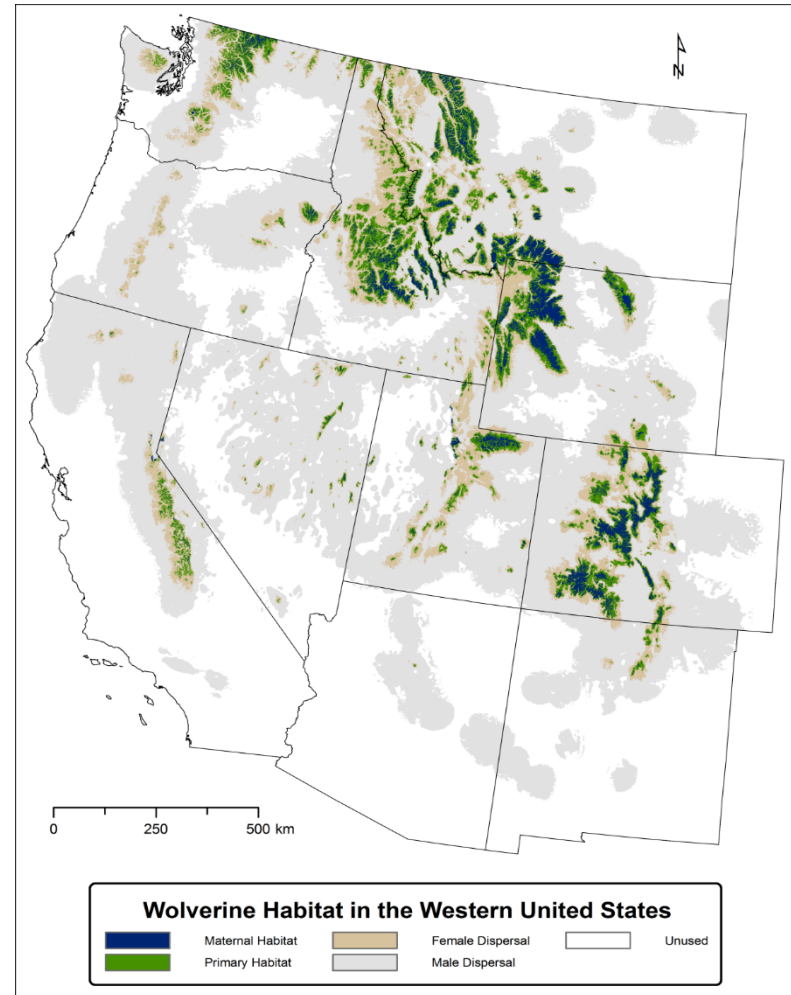
Modeled Wolverine Habitat in Colorado



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Wolverine in Colorado

- Colorado could hold an estimated 125-150 individuals
- ~20% of estimated habitat capacity of the western U.S.
- Restoration in Colorado is meaningful for the species in the western United States



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History in Colorado

- The Commission declared the wolverine as “state endangered” in 1973
- No known wolverine in Colorado
- 1998 - Wildlife Commission approval for restoration
- 2010 - Restoration effort halted due to lack of Federal assurances



Photo courtesy Ray Rafiti ©



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Wolverine Restoration - Federal Status

- Since 1994 - Petitioned five times
- May 2022 - Court mandated a final determination within 18 months
 - Current status: Proposed to be listed as a threatened species
- November 2023 - USFWS must issue a determination



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Colorado Wolverine Restoration

- Requirements
 - Legislative approval
- Accomplishments
 - Updated draft of Restoration Plan
 - Agency operating funds
 - Identified the need for additional staff



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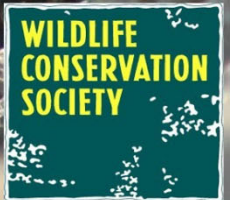
Colorado Wolverine Restoration

- Considerations
 - Federal ESA assurances
 - Federal Land Releases and NEPA
 - Stakeholder engagement



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Questions?



Mark Packila
Greater Yellowstone Wolverine Program



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