



# SAVING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES



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**Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCS Canada)** is at the leading edge of conservation, turning science and research into action. Our mission is to save wildlife and wild places in Canada by developing a better understanding of critical wildlife issues, designing science-based conservation solutions, and working with others to meet critical conservation objectives.

Global climate change, natural resource extraction, and habitat fragmentation continue to threaten the survival of much of our natural world. The race is now on to safeguard the wild places and wild animals that still thrive in Canada. To keep pace, WCS Canada draws on a century-long tradition of scientific excellence that began with the first WCS research projects here in the early 1900s. We have developed a fully Canadian organization that is a vital part of the world's pre-eminent conservation research network – the international WCS family.

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# ▶ OUR ROLE



**WCS Canada fills an important gap in the Canadian conservation landscape.** Through our field-based research, we develop the scientific knowledge and strategies that help shape effective conservation initiatives. There is no other conservation organization that can provide detailed answers about wildlife habitat needs, threats, population trends, and other issues that are absolutely critical for developing successful conservation solutions. At a time when governments have severely cut back research efforts and academic institutions increasingly focus on lab-based science, WCS Canada is in the field seeking answers to today's important conservation questions.

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# OUR APPROACH

**WCS Canada has mapped out a strategic approach** for building awareness of our research and its results to create the greatest possible conservation impact. We are making a long-term commitment to two regions where opportunities to develop cutting-edge conservation plans on truly groundbreaking scales still exist: Ontario's Northern Boreal Forest and the Northern Boreal Mountains of Yukon-Northern British Columbia. We will be working on an ongoing basis to inform conservation planning initiatives already underway in these areas and to spur the creation of new protected areas.

**We are also focusing our research on three major conservation challenges:** climate change, the impact of natural resource extraction, and maintaining ecological connectivity. These three pressures have a profound effect on the health and future condition of wild places. Addressing them will require looking at the big picture, including broad-scale ecosystem connections, especially in transboundary regions such as the Northern Appalachians and the Flathead River Valley in B.C. We need a much better understanding of what the impacts of these forces are on wild areas, how they can be mitigated, what changes to the land wildlife can and cannot tolerate, and how we can help vulnerable species cope with these changes.

As a wildlife-focused organization, species are at the heart of our work. We focus on species to better understand each landscape's conservation needs and to measure the success of conservation initiatives. By focusing on wildlife such as woodland caribou, wolverine, lake trout, lynx, and bison we can extend our understanding beyond individual sites and threats. Simply put, we want to understand what it will take to maintain these species as part of healthy landscapes —landscapes able to support their full suite of native wildlife populations.



# A PARTNERSHIP EFFORT



**Canada possesses some of the most important wild areas** remaining on Earth. No one organization, government or community can single-handedly protect this irreplaceable natural legacy. That is why WCS Canada works closely with governments, First Nations, and conservation organizations to advance the best approaches to saving these all-important intact landscapes.

Most recently, WCS has successfully partnered on important initiatives such as leading key research to describe the habitat needs of caribou, grizzly and Dall's sheep in Nahanni National Park (NWT). This research has helped spur a pending seven-fold increase in the size of the park. Our groundbreaking scientific research on wildlife has also helped to establish Canada's largest commitment to land protection – a promise to permanently safeguard at least 225 million hectares of Northern Ontario's boreal forests.

As a science-based organization, we have the ability to bring together members of the scientific community, create bridges between academic scientists and our conservation partners, and strengthen the overall scientific capacity of the conservation movement.

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## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



**WCS Canada is dedicated to increasing the capacity for conservation science in Canada.** We are developing new research methods, building a practical understanding of what it will take to implement important conservation concepts on the ground, and sharing our expertise with First Nations, communities, and governments. We are also training the next generation of field scientists by giving promising young PhD level students a chance to take on real-world conservation challenges.



# LOOKING AHEAD

**WCS Canada is well positioned to fill a critical need** in conserving Canada's wild places and wildlife. But the breadth of the opportunities and the size of the challenges are massive. We need your help to succeed. Please make a difference for wildlife and wild places and help us preserve Canada's magnificent wild heritage. Lend your support to an effective, creative, and results-driven conservation-science leader—WCS Canada.

If you'd like to discuss ways you can help, please contact Elizabeth (Biz) Agnew at 416-850-9038 x25, [eagnew@wcs.org](mailto:eagnew@wcs.org).

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## A HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Key research to describe the habitat needs of caribou, grizzly bears, and Dall's sheep in Nahanni National Park (NWT), which is pointing to the need for a more than seven-fold increase in the size of the park.
- The first-ever ecological research on wolverines in lowland boreal forests—evaluating the effects of land-use changes and steering the recovery of wolverine in Ontario.
- Identifying core habitats and wildlife corridors for grizzly bears and other carnivores in the Southern Canadian Rockies to help Inform protection initiatives on public and private land in southern Alberta and B.C.
- Innovative analysis for conservationists and planners in the Northern Appalachian-Acadian Ecoregion using cutting-edge, web-mapping technologies accessible to millions of people to help them to set priorities and make plans to achieve land protection goals.
- Influencing policy developments in Ontario—including new Endangered Species Legislation, watershed protection and species recovery and management efforts—by providing scientific information and expertise to government.