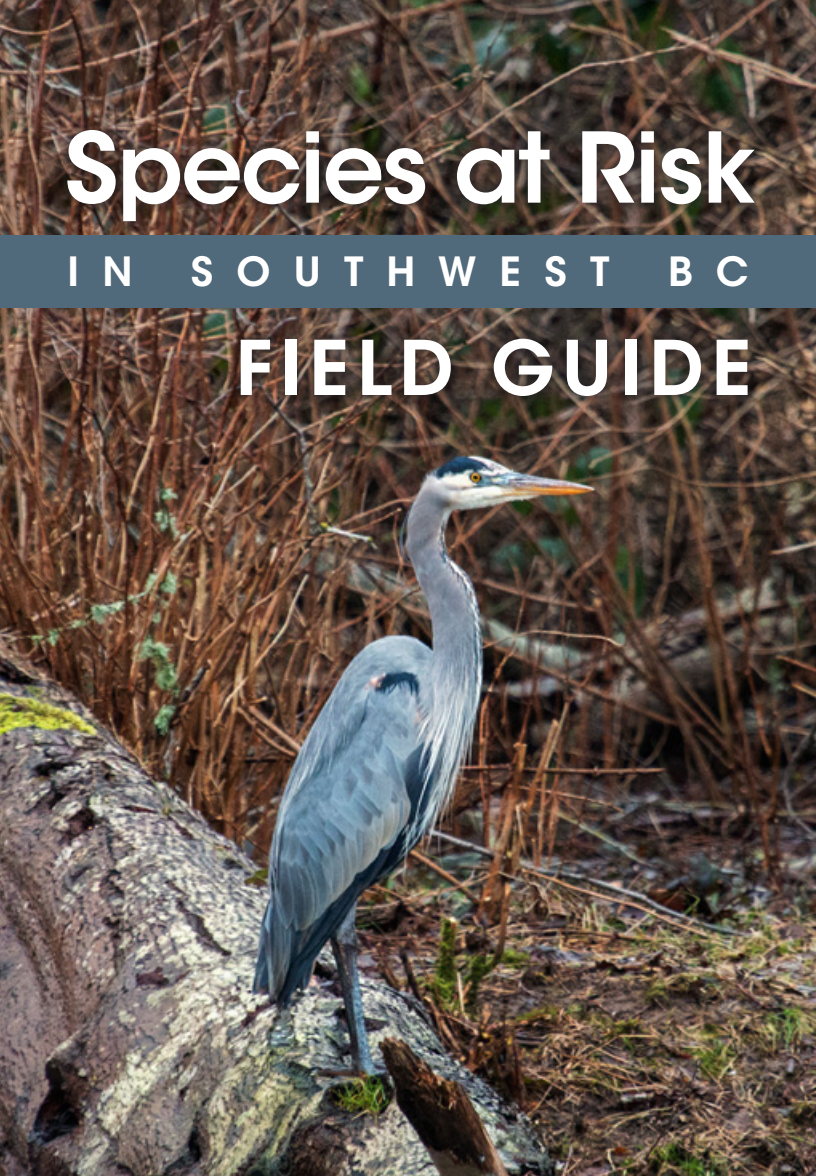
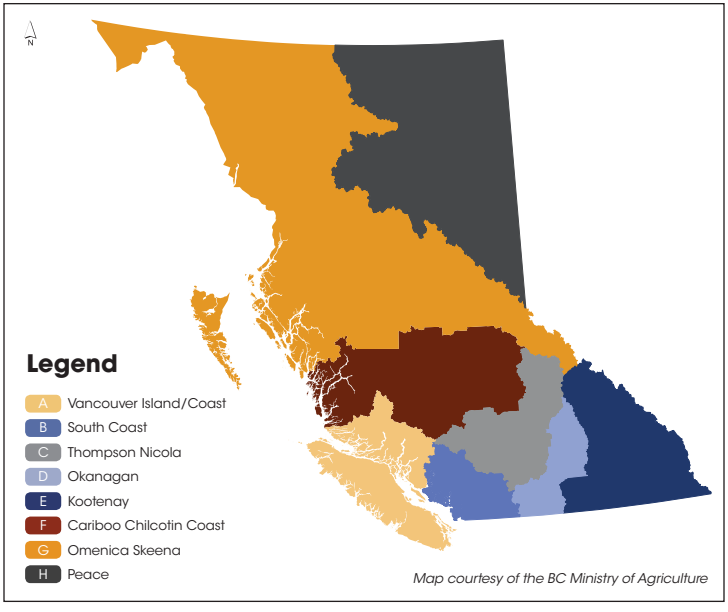
Species at Risk

