

# WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD (WSR) PROJECT

## Caribou and Wolverine Surveys - Fact Sheet

### What was the primary purpose of these surveys?

To characterize and describe the composition of Caribou and Wolverine within the Project Area. Since both Wolverine and Caribou are provincially listed as Threatened on the **Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO)** list, it is important to assess how the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) may affect them.

As part of the provincial **Terms of Reference (ToR)** for the WSR Assessment, the **Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP)** provided recommendations on the types of surveys and methodologies that should be completed for Caribou, Wolverine, and other Species at Risk (SAR).

### The summary of these initial surveys is intended to:

- (1) Identify the SAR and the habitats that are present within the study area for the Project; and
- (2) Identify potential effects to SAR as a result of the Project, including recommendations for minimizing negative effects during construction and operation/maintenance of the Project.

### Why are caribou and wolverine being assessed together?

These species both have large home-ranges, are elusive, and occur in the far-north of Ontario. Also, there has been evidence that Wolverine is often best found concurrently with the survey efforts that are required to detect Caribou.

### What is the primary habitat of the survey area?

Ontario Shield Ecozone Region of Northern Ontario which consists of:

- Precambrian bedrock;
- Wetlands, large rivers, and streams that flow into Hudson Bay; and
- Bogs and fens.

### What surveys have already taken place?

2018

Winter Aerial Surveys for  
Caribou and Wolverine

2019

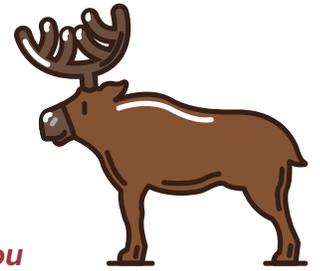
Winter Aerial Surveys for  
Caribou and Wolverine

2019

Caribou Nursery Habitat Survey

## What were the main findings of these surveys?

### Caribou



➤➤➤ **The 2018 Winter Aerial Survey** recorded a total of **45 individual Caribou** across seven locations. Group size ranged from 1 to 13 individuals.

- In general, Caribou were only observed east and southeast of Webequie where there were mature upland black spruce forests interspersed with lakes.
- Caribou and their tracks were generally observed on lakes or in open forested areas leading into denser stands of coniferous forest.

➤➤➤ **The 2019 Winter Aerial Survey** recorded a total of **13 individual Caribou** were recorded across four locations. Groups ranged from 3 to 6 individuals.

- Caribou tracks were identified throughout the survey area east of Webequie.
- Caribou were primarily observed east and southeast of Webequie in habitat consisting of mature upland jack pine and black spruce forests interspersed with small- to mid-sized lakes.

➤➤➤ **The 2019 Nursery Habitat Survey** found evidence that **caribou calf occurrence** was present at five sites.

- No sites where evidence of Caribou calf presence was observed are definitely identifiable as calving/nursery habitat.

➤➤➤ **The 2020 - 2023 - Caribou Collaring Program** (in progress).

- Approximately 30 healthy, adult female Caribou will be involved with the collaring program.
- Data will be gathered to help assess potential effects on this species include; home range size; calving areas; calf mortality; distance traveled to calving sites; Wintering ranges; and travel routes and corridor crossing points.

# Wolverine



»»» **The 2018 Winter Aerial Surveys** for wolverine found **tracks at 20 locations** across the survey area but **didn't observe any live wolverines**.

- Tracks were observed to the southwest, south, and southeast of Webequie. These tracks were most-often situated along watercourses or lake shorelines.

»»» **In the 2019 Winter Aerial Surveys** for wolverine, **one live wolverine** was observed, plus **38 track occurrences** across 10 transects.

»»» **Wolverine Occupancy Study (2020 -2023)**

- To investigate the local area's population of Wolverine a total of 25 survey stations have been set up in the Project area.
- The stations consist of consist of a bait, hair snare posts on a run pole structure and wildlife cameras.

