WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

WCS

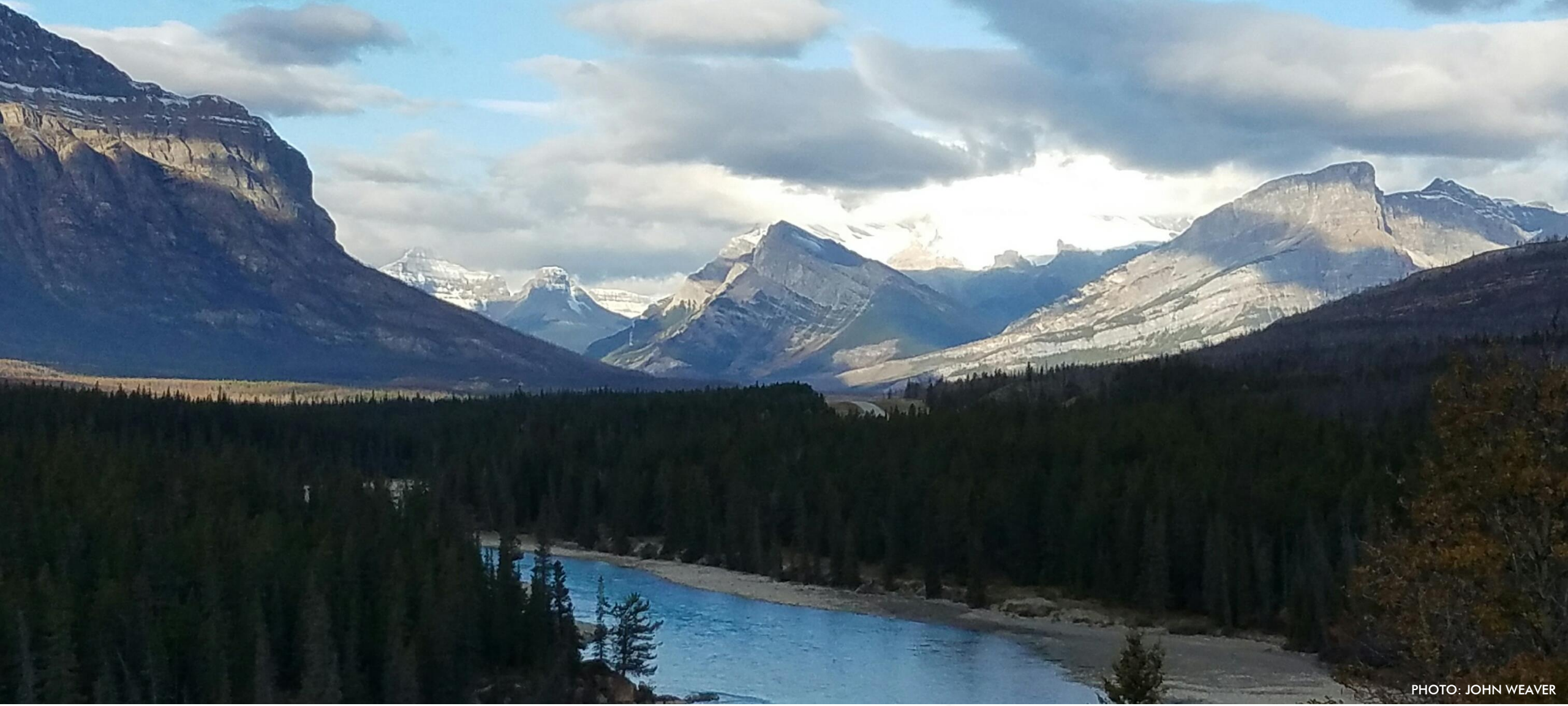
125 YEARS

POSTCARDS FROM THE FIELD

GALA 2020

Conserving Canada's Vast Wild Places

PHOTO: RYAN DICKIE/@WINTERHAWKSTUDIO



WCS Canada has provided scientific blueprints to protect some of the world's biggest wild areas in the country. The Bighorn Backcountry is an area that contains the headwaters of rivers that serve much of southern Alberta and is under consideration for formal protection.

