

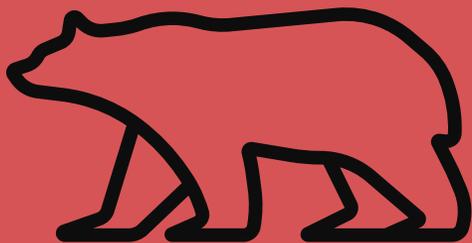
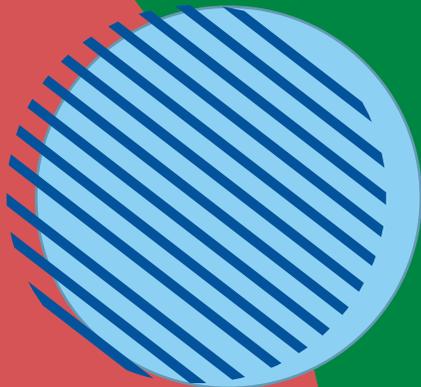


MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION  
ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

# Winter Field Program

Discussion Guide

December 2021





# Winter Field Program

## Discussion Guide | December 2021

The Wolverine (*wishkobish*) Hair Snag, Winter Aerial and Furbearer Ground Track Surveys will take place this winter for the federal Impact Assessment (IA) and provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) for Marten Falls First Nation's proposed All-Season Community Access Road.

This Discussion Guide provides an overview to these upcoming Field Programs. We welcome your feedback on the key questions listed in this Guide. **Your insights will help shape the program.**

A field notice will be distributed once dates are confirmed.





**What are fur bearers?**  
Fur bearers are animals with fur. Many of these animals are trapped or hunted for their fur hides, like marten (*wabizheshiwag*, *wabashtanang*), beaver (*amikwag*) and wolverine (*wishkobishag*, *wiingwa'waakeg*)

# What's Happening?

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An important part of the winter field program is understanding potential effects that the proposed Community Access Road may have on animals, including fur bearers, in the area. This is the first study we are doing specifically for fur bearers. There are three survey programs that will support our understanding of where animals currently are in the study area:

1. Wolverine (*wishkobish*) Hair Snag
2. Furbearer Ground Track
3. Winter Ungulate Winter Aerial

For the **wolverine hair snag survey program**, 54 non-invasive (does not injure animal) hair snag traps will be placed in the study area. Wolverine (*wishkobish*) are a Species of Special Concern as identified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and a Threatened species under the Ontario Endangered Species Act. Remote cameras will be positioned to monitor the baited hair snag traps to help confirm if a wolverine (*wishkobish*) has visited the hair snag trap. Hair snag samples left by wolverine (*wishkobish*) will be collected and submitted for DNA and hormone analysis.



# What's Happening?

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**Winter furbearer ground track surveys** will be conducted by track specialists. Transects, or straight lines through the Local Study Area, will be walked to document the number of animal track sets crossing the transect, species, location and habitat type encountered. Data will be used to determine distribution, abundance and density of furbearers and other mammals in the Local Study Area. Surveys will be completed within 3-10 days of optimal snow conditions.

**Winter ungulate aerial surveys** will be conducted using a fixed wing aircraft and helicopter to estimate the distribution of wolverine (*wishkobish*) and caribou (*atik*), and to determine caribou (*atik*) calf survival in the wolverine (*wishkobish*) / ungulates (caribou and moose) study area within a 35-kilometre corridor of the proposed routes. A series of straight paths spaced every two (2) to 10 kilometres throughout the area will be flown by a fixed wing aircraft. The following day, a helicopter crew will target search areas that were observed by the fixed wing crew (for example, where they saw caribou herds or other signs of wildlife). The winter aerial surveys will take place over 15 days with optimal snow conditions.



## When?

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The programs will take place starting Winter 2022. Exact dates will be provided once confirmed.

- **Wolverine hair snag traps** will be deployed in February and will stay in place until May. Field crews will return to the hair snag traps monthly to replenish bait and collect hair samples.
- For the **winter furbearer ground track surveys**, crews will conduct two rounds of surveys for five days each between January and March.
- The **winter ungulate aerial surveys** will be one trip lasting 15 days between February and March.