IN SOUTHWEST BC

FIELD GUIDE





Map courtesy of the BC Ministry of Agriculture

Definitions: Species at Risk Status

Extinct - A wildlife species that no longer exists.

Extirpated - A wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere.

Endangered - A wildlife species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

Threatened - A wildlife species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.

Special Concern - A wildlife species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

How to Use this Guide

This guide organizes species alphabetically. To find out which species may be found in your area, refer to the coloured map on the left and look for the corresponding colour on the bottom corner of each species page.

I Saw One! What Now?

Some species at risk are very rare, hard to see, or are found in only a few places. Other species at risk may be abundant in some places, are easy to spot, or can be found throughout BC. Whichever the case, follow these steps if you think you've seen a species at risk:

- Take a picture! Include a common object in the picture for scale, if possible.
- Document where and when you saw it. Be as specific as possible (GPS points are great!).
- Report the sighting to the BC Conservation Data Centre at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/wildlife/wsi/incidental_obs.htm
- Contact Environment and Climate Change Canada if you observe any threats to the species or its habitat at: ec.ep.rpy-sar.pyr.ec@canada.ca
- If the species or its habitat is found on land you own or manage, please see the appendix of this guide to learn more about the *Species at Risk Act* and how it applies on private land.

2020 Edition • Cover Photo: Great Blue Heron, *fannini subspecies*, © Ross Vennesland

About this Guide

Currently there are ~200 species at risk in British Columbia that are listed under the Species at Risk Act. The purpose of this guide is to share information about the 114 terrestrial species at risk found in southwest BC. Lands surrounding the Salish Sea are home to some of the rarest and most unique ecosystems in the province, and they are at risk of being lost forever. Actions you take in your community can help ensure species at risk found here and future generations continue to co-exist.

Most species included in this guide have recovery or management plans available online. These documents contain information about the species and what it needs to survive or recover. This pocket guide provides a few highlights from those documents to help you identify these species at risk, find the places where they live, and learn about threats they face.

Threats to species are broadly grouped in this guide to help people working in those sectors identify which species they want to learn more about. Not all types of activities carried out by a given industry or sector represent a threat to the species. Some activities may benefit species at risk (e.g., protecting habitat by staying on trails when hiking or cycling, restoring habitat by planting native plant and pollinator gardens, and protecting wildlife from direct harm by keeping cats indoors, using window collision deterrents, driving cautiously to prevent vehicle collisions) while others may harm species at risk (e.g., removing native plants, channelizing streams, planting invasive species). If you would like more details on particular species at risk, please visit: www.sararegistry.gc.ca to find the recovery or management plans.

Note: This guide provides a very brief overview of key topics included in the recovery document for each species and should not be considered a replacement for the recovery documents.

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Ancient Murrelet

(Special Concern)

The Ancient Murrelet is a small seabird, ~25 cm (10") in length. Adults are mostly grey and black with white undersides. It nests in burrows and feeds in the ocean.

The Ancient Murrelet is found on and around Haida Gwaii during the breeding season.

