

# Your Lands Your Wildlife

## Wolverine



### WOLVERINES & HIKERS SHARE NEED FOR BACKCOUNTRY

**Wolverines are creatures of the high mountains,** trekking year-round through extreme alpine environments, and often visiting multiple national forests along the way. These fearless fighters are known not only for their ability to drive grizzly bears away from their kills, but can famously travel upwards of 20 miles a day through the wildest backcountry North America has to offer – *sound like any hikers you know?*

**Wolverines need large blocks of wild, undeveloped country** where they can scavenge meals, and birth and raise their young far from disturbance by people. This means they need the same wilderness and roadless terrain that you rely on for your backcountry adventures. For example, the Rocky Mountain Ranger District in Montana's Lewis and Clark National Forest is home to the largest population of wolverines in the lower 48 states. It's no surprise that people enjoy this rugged wilderness as well – there were over 25,000 visits to the nearly 320,000 acres of inventoried roadless lands in the district in 2006.

Backcountry recreation is one of the fastest growing activities in the country, and we need to ensure that both people and critters like the wolverine have room to roam. If the U.S. Forest Service and other public land agencies safeguard the health of wide-ranging wildlife such as the wolverine, they will also preserve opportunities for our backcountry adventures.

**Defenders of Wildlife supports balanced, science-based wildlife conservation measures on public lands. Healthy wolverine and other fish and wildlife populations on public lands indicate overall land health, leading to unparalleled recreation opportunities, outstanding water quality, clean air and countless other natural, social and economic benefits for all Americans.**



#### Quick Wolverine Facts

<b>Nicknames:</b>	<b>Devil Bear, Skunk Bear</b>
<b>Lifespan:</b>	<b>7-12 years</b>
<b>Weight:</b>	<b>24-40 lbs</b>
<b>Eats:</b>	<b>Anything from berries to caribou</b>
<b>U.S. population:</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Territory:</b>	<b>Can range up to several hundred square miles</b>
<b>Threats:</b>	<b>Habitat fragmentation, logging, climate change, mining, trapping</b>



Roadless areas like this in Montana's Lolo National Forest are popular for outdoor recreation, and contain some of the last wolverine strongholds in the U.S.