

### 1.2 Endangered Species

- In Canada there are more than 250 species at-risk
- These species are classified as vulnerable, threatened, extirpated, endangered or extinct.
- Examples: eastern cougar is endangered in Ontario, Inner Bay of Fundy salmon are endangered in NB.

### 1.3 Extinction in the Modern World

- Extinction happens naturally but the rate of extinction has grown rapidly due to human activities
- There have been about 20 mass extinctions where almost all life on Earth has been wiped out. These were caused by large disasters like asteroids hitting the Earth.

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- The mass extinction occurring now is caused by human activities like habitat destruction, climate change and pollution
- **biodiversity** refers to the number of different species found in an ecosystem
- extinction reduces the biodiversity and can have major effects on the food web. For example, sea otters on the Pacific coasts were overhunted **p.18**

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### 1.5 Ecology

- Why don't we get rid of all the pests in the world? They have a place and a **niche** (role) in our ecosystems.
- **Ecology** is the study of how organisms interact with each other in ecosystems.
- Living factors that affect organisms are called **biotic factors** and non-living factors are **abiotic factors**. List two biotic and two abiotic factors that affect wolves.
- A **population** is a group of organisms of the same species and a **community** is the collection of all the populations. An **ecosystem** includes the community and the physical environment; all biotic and abiotic factors.

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- to restore balance in ecosystems, species are being reintroduced to their natural habitat
- endangered species are captured for breeding

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- biodiversity is greater in ecotones
- an **ecotone** is the area between ecosystems. Ex. forest/grassland

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- ecotones usually provide food and cover (shelter) so there are more species in these areas.

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