



THE WOLVERINE FOUNDATION

PROMOTING SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT OF
WOLVERINES ACROSS THEIR GLOBAL RANGE.

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Wolverine Listing Decision Update

Since 2016, when a judge concluded that the US Fish and Wildlife Service's 2014 decision not to list wolverines under the Endangered Species Act was politically motivated, wolverine aficionados have been awaiting action on a new listing decision process, as ordered by the court. This process has failed to materialize, leaving wolverine status in limbo even as the effects of climate change accelerate.

Wolverines, however, are not the only species in this situation. Many of these species - Elk River crayfish, Franklin's bumblebees, Miami tiger beetles - lack the charisma and the dedicated following of wolverines, but have been waiting far longer for protections. In 2016, following a lawsuit over these delays, the USFWS agreed to a seven year work plan to address a backlog of petitions for 500 species. The Trump administration has not followed the plan, and the Center for Biological Diversity this week announced their intent to sue the administration over inaction on 274 of these species, the wolverine among them.

Further complicating the listing policy environment are changes that the Trump administration made in August 2019 to rules about what information scientists and agency officials could consider in making decisions about listing. The new rules allow agency officials to define a "foreseeable future" in which the species might face threats, and if the individuals in charge of reviewing a given petition decide that they cannot foresee a 100-year-future in which climate change might offer a threat, they don't need to consider climate change. The new rules also curtail the ability to designate critical habitat for future range restoration or expansion. For species like wolverine, which have undergone extirpation and are currently re-colonizing former range, and for species that might experience range shifts in the face of climate change, an order to consider only the current range of the species hampers the development of comprehensive conservation strategies.

The August rule changes are also being challenged in court. As a non-advocacy organization, the Wolverine Foundation is not party to any of these lawsuits, but we keep an eye on how the science is being represented and interpreted, sometimes advise on the state of the wolverine research, and may issue amicus briefs. We will also continue to keep wolverine-interested people informed about the status of the proceedings.



Ranger Boldbaatar and expedition participant Hilary Eisen hold an impromptu ski race on the East Jolog River during a rest day

Skis for Rangers!

Many thanks to those of you who donated to our fundraiser to provide skis for Mongolian rangers. We have reached our goal for purchasing the skis, thanks to your generosity. We are still seeking some additional funds to cover transportation costs to get the skis all the way up to the taiga - a three-day trip from the capital.

Rangers in our Mongolian partner parks face enormous challenges in patrolling and conducting research during the winter. Across a roadless area twice the size of Yellowstone, they have only horses and the occasional reindeer for riding through deep snow. During our 2019 wolverine ski trip, several rangers tried our skis and

remarked on how useful such skis would be for their work. Altai Skis, the company that provided the skis for our trip, agreed to sell us skis at a highly discounted rate for the rangers, and we committed to outfitting the rangers for the winter 2020 season. Over the summer and fall, the rangers followed the fundraising campaign with growing excitement, and we started making plans for ski trainings. The skis entered an official management planning process as a way of improving both research and anti-poaching efforts. These skis will make a measurable difference in Mongolia's largest swath of wolverine habitat. If you're inspired to help with this project, donations can be made [directly to TWF](#) with a note indicating that this is for the Ranger Ski Project, or through our [gofundme](#) page.

Thank you again to all who have contributed and made this successful so far!

Meet Wolverine Foundation Intern Rosie Hust

TWF is excited to welcome its first intern, Rosie Hust. An alumna of the Round River Conservation Studies program in Mongolia, Rosie worked on camera trap research in the Horidol Saridag Strictly Protected Area in northern Mongolia, and will join TWF in December and January to work on similar analysis for wolverine photos from camera trap projects in Montana and other regions of Mongolia. Some words from Rosie:

I am a junior biology major at Colby College in Maine. I grew up in Minnesota and have spent the majority of my life to this point chasing snow as a ski racer. When I'm not in the mountains you can usually find me near water sailing or fly fishing. As I near the end of my skiing racing career, I am in search of meaningful ways to spend time on snow and in the mountains. I spent this past semester in Mongolia with Round River Conservation Studies. There I learned about the joys of field work. I loved spending long days out in the field and learning about different aspects of the environment I was in. Wolverines have a habitat similar to the those that fascinate me: big snowy mountain ranges. I am excited to learn more about them through my internship!



Rosie demonstrates her willingness to handle dead things - a prerequisite for wolverine work

TWF gift shop reopens

For those who are seeking wolverine-themed gifts for the holidays, our [gift shop](#) is back in business. Mugs, hats, and stickers are all available. Check it out!

Please note: as an environmentally conscious organization, we often recycle shipping materials. If you are ordering something as a gift and would prefer brand-new packaging, please let us know in a note on your order.

[Donate Now](#)

The Wolverine Foundation counts on your support to help move wolverine research forward. Please consider [a donation](#) to TWF. You can also support us by shopping at Amazon through our [AmazonSmile link](#). And lastly, for the true wolverine fan, check out our great new wolverine hats and coffee mugs in the TWF [gift shop](#).

