Our Project
Monitoring gray wolf populations with capture and radiocollaring techniques can be difficult due to the animal’s behavior and logistical and budgetary challenges. Alternatives to radiocollaring are available, however, and could provide critical information on the distribution and abundance of wolves in southwest Alberta. We are developing and testing a framework that can use data from multiple survey methods to estimate the distribution and abundance of wolves annually in southwest Alberta. Summer 2013 was our second year surveying and collecting genetic samples from scats at predicted wolf pack rendezvous sites. Additionally, we surveyed big game hunters for wolf sightings after the 2012 hunting season and will survey them again following the 2013 hunting season. We will continue to survey for wolves and test and refine our approach through 2014. The goal of our project is to generate a reliable framework that wildlife managers can use to monitor wolf abundance and distribution in southwest Alberta.

Study Area
Our study area extends from the International border to Highway 1 and is bordered to the east by Highways 6 and 22, but does include the Porcupine Hills. We surveyed for wolves at predicted rendezvous sites throughout the study area, although accessibility was limited in some areas due to the June floods. Big game hunters were surveyed across the entire study area.

Results from summer field surveys and hunter surveys
- 301 potential wolf rendezvous sites surveyed in summer 2013 (see map on reverse)
- 415 genetic samples collected for DNA analysis
- 4 litters of pups detected
- 161 hunters reported seeing 2+ wolves during 2012 hunting season
- Based on the genetic results from our surveys, we detected a minimum of 45 wolves during summer 2012 between the International border and the Highwood River (including Porcupine Hills). Laboratory analysis of DNA from samples collected in 2013 is underway.

For a full 2013 survey report please see our website: [www.umt.edu/mcwru/personnel/ausband/default.aspx](http://www.umt.edu/mcwru/personnel/ausband/default.aspx)

We thank leaseholders who were generous with their time and granted us permission to access lease lands for survey work. We look forward to working with you in the future.

And remember – We want your wolf sightings! Please use the enclosed contact information to let us know where and when you have seen wolves. Thank you.