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Species at Risk and Their Habitats



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What is a Species at Risk?

A wild plant or animal that is at risk of extinction because of threats caused by:

- 1) human actions such as pollution, over hunting, mines and oil development and
- 2) natural causes such as climate change, weather and floods





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Some wildlife in Canada have already disappeared

Black-footed Ferret



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Levels of Risk

Extinct - wildlife or plant no longer exist anywhere in the world



Extirpated - wildlife or plant gone in Canada, but continues to exist naturally in other parts of the world or as breeding populations in zoos and wildlife refugees



Endangered - wildlife or plant that is low in number and close to being extirpated



Threatened - wildlife or plant species likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed. Wildlife that is low in number but with enough population to bounce back if corrective action is taken.



Special Concern - a wildlife or plant that may become threatened because of physical conditions and known risks



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Here are some example of wildlife being looked at, to see if they need to be protected



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Atlantic Walrus

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Polar Bear



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Peregrine
Falcon



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Barrenland Caribou



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Ivory Gull



Ross Gull



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Bowhead Whales



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Peary Caribou



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What is a Habitat?

The space that a wildlife needs to live and grow

- Food
- Water
- Living space
- Shelter





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By protecting the habitat of a wildlife at risk, we hope to protect and prevent the wildlife from becoming extinct.



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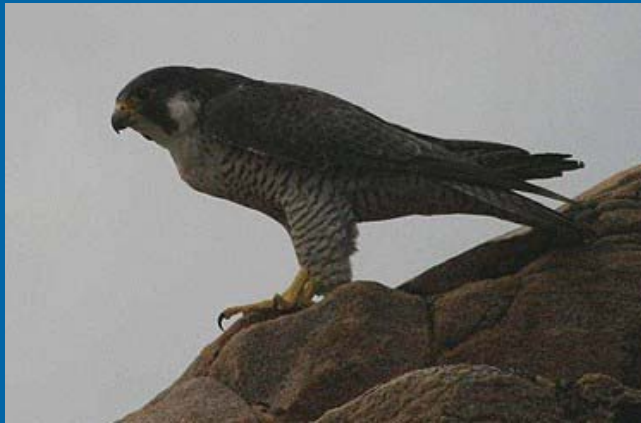
Why Are All Wildlife Important?



Animals and plants depend on each other for survival. The disappearance of one will hurt the other. They are all part of one environment.



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Habitat Changes

Habitat changes affect all wildlife in the area. For wildlife that are low in numbers, these changes could really hurt the wildlife and they might not be able to get higher in numbers.

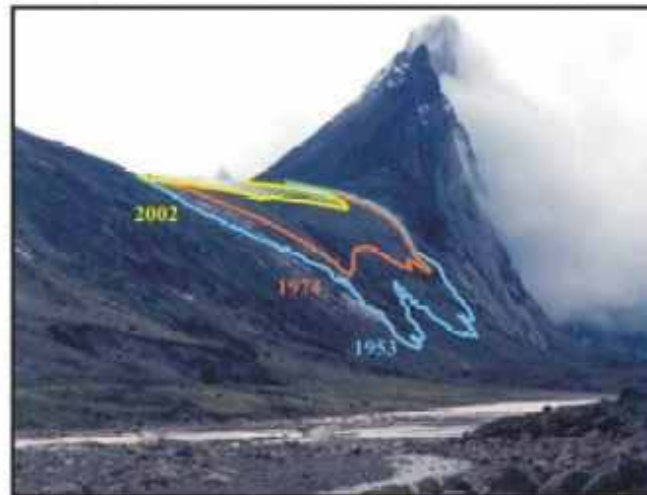
Can you name some habitat changes that happen on land or water?