© Dan Tallman

HABITAT

- Forest floors (primarily on Haida Gwaii) with soft soils for nesting burrows
- Ocean habitats for feeding (in winter ranges across the entire BC coast)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Introduced predators at breeding colonies
- Fisheries practices that result in bird mortality from bycatch
- Development and industrial activities that cause loss of forest habitats

Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger Beetle

(Threatened)

The Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger Beetle is a medium sized, dull black, flightless beetle 14-18 mm (~0.55-0.71") in length.

Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger Beetle is found in southwestern BC in a small area of the Georgia Basin.

© Andy Teucher

HABITAT

- Low elevation coastal terrain, less than 20 m (65') above sea level and within 3 km (1.9 miles) of the saltwater shoreline
- Sandy areas near beaches with little vegetation, open grassy areas, coastal bluffs, meadows, open forests and older agricultural fields

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by agricultural and urban development
- Pesticide and herbicide use
- Disturbances from recreational activities

Banded Cord-moss

(Special Concern)

Banded Cord-moss is a pale green-orange moss, ~3 mm (~0.1') tall. Its leaves are crowded together at the top of the stem and are ~5-9 mm (~0.2-0.4") in length.

Banded Cord-moss is found along the southwestern BC coast and in one small area in the Kootenays.

© Tab Tannery, Flickr

HABITAT

- Mostly Garry Oak ecosystem and some other forests with an open canopy
- Partially shaded, seasonally wet areas with rock outcrops

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by urban and highway development
- Habitat damage caused by recreation and grazing waterfowl
- Increasing drought caused by climate change

Band-tailed Pigeon

(Special Concern)

The Band-tailed Pigeon is ~40 cm (~16") in length. It looks similar to the introduced Rock Pigeon (seen in cities) but it is larger, lighter grey, and has a purple-grey head with a white line along the back of its neck. It gets its name from the grey band on the end of its dark tail.

The Band-tailed Pigeon is found on the southern coast and islands of BC with smaller numbers extending eastward.

© Jeanne Ross

HABITAT

- Forest edges and openings, temperate evergreen rainforest, urban yards and parks, golf courses, orchards, and agricultural lands
- Mineral sites and underground springs with minerals

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by residential development and industrial activities
- Forestry practices that result in fewer fruit-bearing plants and older trees used for nesting
- Direct and indirect pesticide poisoning at foraging and mineral sites
- Parasite infection (e.g., trichomoniasis)

Bank Swallow

(Threatened)

The Bank Swallow is a small songbird ~12 cm (5") in length. It has brown upperparts, white underparts and a dark breast band. In flight, it has quick erratic wing beats, and buzzy, chattering vocalizations.

The Bank Swallow is found across BC.

© Melissa Hafting

HABITAT

- Sites with vertical banks, including riverbanks, lakes and ocean bluffs, gravel quarries, road cuts, and stock piles of soil
- Open areas such as grasslands and meadows, and large wetlands

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of nesting and hunting habitats caused by erosion and flood control, gravel extraction, and conversion of pastures to crops and forest
- Large scale loss of insects

Barn Owl
Western population

(Threatened)

The Barn Owl is ~37 cm (~15″) in length with a wingspan of ~120 cm (~4′). It has a distinctive, pale, heart-shaped face and dark eyes. Its feathers are spotted and multi-coloured, including grey, brown, tan, and white.

The Barn Owl is found in southwestern BC.

© Connor Stefanison

HABITAT

- Nests in human-made structures (e.g., nest boxes, barns, silos) and trees with cavities or holes
- Hunts in grasslands, meadows, marshlands, and open farmland

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by urban development
- Conversion of open farmland to more intensive agriculture (e.g., berries, greenhouses), which causes a loss of habitat for hunting
- Demolition of structures that had been used for nesting
- Being hit or run over by vehicles while it is hunting
- Indirect poisoning from rodenticides

Barn Swallow

(Threatened)

The Barn Swallow is a songbird15-18 cm (~6-7″) in length. It has a chestnut throat and forehead and steely-blue upperparts. Males also have dark chestnut underparts and females have light cinnamon underparts. It has a long, deeply forked tail. The male's tail is longer than the female's tail.