PHOTO: SUSAN MORSE

We deliver the scientific evidence for why and how to protect vulnerable species like caribou. **Caribou** are reliant on large unfragmented areas of mature boreal forests, many of which are being fragmented by industrial activity.

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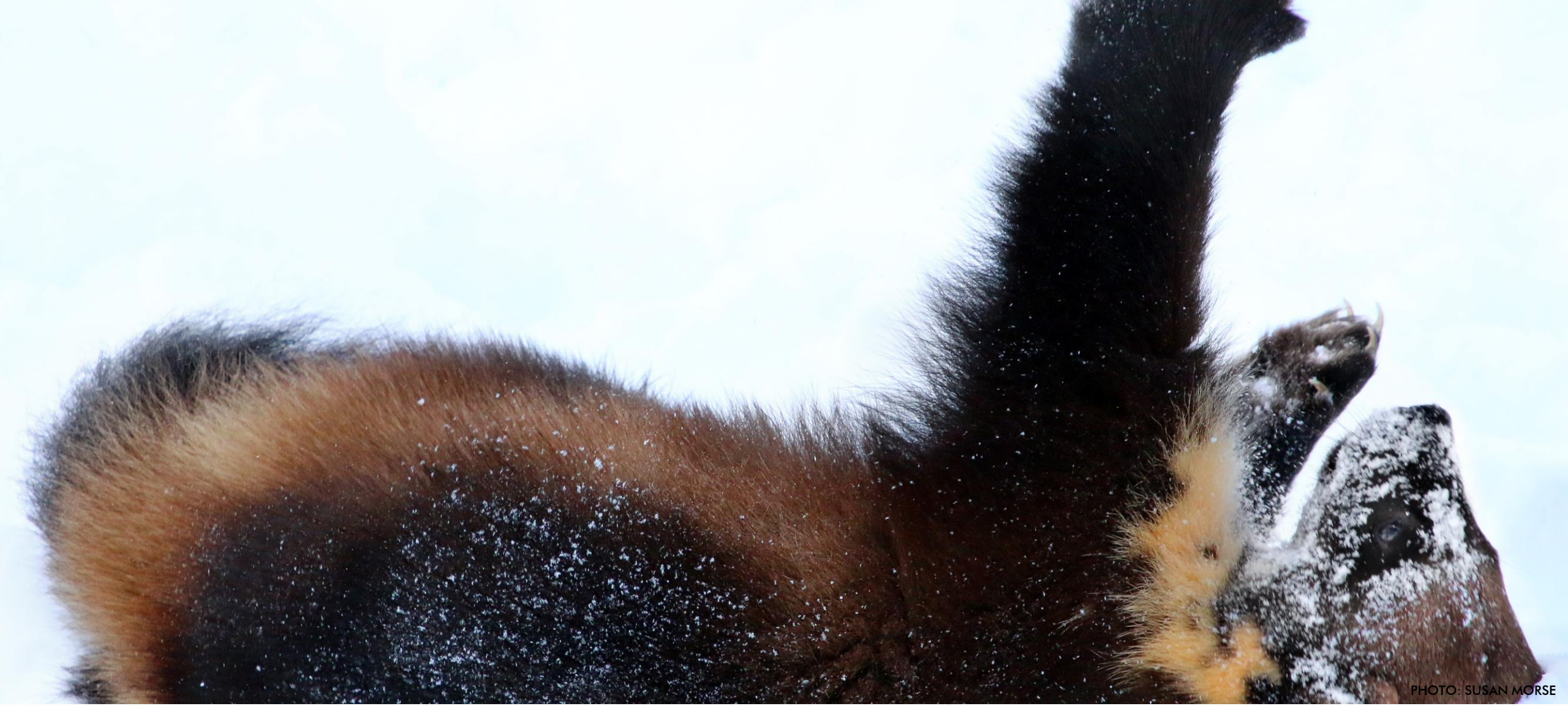
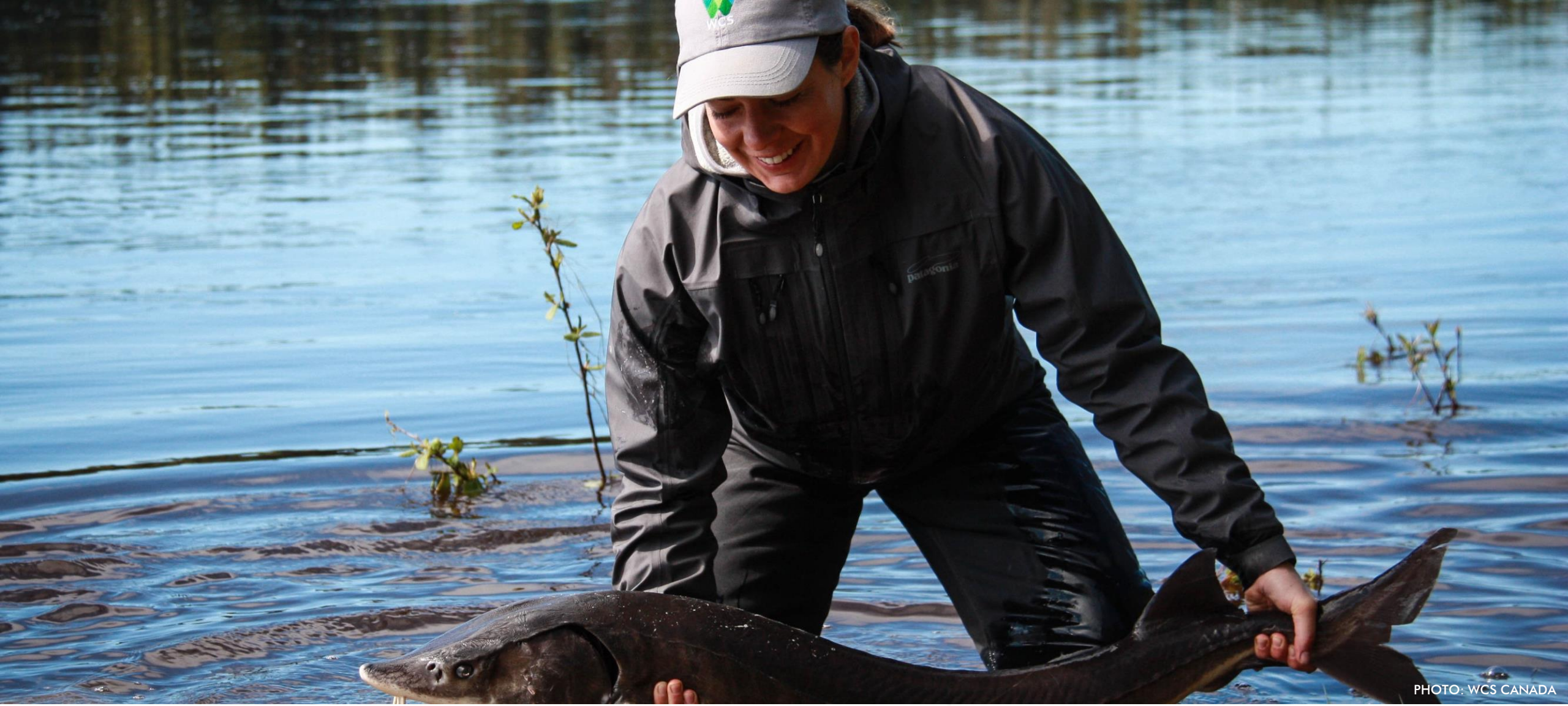


Wolverine. Since 2002, WCS has been studying and advising on management of boreal forest-dwelling wolverines, which are highly elusive and very sensitive to disturbance, making them tricky to track.

PHOTO: MARTIN DAVIS

Bats. North American bats are being decimated by a disease – white-nose syndrome – that causes them to waste valuable energy during winter hibernation. WCS is at the forefront of monitoring and disease surveillance in western Canada before it arrives.



