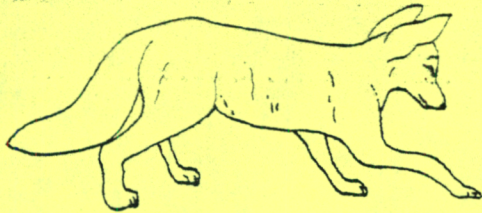
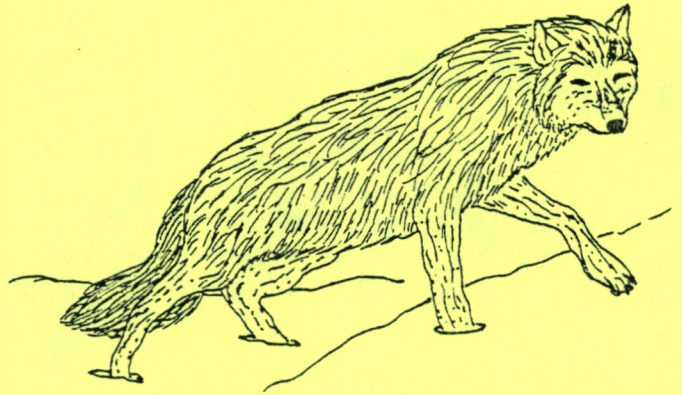


WILDLIFE IN DANGER

This is the fourth article in a series on endangered wildlife in Canada, based on information by the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF (Canis lupus irremotus)

A large, light-coloured subspecies, this wolf formerly occurred in the forests and foothills of the Rocky Mountains in southern Alberta, south-eastern British Columbia, south to western Wyoming. It is thought that a few individuals belonging to this subspecies still exist in the mountains of southwestern Alberta and southeastern British Columbia. Its decline was due to a combination of loss of habitat and persecution by humans.



NORTHERN KIT FOX (Vulpes velox hebes)

Typically found in arid short-grass plains and shrubby deserts, the diminutive northern kit fox is recognizable by its big ears, grizzled grey back and creamy, buff flanks. It formerly occurred in southwestern Saskatchewan, southern Alberta, southwestern British Columbia and south to several mid-western states. The kit fox is now considered endangered and possibly extinct in Canada, although it is hoped that a few individuals remain in the Cypress Hills of southwestern Saskatchewan. Habitat loss and indiscriminate predator control programs contributed to its decline.

SEA OTTER (Echyra lutris)

This large otter formerly inhabited a band of coastal waters extending from northern Japan to the Aleutian Islands of Alaska to southern Vancouver Island. However, from the middle of the 18th century to the end of the 19th, sea otters were ruthlessly exploited for their commercially valuable pelts. Sea otters were extirpated from British Columbia waters by 1929, and it was not until 1971 that a breeding population of otters from Amchitka Island was transplanted to the northwest coast of Vancouver Island. A small nucleus from this transplant survives today.

