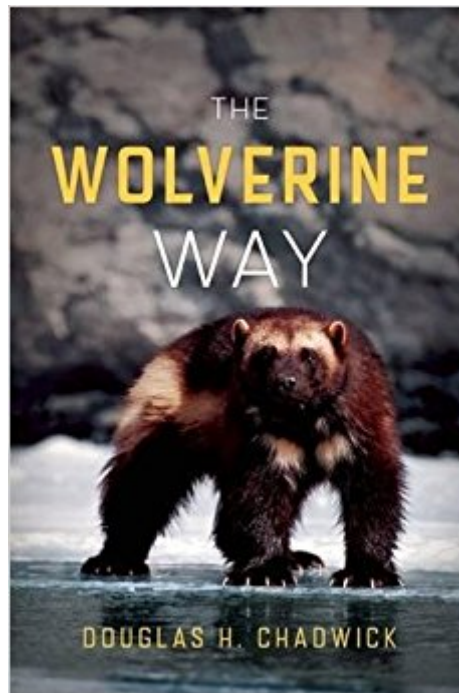




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The Wolverine Way



Synopsis

Glutton, demon of destruction, symbol of slaughter, mightiest of wilderness villains... The wolverine comes marked with a reputation based on myth and fancy. Yet this enigmatic animal is more complex than the legends that surround it. With a shrinking wilderness and global warming, the future of the wolverine is uncertain. *The Wolverine Way* reveals the natural history of this species and the forces that threaten its future, engagingly told by Douglas Chadwick, who volunteered with the Glacier Wolverine Project. This five-year study in Glacier National Park - which involved dealing with blizzards, grizzlies, sheer mountain walls, and other daily challenges to survival - uncovered key missing information about the wolverine's habitat, social structure and reproduction habits. Wolverines, according to Chadwick, are the land equivalent of polar bears in regard to the impacts of global warming. The plight of wolverines adds to the call for wildlife corridors that connect existing habitat that is proposed by the Freedom to Roam coalition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

an astonishing account of these fearless, indefatigable and highly intelligent animals and the equally fearless and indefatigable scientists and volunteers who study them. . . a book full of adventure, courage and determination. --Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE Founder - the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace "Is there an animal that embodies the spirit of wildness more than the wolverine?" Chadwick's account of these remarkable creatures and the people who study them expresses the environmental crossroads that the wolverine -- and all of us -- stand at. It should

make every person stop and think about how much we would be losing should the wolverine not survive the many challenges it faces." -- H. Emerson Blake, Editor-in-Chief, Orion Magazine

"I have been fascinated by wolverines ever since I read about them as a child. The *Wolverine Way* is an astonishing account of these fearless, indefatigable and highly intelligent animals and the equally fearless and indefatigable scientists and volunteers who study them. Chadwick's writing transports us high into the frozen mountains and lakes of Glacier National Park with its dazzling beauty and treacherous storms and avalanches. This is a book full of adventure, courage and determination. Bravo to Patagonia for its support of the wolverines and the wildlife corridor which may prevent their extinction." -- Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE Founder - the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace

"Is there an animal that embodies the spirit of wildness more than the wolverine? Chadwick's account of these remarkable creatures and the people who study them expresses the environmental crossroads that the wolverine -- and all of us -- stand at. It should make every person stop and think about how much we would be losing should the wolverine not survive the many challenges it faces." -- H. Emerson Blake, Editor-in-Chief, Orion Magazine

A wildlife biologist who studied mountain goats and grizzlies in the Rockies, Doug Chadwick began writing about natural history and conservation for national magazines. On assignments from Siberia to the Congo River's headwaters, he has produced several hundred popular articles and ten books. He is also the vice chair of the board of Vital Ground, a nonprofit land trust that has helped safeguard more than 600,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Alaska, Canada, and the western US.

The book is excellent, but the Kindle Edition is full of errors like must elide for mustelid (referring to the classification of wolverines as members of the weasel family, a word that is misspelled nearly every time it appears, in many different ways), and many other typos that look like someone scanned a text edition with an OCR, and gave it to a non-native speaker of English with zero science background to do a proofreading/spellcheck. I can read past a lot of minor such errors but in this one they are so pervasive that they often took me out of the narrative.

