

FACT SHEET

Wild Pigs across the Métis Homeland (Boar, Wild Boar, Eurasian Boar)



WHAT ARE THEY?

Wild pigs are an invasive species that are either Eurasian boar, escaped domestic pigs, or hybrids. They either escaped or were intentionally released from farms and have established themselves in some provinces. These animals have easily adapted to their environment, with their long legs, dark hair and woolly underfur, they have no problems surviving our Canadian winters. Wild pigs have one of the highest reproductive rates of large mammals in the world, leading to large, well-established populations. They live in large groups called “sounders” that can be as big as 30 individuals.

mammals. Due to their wallowing and rooting behavior to find roots and insects, they can cause significant damage to native vegetation and can also have an impact crops/farm land. They impact bird populations by eating the eggs of ground nesting birds.

Wild pigs can also be carriers of various diseases, such as Brucellosis, Pseudorabies, Trichinellosis, and African Swine Fever, that impact people, wildlife and domestic animals.

WHY RECREATIONAL HUNTING OF WILD PIGS DOESN'T WORK?

Wild pigs are intelligent animals and learn quickly. If an individual or two is killed in a sounder, the sounder will disperse and go deeper into wetlands or forests, where they are harder to hunt. Once this has happened, they learn to avoid humans and alter their behaviour to do so. To eliminate wild pigs, a whole sounder needs to be eliminated, which takes knowledge of wild pig behaviour and needs to be an organized effort.

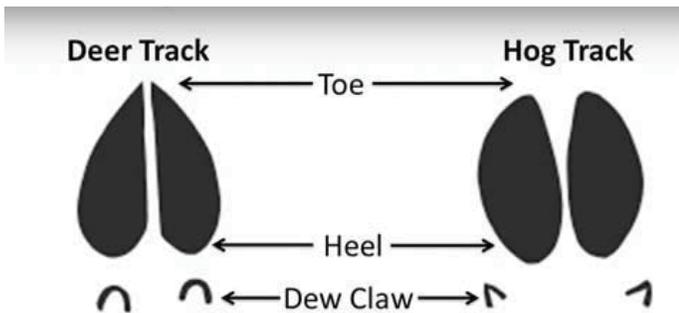


Photo credit: Kentucky Dept of Fish and Wildlife Resources

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Wild pigs pose a significant threat to our ecosystems as they are non-native, they have no natural predators, and they have quickly adapted to their environment. With their high reproductive rates and abundance of habitat, there is nothing to keep the wild pig population in check.

Wild pigs are omnivores and will consume plants, fungi, reptiles, amphibians, eggs and small





HOW TO REPORT A WILD PIG SIGHTING?

Alberta: 310-FARM (3276) or
af.wildboar@gov.ab.ca

B.C.: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species>

Ontario: 1-800-563-7711 or
info@invadingspecies.com

Saskatchewan: 1-888-935-0000 or
customer.service@scic.ca

For More Information, Check Out:

Wild Boar at large: an invasive pest in Alberta
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/wild-boar-at-large-an-invasive-pest-in-alberta-2020>

Saskatchewan Feral Wild Boar Control Program
<https://www.scic.ca/wildlife-damage/program-overview/feral-wild-boar-control-program>

B.C. Invasive Species Alert! Feral Pigs
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/alerts/feral_pig_alert.pdf

Wild Pigs in Ontario
<https://www.ofah.org/issues/wild-pigs-in-ontario/>

