



Species at Risk Profile Series: American Badger



- Badgers (*Taxidea taxus taxus*) on the prairies have been assessed as Special Concern in Canada.
- Most of what is known about prairie population trends comes from fur harvest reports.
- Threats to badgers include habitat loss, secondary poisoning, and road mortality.
- Badgers primarily hunt ground squirrels, but are opportunistic predators.
- Badgers dig up ground squirrel burrows while hunting and in doing so create habitat for other species, including the endangered Burrowing Owl.
- Two other subspecies of badgers (*T. t. jeffersoni* in BC and *T. t. jacksoni* in Ontario) are listed as endangered in Canada.
- Males have average territory sizes nearly ten times as large as females - almost 100 km².
- Badgers tend to avoid cultivated fields, and instead prefer native and tame pastures.
- Badgers breed in mid-summer, and the next year give birth to 1-2 kits.
- Badgers do not hibernate during winter, but do enter a deep, energy-saving sleep (torpor)





What you can do

- Report sightings of badgers here. These reports help biologists better understand how many badgers there are and where they occur.
- Since badgers are nocturnal, look for signs of fresh digging and large, 20 cm (8 in) holes to show where they have been active.
- Leave existing hedgerows in fields. While badgers tend to avoid cultivated fields, they will use hedgerows.
- Minimize poison use for ground squirrel and other rodent management. Badgers eat the poisoned rodents, and are subsequently poisoned themselves.
- Manage tame and native pasture through grazing.
- Watch for burrowing owls and other wildlife at old badger holes.

Get involved

- Read the status report for American Badgers [here](#).

Photo credit: American Badger by Gabriel Foley used with permission (front)

Range map credit: 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.