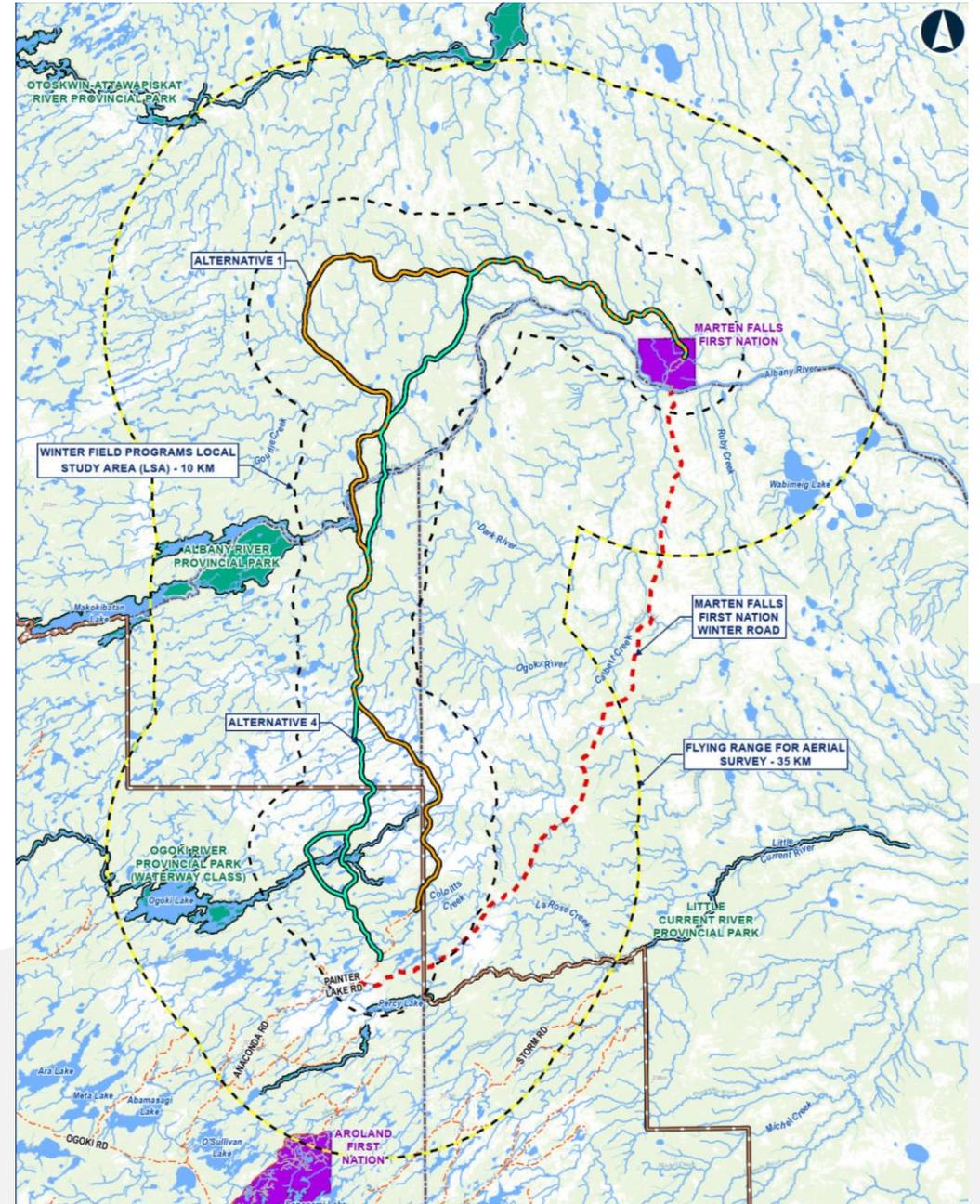


# We Need Your Input!

Your input is an important part of shaping our winter field program and will be considered before the field program starts. If you have any feedback on the following questions, we want to hear from you:

- Has your trapline been overlapped by these surveys?
- Have there been any recent wolverine (*wishkobish*) sightings?
- Are you an Indigenous trapper that can supply bait for wolverine (*wishkobish*) hair snag traps?
- Are there any specific timing considerations during January through March we should be aware of when conducting the surveys?

Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use in the area of the proposed routes can be shared through the Project's Indigenous Knowledge Program. If you have sensitive and confidential information that you would like to share through this program, please let us know. We will ensure your knowledge is protected.





If you have sensitive and confidential information that you would like to share through the Indigenous Knowledge Program to make sure it is protected, please let us know.

## Contact Information

You are welcome to contact the Project Team at any time with questions or comments

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