And even fish, like this **lake sturgeon,** which can live to be over 100 years old and migrate long distances. WCS has co-created research with a First Nation in Ontario to understand how hydro-development can accommodate movements and reproduction of this sensitive species.

We make the case for the importance of big wild areas, like the globally significant **far north in Ontario**. This is one of the largest areas of undisturbed boreal forest and wild rivers on the planet, with the second largest peatland complex – a carbon storehouse.

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Southern Yukon and Northern British Columbia. This mountainous boreal landscape is a significant stronghold for biodiversity and offers important climate ramps for wildlife coping with a rapidly changing climate.

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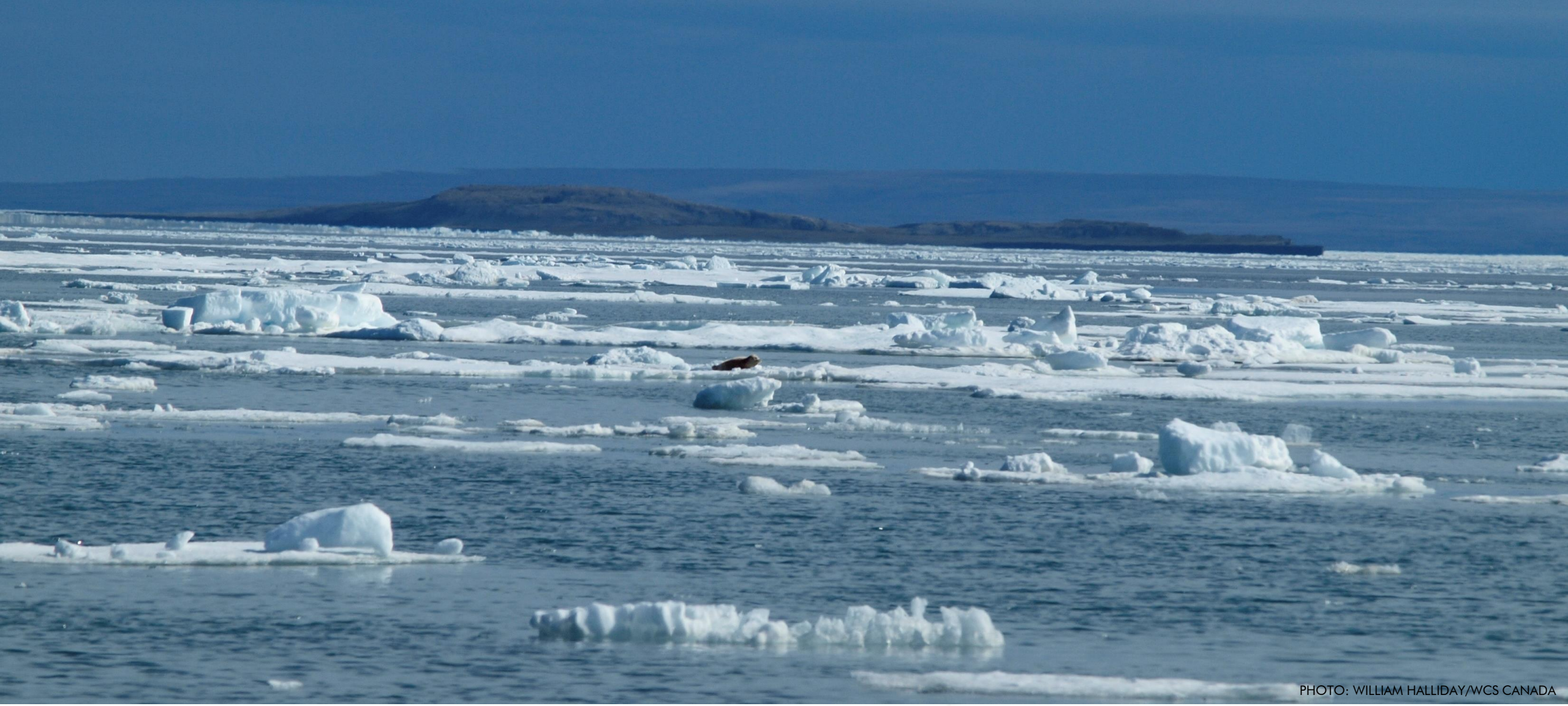

PHOTO: WILLIAM HALLIDAY/WCS CANADA

And the **Western Arctic**, where climate change is already having a huge impact and ship traffic is increasing as ice cover melts away.

