

## WOVERINE REPRODUCTIVE DEN AND KIT RENDEZVOUS SITES IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA

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In addition to natal and maternal den sites, successful wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) reproduction requires refugia for kit security as females forage and/or mate in areas away from their dependant offspring. These refugia, or rendezvous sites, may provide kits with protection from predation and thermal loss. During summer 2004, we followed 2 transmitted kits as they moved within their mother's core home range to various rendezvous sites in the alpine/subalpine ecotone of Glacier National Park, Montana. The two male kits were instrumented on 6 May 2004 after locating them with their mother at a maternal den. Subsequent locations of kits found that the female had cached them in various structures including downed trees, boulder talus, glacial moraine, and broken cliffs. We documented 10 such sites during 5 months (7 May-22 Sep) of monitoring. GIS and LandSat attributes were analyzed for each site and results are presented to include: aspect, elevation, ground cover, slope, habitat type, structure type and distance to avalanche. Similar analysis was also performed for two natal and three maternal dens. Photos of den and rendezvous sites are presented. Additional time budget analysis covering 12 hrs (0800-2000) of active transmitter duty for the same 5-month period showed the female's attendance to kits fluctuated on a 3-4 hr cycle. Dispersal movement of two subadult male wolverine is discussed and preliminary fine-scale GPS location data are presented.