© Connor Stefanison

The Barn Swallow is found throughout BC.

HABITAT

- Human made structures, such as barns, garages, houses, bridges, and road culverts
- Open grassy fields, pastures, agricultural crops, lake and river shorelines, wetlands and cleared rights-of-way

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of nesting and hunting habitats caused by some changes in farming practices
- Large scale loss of insects

Batwing Vinyl Lichen

(Endangered)

The Batwing Vinyl Lichen is 4-5 cm (1.5-2″) in length. The main body of the lichen is dark blue-grey or brown, somewhat see-through, shiny, and hairless. It is jelly-like when wet and finely wrinkled when dry. It has small rounded lobes that can break off and make new lichen and button-like fruiting bodies.

© Tab Tannery

The Batwing Vinyl Lichen is found in southwestern BC where it is restricted to southeast Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands.

HABITAT

- Low elevations on damp, exposed south-facing rock outcrops

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by urban development, some agricultural activities, and competition from mosses
- Habitat damage caused by droughts or storms and flooding as a result of climate change

Bearded Owl-clover

(Endangered)

The Bearded Owl-clover is a small, annual plant, ~10-50 cm (~4 to 20″) tall with tiny hairs on its leaves and stems. Its leaves are ~2-5 cm (~0.8-2″) long and alternate. Its flowers are white or pink, club-shaped, and group together to form a floral spike at the top of the stem.

The Bearded Owl-clover is found in the Victoria area along the south coast, BC.

© W Douglas

HABITAT

- Rocky habitats along shorelines, associated with areas dominated by grasses and forbs.
- Low sites, less than 10 m (~33′) above sea level and within 30 m (~98′) of the shoreline

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Recreational activities, specifically being trampled by foot traffic
- Grazing by non-migratory, introduced Canada Geese
- Suppression and competition from invasive alien plants

Bear's-foot Sanicle

(Threatened)

The Bear's-foot Sanicle is a low-growing perennial wildflower. Its lower leaves are round with jagged edges. It has many small bright yellow flowers on branches 5-30 cm (~2-12") long that produce fruit with hooked bristles.

© Matt Fairbams

Bear's-foot Sanicle is found in the Victoria area along the south coast, BC.

HABITAT

- Drought-prone maritime meadows at low elevations along shorelines
- Areas with lots of forbs and grasses, less than 10 m (~33') above sea level

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by invasive species
- Grazing by non-migratory, introduced Canada Geese
- Recreational activities that cause trampling by humans

Black Swift

(Endangered)

The Black Swift is the largest swift in North America, ~18 cm (~7") in length. It is almost entirely black. It has long, pointed wings and a notched tail.

The Black Swift is found across BC.

© Andrew Spencer

HABITAT

- Their nesting habitat is near or behind waterfalls and in caves, located in canyons and sometimes on sea cliffs
- Their nest sites are characterized by presence of flowing water, high relief, inaccessibility, darkness, and an unobstructed flight path

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Airborne pollutants that kill insects which Black Swifts hunt
- Reduced stream flow at nest sites and a mismatch between the time food is available and the swift's breeding cycle caused by climate change

Black-footed Albatross

(Special Concern)

The Black-footed Albatross is ~74 cm (~29″) in length. Adults have dark brown feathers, with lighter areas around the base of the bill, under the eyes, and on the tail.

The Black-footed Albatross is found offshore of BC's coast.

© Catherine Jardine

HABITAT

- Pacific Ocean

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Longline fishing practices that result in this bird being caught as bycatch
- Ocean plastics, toxins, and chronic oil pollution

Blue-grey Taildropper

(Threatened)

The Blue-grey Taildropper slug is ~3 cm (~1″) in length. This slug has a slender body and grooved markings. It gets its name from its blue to blue-grey colour and its ability to leave behind its tail when escaping predators.