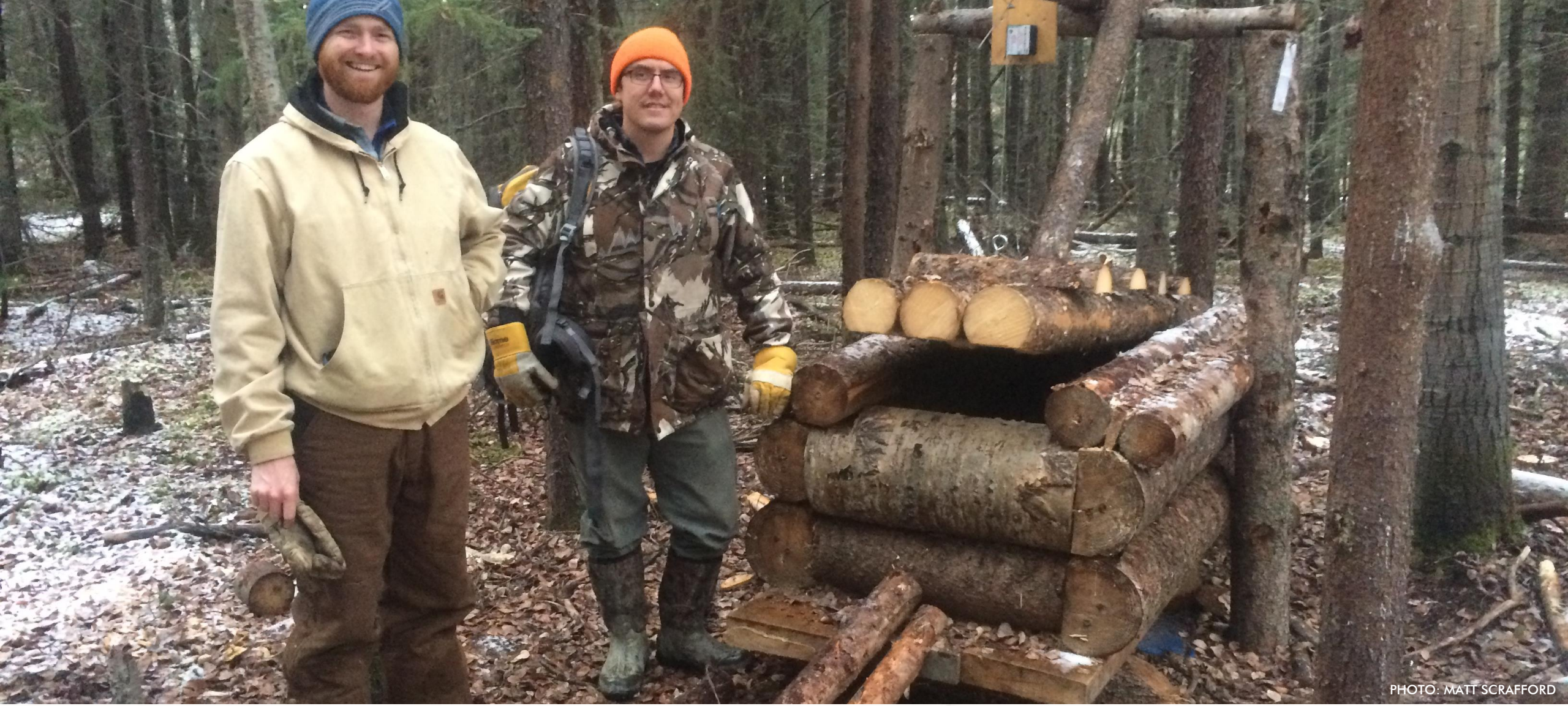

PHOTO: MATT SCRAFFORD

Our scientists are **on the ground**. Live trapping wolverines and outfitting them with GPS collars is one way we are assessing the movements of these elusive animals.

