

Species At Risk in Canadian wildlife poison use zones:

**American Badger – *Taxidea taxus* – SPECIAL CONCERN; COSEWIC 2012**



Figure 1 American Badger photo courtesy of Mike McKinlay

The 2012 COSEWIC assessment and status report for the American Badger in Canada listed the following designations for subspecies:

- jacksoni* subspecies - ENDANGERED
- jeffersonii* subspecies / Eastern population - ENDANGERED
- jeffersonii* subspecies / Western population - ENDANGERED
- taxus* subspecies - SPECIAL CONCERN

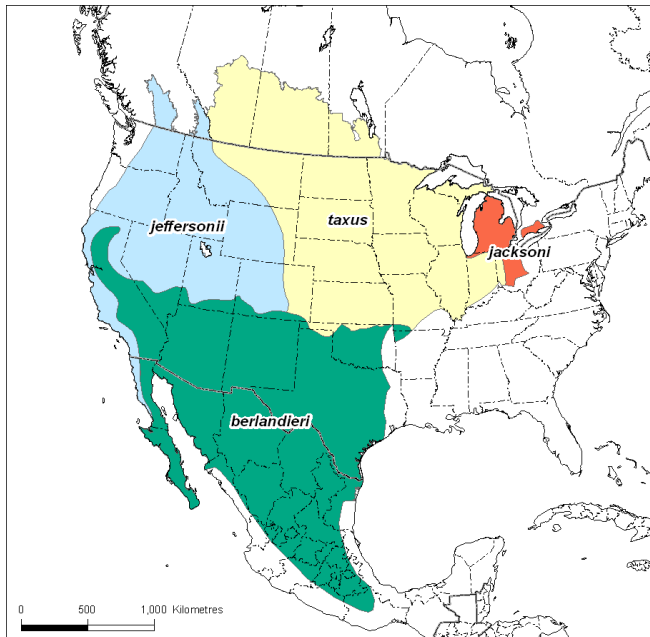


Figure 2 Map showing global distribution of American Badger subspecies. Source COSEWIC. 2012. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the American Badger *Taxidea taxus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. iv + 63 pp. ([www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default\\_e.cfm](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm)).



Figures 3 and 4 Maps showing range of distribution of American Badger. Source COSEWIC. 2012. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the American Badger *Taxidea taxus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. iv + 63 pp. ([www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default\\_e.cfm](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm)), right map version reconstructed by Sadie Parr.

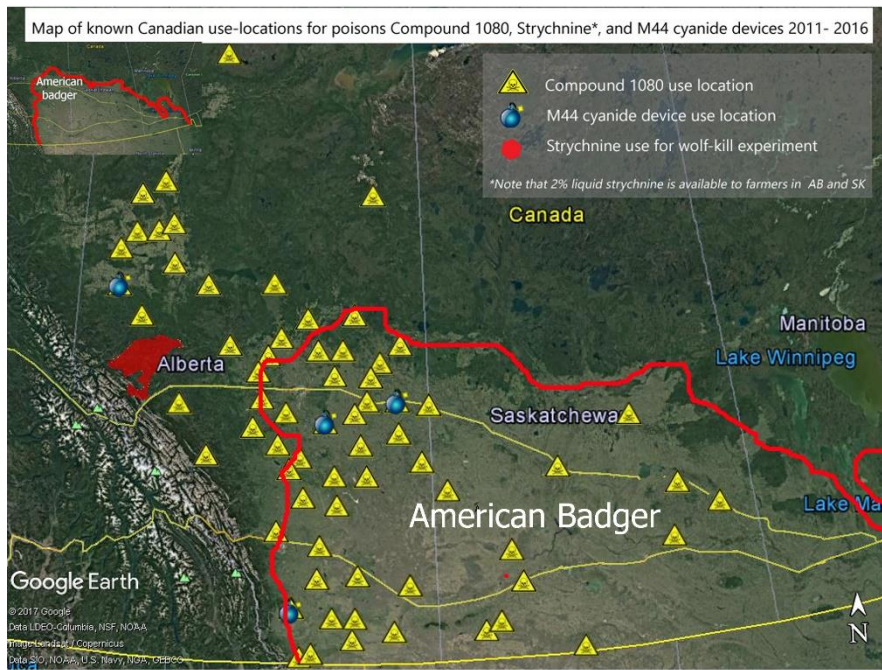


Figure 5 Map showing use-locations for Compound 1080, strychnine and sodium cyanide in Ab and SK 2011 – 2016 within American Badger range. Source: Wolf Awareness Inc 2017

Source of reference for material used below:

COSEWIC. 2012. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the American Badger *Taxidea taxus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. iv + 63 pp. ([www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default\\_e.cfm](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm)).

Pg. 32 – 33

### **Secondary Poisoning**

*Badgers are at risk of mortality from consuming prey containing rodenticides (e.g. strychnine, chlorophacinone) used for pest control of various fossorial rodent species (Proulx 2011; Proulx and MacKenzie 2012). In south-western Saskatchewan, American Badgers died within nine days of feeding on Richardson Ground Squirrels (*Urocitellus richardsonii*) that had been treated with chlorophacinone (Proulx et al. 2009 in Proulx and MacKenzie 2012). The number of American Badgers per kilometer of road (based on spotlight surveys) in areas with 20% of area treated with rodenticide (strychnine and chlorophacinone) was significantly higher (2.2 times greater) than in areas where application was 90% of the area (Proulx and MacKenzie 2012)). The strychnine used over much of the region was a lower dosage, 'ineffective' type (Proulx 2010) because the more effective 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (LSC) had been banned since the early 1990s. In February 2012, the federal government removed the ban and the more efficient strychnine is available for widespread use (Benoit 2012). It is expected that mortality rates on Badger will increase with use of the new rodenticide.*

---

The maps below have been put together to demonstrate that compound 1080 is currently being used in areas of important American Badger occurrences and habitat. The map of use locations between 2011-2016 was provided by Saskatchewan government. We are not able to show where liquid strychnine is being used as a rodenticide available to farmers, but this also causes great concern.

### Saskatchewan