The Blue-grey Taildropper is found in a few locations on southern Vancouver Island, BC.

"Blue-grey Taildropper slug *(Prophysaon coeruleum)*" by Tab Tannery

HABITAT

- Damp coniferous or mixed-wood forests with fallen leaves and branches

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and damage caused by development or other changes in land use
- Competition and predation from introduced species
- Increasing severity of summer droughts

Bog Bird's-foot Trefoil

(Endangered)

The Bog Bird's-foot Trefoil is a low-growing, sprawling perennial herb with long stems ~15-60 cm (~6-24"). It has alternating leaves and the flower heads are yellow-cream with 3-12 flowers. The fruit is a long, slender pod 3-6 cm (~1-2.4") long.

© David A. Hofmann, Flickr

Bog Bird's-foot Trefoil is found on southeastern Vancouver Island near Nanaimo and Gabriola Island, BC.

HABITAT

- Wet meadows, along creeks, in wet ditches or in seepages

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss due to urban and residential development
- Off-road vehicles and other recreational activities that cause habitat loss and damage
- Activities that cause changes to natural groundwater flow

Brook Spike-primrose

(Endangered)

The Brook Spike-primrose is an annual herb 10-60 cm (~4-23.6") tall with small pink or white flowers. Its narrow leaves are jagged and hairy. The lower leaves are opposite and the uppers are alternate. This species may be mistaken for a Dense Spike-primrose, which grows in similar places.

Brook Spike-primrose is found at only two sites near Victoria, Vancouver Island, BC.

© Paul Slichter

HABITAT

- Seasonally damp meadows with open sites that dry up in summer

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and damage caused by residential and agricultural development and invasive species

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

(Special Concern)

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a medium sized shorebird with a buff, or cream, coloured face and underparts, and brown-black speckling on its wings and back.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers are found along the BC coast during migration.

© Ted Swem

HABITAT

- Tundra, used during breeding
- Grasslands and agricultural fields, used for stopovers during migration

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss due to change of use and loss of agricultural lands
- Agricultural practices that expose these birds to chemicals and reduce the amount of food

California Buttercup

(Endangered)

California Buttercup is a low growing, hairy perennial. It has many stems 15-50 cm long (~6-20"). The stems each have several shiny, lemon-yellow flowers in open clusters. The flowers have up to 16 petals, unlike other species of buttercup, which typically have only 5 petals. It is also distinguishable from similar buttercup species by the noticeably curved beak on the seeds.

© Calibas

The California Buttercup is found on the southeast coast of Vancouver Island, BC.

HABITAT

- Open coastal meadows on sea-side bluffs with wind and salt spray
- Areas within 100 m (328') of the coastline

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Encroachment and habitat loss from invasive plants
- Recreational activities such as camping, hiking and picnicking
- Decreased controlled fires which create favourable conditions for the California Buttercup

Cassin's Auklet

(Special Concern)

Cassin's Auklet is a small, chunky ground-nesting seabird. It is dark on top and lighter on the bottom with a small pale spot on the underside of its beak and above its eye.

Cassin's Auklet is found along the BC coast.

© Melissa Hafting

HABITAT

- Nests on coastal islands
- Coastal Pacific waters for feeding

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Oil spills
- Introduced predators onto island breeding colony (rats, raccoons, mink)
- Increases in ocean temperature, which reduces the amount of food, and increases in the number and strength of storms, both caused by climate change

Cliff Paintbrush

(Threatened)

Cliff Paintbrush is a perennial plant that is ~10-20 cm (~4-8") tall. It has multiple stems with a few small green flowers bunched together in a thick spike at the top of each stem surrounded by bright red leaves.

The Cliff Paintbrush is found in the mountains of BC's Chilliwack and Skagit River Valleys.

