

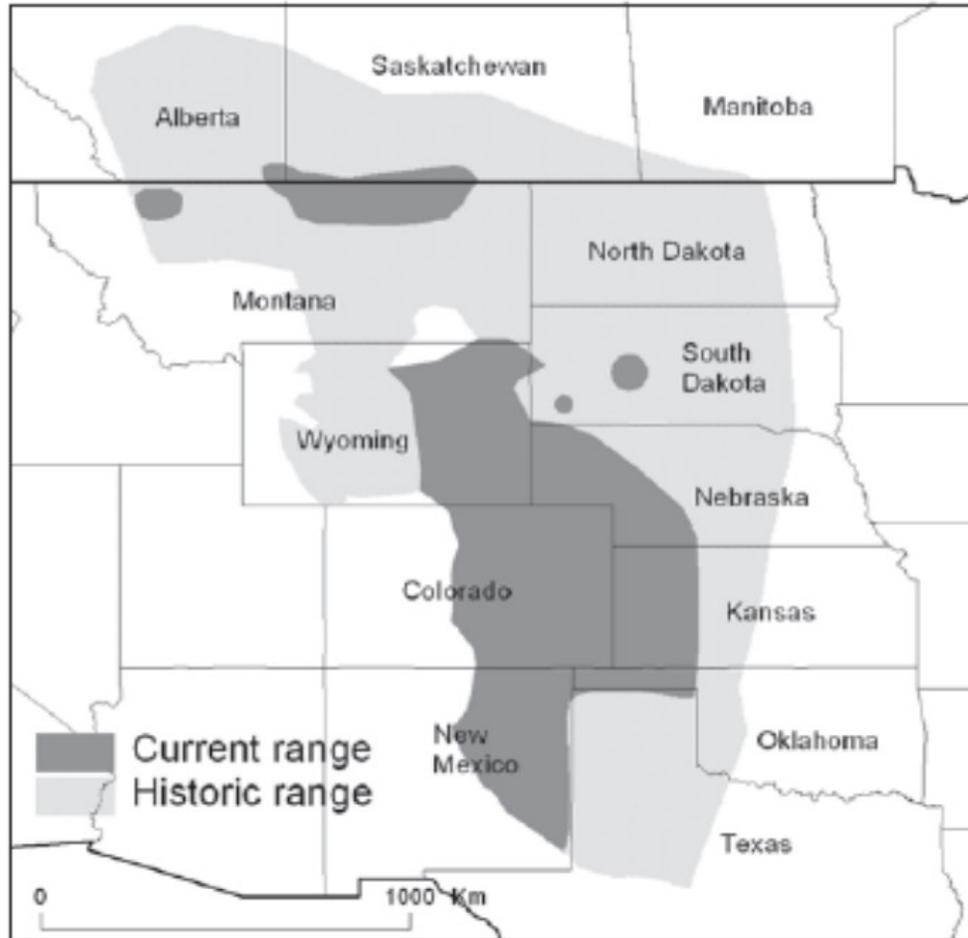


# Species at Risk Profile Series: Swift Fox



- Swift Foxes are listed as Threatened in Canada.
- They are the smallest canid in North America, measuring only 30-32 cm (12-13 in) high.
- As their name suggests, they are fast, capable of reaching speeds of 60 km/hr.
- Their sides are orange, but their back and tail is grey, and the tail has a black tip.
- After extirpation in Canada in 1938, Swift Foxes were successfully reintroduced in 1983.
- They are often found in native mixed-grass prairie, but both high prey and low predator abundance appear to influence their selection of habitat.
- They select areas with short <25 cm (<10 in), sparse grass and little topography.
- They modify badger and ground squirrel burrows for use as dens.
- They use multiple dens throughout their range at the same time.
- Males help raise the 4-8 kits, and their lifespan is typically 3-7 years.
- Mortality rates are about 40-60%, and coyote predation is the primary cause.
- They eat mainly small mammals, as well as birds, eggs, insects, plants, and carrion.





## Conservation

- Predation is considered to be the greatest limiting natural factor of Swift Foxes.
- Habitat loss and degradation lies at the root of most factors limiting their population.
- Only 25-30% of native mixed-grass prairie remains in Canada.
- Oil and gas development fragments the landscape, reducing productivity.
- They are highly susceptible to poisoning, including poison meant for other animals.

## Get involved

- Read the recovery strategy for Swift Foxes [here](#).
- Do not use poison to control predators, ground squirrels, or other pests.

Photo credit: Swift Fox at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska by CBurnett retrieved from [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Swift\\_Fox.jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Swift_Fox.jpg) licensed under CC-BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.de> (front)

Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2009. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Swift Fox *Vulpes velox* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii + 49 pp. ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status\\_e.cfm](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm)).