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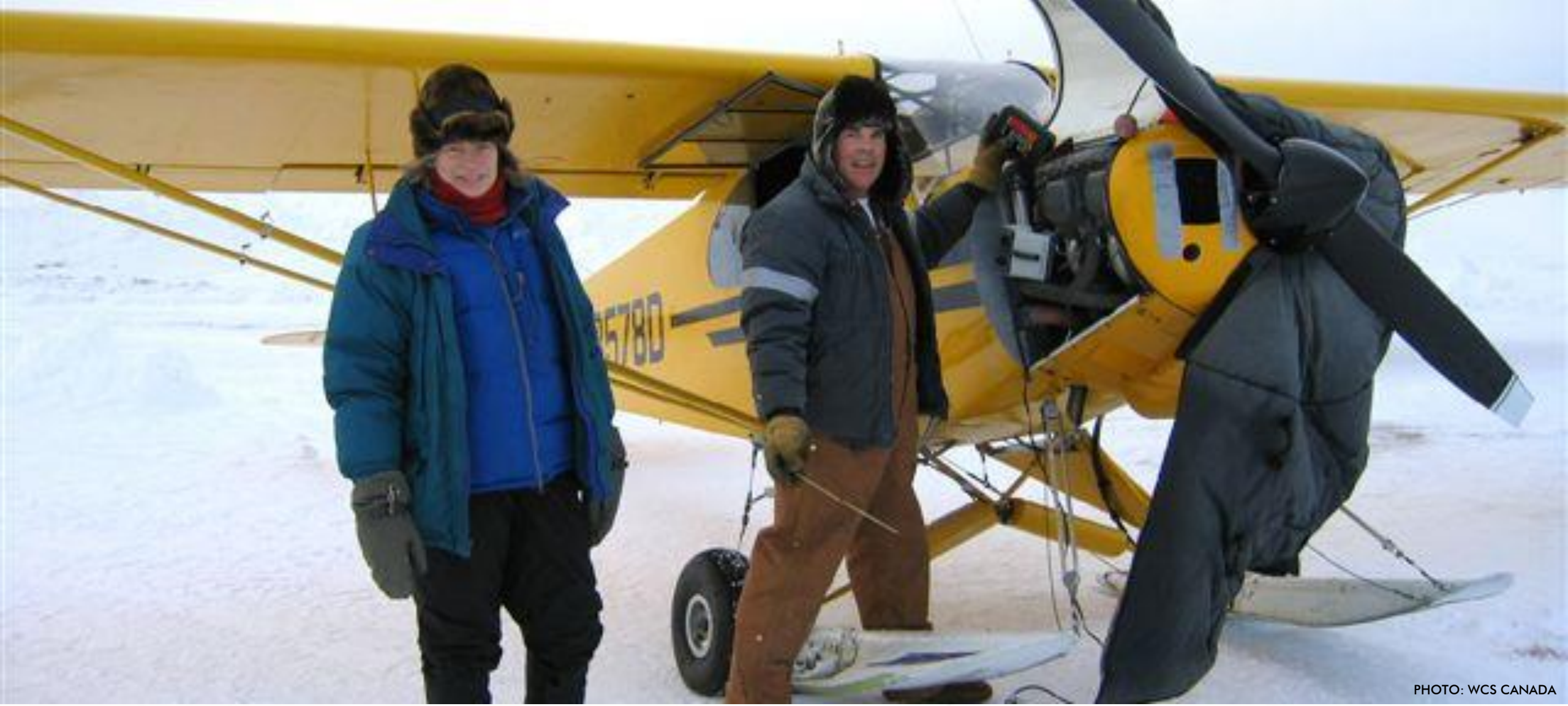

PHOTO: WCS CANADA

In the air. Aerial surveys have helped us better understand the health of both caribou and wolverine populations across Ontario's vast northern forests.