Castilleja rupicola (Scrophulariaceae); "Cliff paintbrush" Brent Miller

HABITAT

- Subalpine or alpine areas
- Open, moderately steep slopes
- Gravelly or stony soils, crevices on cliffs, rock outcrops, and high ridges

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by forestry or mining practices
- Recreational activities (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, off-roading) that damage individual plants

Coast Microseris

(Endangered)

Coast Microseris is a small stemless annual herb of the aster family with narrow leaves at the base of the plant, ~3-25 cm (~1-10") in length. Each plant develops a leafless flower stalk with a single yellow or orange flower.

© Matt Fairbarns

Coast Microseris is found on southeastern Vancouver Island and adjacent Gulf Islands, BC.

HABITAT

- Open rock bluffs without tall vegetation
- Shallow depressions in rocks close to ocean
- Typically within 50 m (164') of the coastline

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Encroachment and suppression by invasive alien plants
- Harm and disturbance caused by recreational activities and development related to recreation
- Habitat loss caused by urban development and road maintenance

Coastal Giant Salamander

(Threatened)

The Coastal Giant Salamander is the largest salamander in Canada. It is ~35 cm (~14") in length. It has a thick body and legs, a large head and a blunt snout. When living in water, they are dark grey on top with a light underside. Adults found on land have marbled skin with tan, copper or gold mixed with dark brown to grey.

© Hugh Griffith

The Coastal Giant Salamander is found in the Chilliwack River Valley of BC.

HABITAT

- Mostly aquatic, including small, shaded streams that are cool and clean, with rocky bottoms, many pools, and slow, choppy ripples
- Less common habitat includes damp, mature forest with decaying logs and leaves

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage to streams and forests caused by industrial and residential development activities
- A fungal disease spreading in frogs and salamanders
- Herbicides, pesticide run-off, and removal of stream side vegetation
- Introduced fish that eat young salamanders

Coastal Scouler's Catchfly

(Endangered)

The Coastal Scouler's Catchfly is a perennial herb 15-80 cm (~0.5-2.6') tall. The hairy leaves at the base of the plant are 6-20 cm (~2.5-8") long and 1.5 cm (~0.5') wide. It has green-white to purple flowers and forms a spike.

Coastal Scouler's Catchfly is found on islands close to Victoria, BC.

© Matthew Fairbarns

HABITAT

- Areas that are wet in winter and dry in summer
- Maritime meadows in grassy openings on gently sloping sites

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by fire suppression which helps introduced shrubs and native woody plants to grow
- Trail maintenance, including mowing and herbicide use
- Trampling by people

Coastal Tailed Frog

(Special Concern)

The Coastal Tailed Frog is only ~2-5 cm (~1- 2") in length. It can be tan, brown, olive green or rust coloured. Males have a short cone-shaped organ that looks like a tail.

The Coastal Tailed Frog is found in the Coast and Cascade mountain ranges of BC.

© Alexis McEwan

HABITAT

- Mountainous, damp older forests with lots of ground cover
- Cold, clear, swift mountain streams that have large, smooth stones and cobbles

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

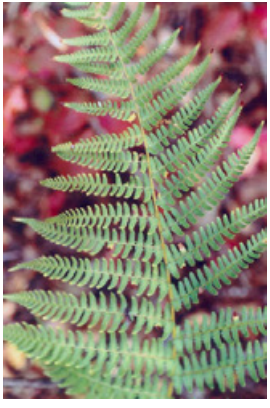
- Habitat loss or damage caused by forestry practices
- Habitat damage caused by activities, such as road building, that cause increased sand and gravel in streams
- Changes in stream flow and stability
- A fungal disease spreading in frogs and salamanders

Coastal Wood Fern

(Special Concern)

The Coastal Wood Fern is a stout, tufted fern ~70 cm (2.3') tall. The leaf veins spread forward and project to spine-like teeth. The underside of its fronds have lance-shaped, chestnut-coloured scales.