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Natural Habitat Changes



Climate
Change



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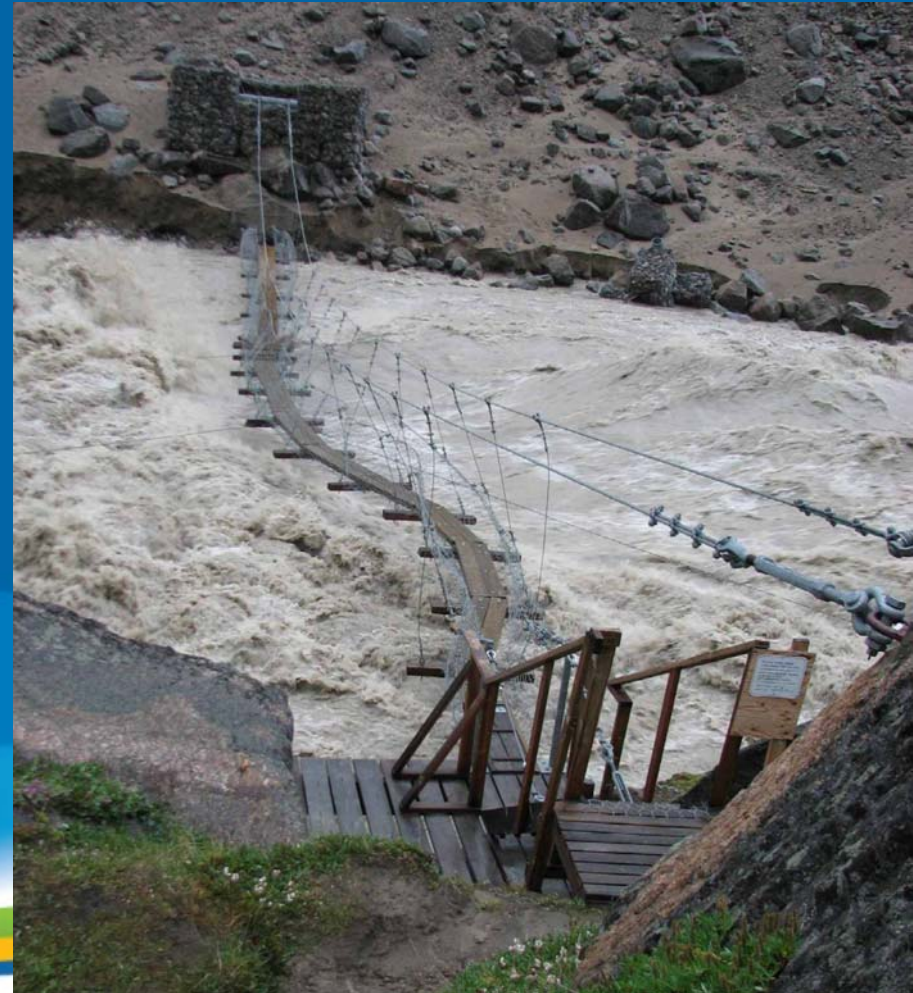
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Natural Habitat Changes

Storms and other weather events - floods, wind, blizzards or early snow fall



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Natural Habitat Changes



Early and late snow, thick ice forming on top of the ground or other natural events



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Can you list some habitat changes that are caused by humans?



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Human-caused Habitat Changes

Getting oil, gold and metals from the land = mining
Could destroy the habitat of many wildlife



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Human-caused Habitat Changes



Pollution: could have far reaching effects such as acid rain and changes in the health of lakes and rivers



What is the *Species at Risk Act*?

- A federal law that protects all wild animals and plants in Canada
- Protects and helps the wildlife at risk to get higher in numbers



For wildlife that is protected, you can not:

- *KILL, HARM, HARASS, CAPTURE OR TAKE*
- *POSSESS, COLLECT, BUY, SELL OR TRADE*
- *DAMAGE OR DESTROY THE HABITAT OF ONE OR MORE WILDLIFE*



Applies automatically on federal lands only



Inuit are allowed to hunt some wildlife even though they are protected.





Critical Habitat:

The habitat needed for the survival or recovery of endangered, threatened or extirpated wildlife.