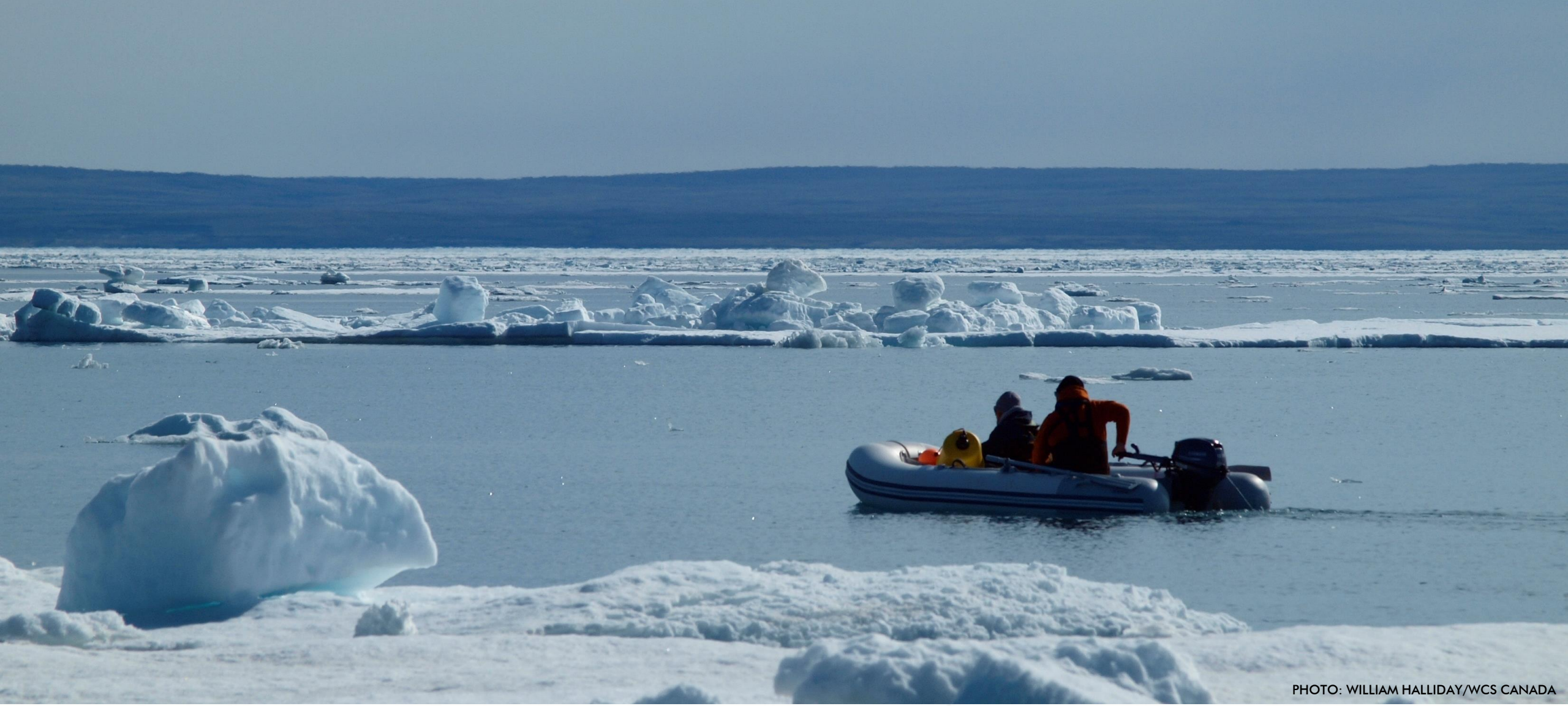

PHOTO: WILLIAM HALLIDAY/WCS CANADA

On the water. By deploying acoustic recorders in the Western Arctic ocean, we can track the movement of whales and seals in an area experiencing rapid change.