Still reading it. So far so good. Not a great book. Some interesting things.

Overall, an interesting read about the wolverines of Glacier. I spend a lot of time in Glacier so the book was especially intriguing to me. I first wondered if I would be able to read an entire book about

one small animal, but it was easy. Fascinating species indeed that we really knew little about.... until Doug shared his writing about the Glacier Park study. Doug does get on his "soapbox" a bit towards the end of the book and I found myself skimming through some of that, but still a very good book. I enjoyed it!

It's a good read for anyone interested in these animals and the Park they're documented in. Glacier National Park is an amazing place and these animals are as well. The author does an admirable job keeping things on-the-rails for the most part. It's easy to sense his strong opinions on many environmental subjects, not that he's unreasonable in having them...

Bought this as a gift for my hiking partner who I'm sure will enjoy it as much as I did since much of the wolverine research takes place in Glacier N.P. - a park where we celebrated our retirements for a week of hiking. Just wonder how many wolverines watched us!

This is, hands down, the best ever Nature/animal study book I've ever read, and I've read a lot of them. I'd give this book a thousand stars if allowed. It was exciting, heart-breaking, funny, big-time adventurous, knowledgeable, fascinating. Have I said I'd give it a million stars if allowed? I learned so much about wolverines on top of it. And about grizzlies, mountain goats, pine martins, and people. The people who studied the wolverine worked in the most amazing, dangerous conditions. Night studies/operations in below zero temps, forging streams barefoot/barelegged just after the ice broke up, mountain climbing, etc., I am in awe. I am also now completely infatuated with wolverines. May they travel their wolverine way forever. As Chadwick says, "There's wild, and then there's wolverine."

I've loved wolverines since the day my son and I discussed raw meat with the pair at Cheyenne Mt. Zoo (who subsequently escaped from the zoo and, according to folklore, helped jump-start the reintroduction of wolverines to Colorado). About the same time, I heard James Dickey read "To the Last Wolverine," one of the great American wildlife poems (an audio is available on-line). Chadwick's book is almost as much fun as the conversation at Cheyenne Mountain, if not as heart-gripping as Dickey's poem (which surfaces in bits throughout the book). As Chadwick says, most of us -- and most of the scientific community -- have at best a cartoon grasp of the wolverine. He's a sort of indigenous Tasmanian Devil at best, and at worst a representation of everything we see as adversarial in Nature. Chadwick not only gives the wolverine its first real book, but offers proof of a

radically different animal than our cartoon nightmares. The very model of ferocity? Well, yeah, but there's so much more. Contrary to mythology, wolverines are social. The study team that Chadwick joined found social interactions not just between mother and kits, but between fathers and their adolescent sons, both adult sized and ranging through Glacier Nat'l Park on training sessions. Their socialization is rare among mammals, rarer among predators, inconceivable in an animal legendary for its vicious, raging, competitive individualism. The book follows multiple generation of named animals, and you come to know them as individuals, cheering their successes and grieving for their deaths. One poignant picture shows a young wolverine who slipped crossing a cliff and fell her death. The body was found with its mother's track all around it. Chadwick is not giving us an antidotal Disney view of things; he documents what appears to have been a fratricide. Wolverines. We have 300 left in the contiguous states, barely enough to maintain a population. They are on the same brink that the polar bear is facing, their habitat threatened by the immediate risk of human incursion and animosity and the distant but looming threat of climate change. Chadwick documents how specific climate changes are changing the environment faster than selection can adapt. If you want to know why you should care, read Chadwick's book. If you want to help, find The Wolverine Foundation on-line, and make a donation. Maybe we can't save the last wolverine, but shame on us, if we don't try.

The lives of wolverines more amazing than you could possibly guess. So are the people who study them. Chadwick was the perfect person to write this book. I took 4 days to read the last chapter because I didn't want it to end.

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