



Survey Overview

Region: South Lakes Yukon / Coast Mountains

Number of packs: 10

Average pack size: 5.5 wolves / pack
(Yukon average 6.4 wolves / pack)

Pack density: 1.1 packs / 1000km²
(Yukon average 1.0 packs / 1000km²)

Wolf density: 6.7 wolves / 1000km²
(Yukon average 7.7 / 1000km²)

Total wolf count: 60 wolves

Coast Mountain wolf survey 2022

Project objectives

The coast mountain wolf population has been estimated five times since 1983. A minimum count snow tracking survey was flown in February 2022. The purpose of the survey was to estimate abundance and distribution of wolf packs. Our estimates were compared to previous estimates to assess population trends.

Project background

There were community concerns that growing wolf populations and associated increases in caribou mortalities may be slowing the recovery of the Southern Lakes caribou populations. As such, the Southern Lakes Wolf Program was conducted between 2019 –2022 to update wolf population estimates and assess diet composition of wolves.

Population trend

The wolf density, pack density and average pack size for the Coast Mountains in 2022 was higher than in 2009; however, population metrics were similar to the 2004 estimates. Although the 2022 estimate is considerably lower than what was estimated in 1983 (down 47%), population trajectories suggest a relatively stable wolf population over the last 18 years. Estimates for wolf density remain below the Yukon average.

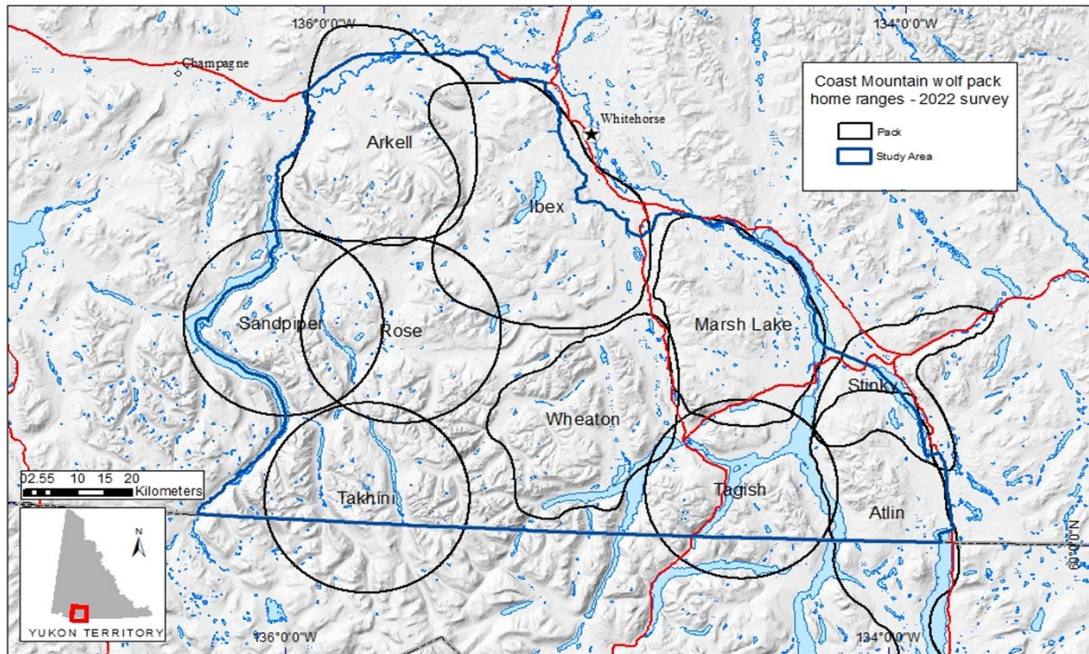


Fig. 1 Wolf packs identified during the 2022 survey. Circular home ranges indicate generalised theoretical pack boundaries to represent 1000 km². Non circular home ranges are derived from GPS collar data.

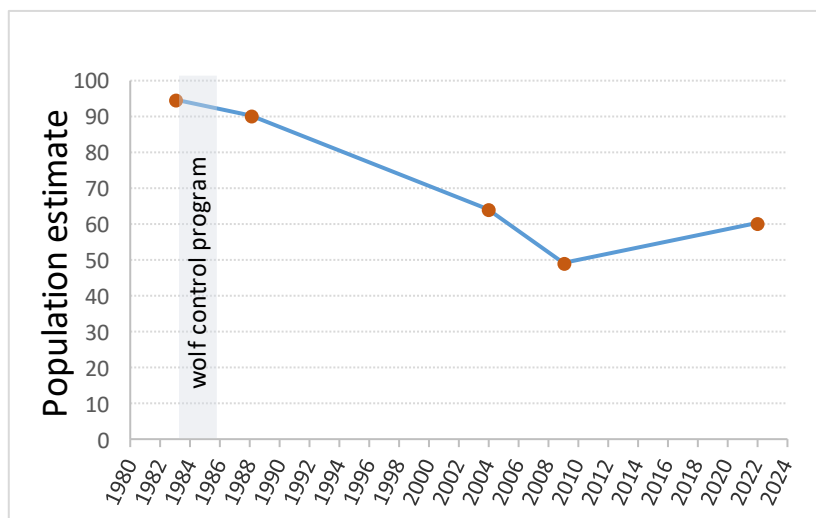


Fig 2. Coast Mountain wolf population estimates, 1983 - 2022.

For more information, please contact

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