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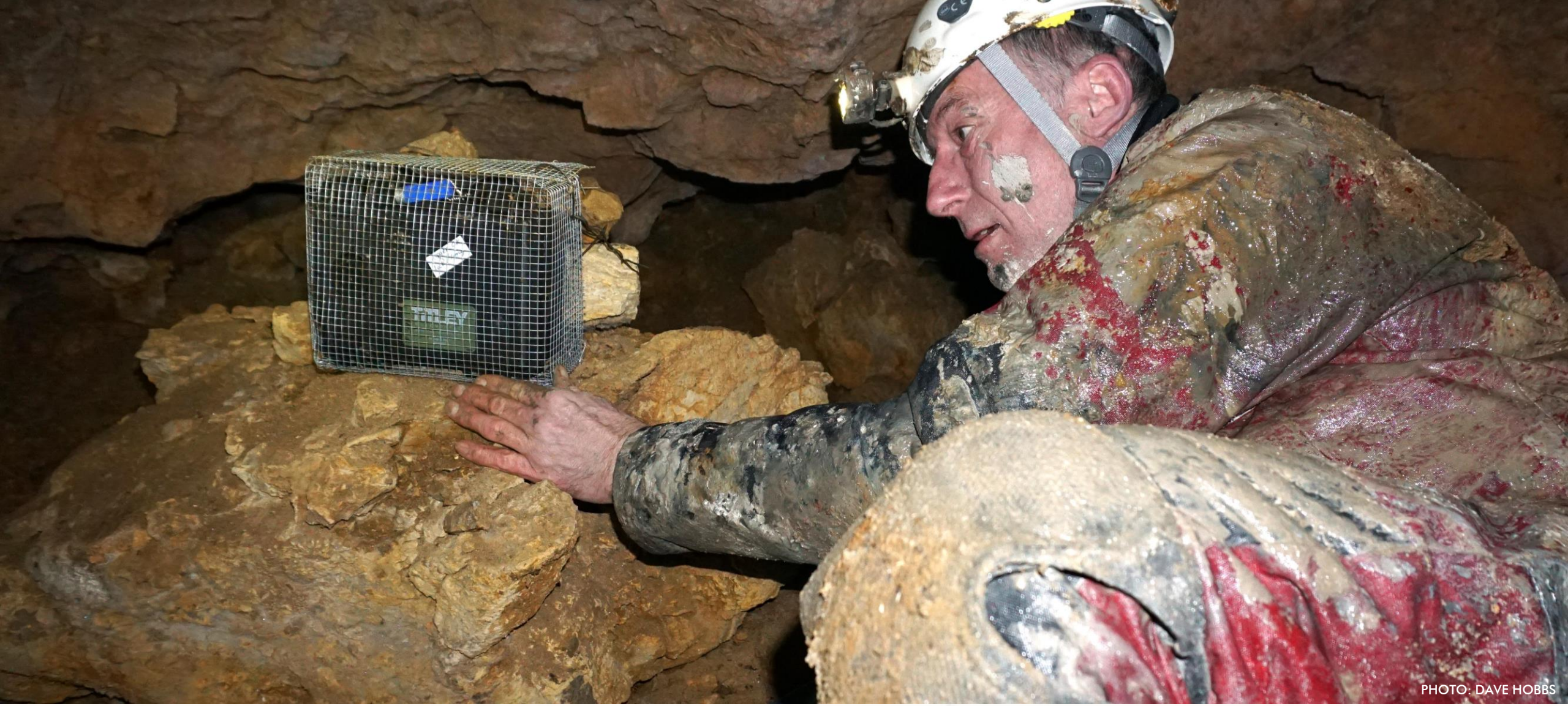

PHOTO: DAVE HOBBS

And underground. We are also using sound to record the movement and species of bats inhabiting caves and old mines across British Columbia.

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PHOTO: SUSAN MORSE

We Stand for Wildlife across Canada

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