

# NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**FRIDAY**

**Oct. 20, 2006**

**3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**LECTURE  
THEATRE  
7-158**

**LIGHT  
REFRESHMENTS  
SERVED AT 3:20 PM**

**Eric Lofroth**  
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## **Unravelling the mystery of the wolverine: Separating fact from folklore in a rare carnivore**

Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) is a species more commonly known from legend and lore than scientific knowledge. Although widespread in distribution (circum-boreal and the western North American mountains) it has, until recently, been relatively poorly studied. Within the last two decades studies in Scandinavia and western North America have done much to dispel (or not!) folklore and myth. This presentation will focus on the commonalities and differences in wolverine ecology between two recent BC studies and the role that ecological conditions and landform may play in those. We have found that food is the primary factor in most wolverine habitat selection. Wolverine food habits vary geographically and as such habitat selection patterns vary. That selection is moderated to some extent by avoidance of human disturbance and in the case of denning females by requirements for shelter for kits and security from predation. Food also plays an important role in wolverine population dynamics. Synthetic analyses of wolverine survivorship data from across North America has demonstrated that wolverine survivorship varies geographically and that harvest mortality is not compensated for by a reduction in natural mortality. I will discuss how these findings, along with emerging information on wolverine densities and predicted provincial population levels can be used to inform harvest management.