The Coastal Wood Fern is found on the southeastern coast of Vancouver Island, BC, especially on Hornby Island and Denman Island.



© Barbara J. Collins

HABITAT

- Generally south facing uncrowded wooded slopes with very dry to moderately dry and rapidly drained soil
- Rocky cliffs and outcrops with lots of shrubs

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Land clearing for development
- Erosion

Common Nighthawk

(Threatened)

The Common Nighthawk is ~21-25 cm (~8-10") in length. It is well camouflaged with its spotted dark brown, black, grey, white, and tan feathers. It has large eyes, a very small bill, and long, pointed wings with a wide white stripe underneath.

The Common Nighthawk is found throughout most of BC.

"Common Nighthawk" by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren

HABITAT

- Open areas such as beaches, forest clearings, wetlands, rocky outcrops, gravel roads, and railways

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Pesticide use that causes declining numbers of flying insect prey
- Habitat loss or damage caused by forestry practices or wildfires
- Being hit or run over by vehicles

Contorted-pod Evening-primrose

(Endangered)

Contorted-pod Evening-primrose is a wiry and branched sprawling herb with deep red stems, leaves, and capsules. It is ~40 cm (~16') in length. The tiny flowers have four yellow petals that fade to red and the fruits are small twisted pods.

© Pippi Lawn

Contorted-pod Evening-primrose is found along the coasts of southeastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, BC.

HABITAT

- Dry, open, and sparsely vegetated sandy habitats near the ocean

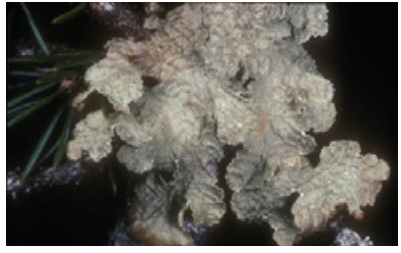
THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat damage caused by land development and recreational activities such as off-road vehicles, and heavy trampling from dogs and hikers
- Invasive plant competition

Cryptic Paw Lichen

(Special Concern)

This Lichen is ~5 cm (~2") across and has a loose, rounded leafy surface that is pale yellow or blue-grey. The lower surface is pale tan and black toward the center.



© Stephen Sharnoff

Cryptic Paw Lichen is found in the intermountain valleys of the Coast Range and the Columbia Mountains in BC.

HABITAT

- Humid, old forests at lower elevations on mountains that do not have a summer drought

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of old growth forest caused by logging

Deltoid Balsamroot

(Endangered)

Deltoid Balsamroot is a perennial herb in the aster family with 50 cm (~20') long and 20 cm (~8') wide triangular leaves at the base. Its flowers are bright yellow with radiating petals and it has small, dry, smooth fruits that hold a single seed.

Deltoid Balsamroot is found along the southeast coast of Vancouver Island to Campbell River, BC.

© Hans Roemer

HABITAT

- Meadows or woodlands with lots of Garry Oak and/or Douglas-fir

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by residential and recreational development
- Invasive species
- Being eaten by deer

Dense Spike-primrose

(Endangered)

The Dense Spike-primrose is an annual herb 15-100 cm (0.5-3.2') in height. It is covered in white hairs and has long leaves with smooth or jagged edges. It has small, white to rose-purple flowers arranged in a number of leafy spikes along the sides and top of the plant.

The Dense Spike-primrose is found in the southern Gulf Islands and southern Vancouver Island, BC.

© Tab Tannery

HABITAT

- Low elevation (< 100 m (328')) open areas that are wet in the winter, damp in the spring and very dry during the summer, including roadside ditches and open meadows

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by agricultural, residential and industrial development
- Fire suppression that causes changes in the environment that help this plant grow
- Habitat degradation from invasive plant species
- Habitat damage and trampling from off-road vehicles

Dense-flowered Lupine

(Endangered)

The Dense-flowered Lupine is an annual plant, ~20-30 cm (8-12″) tall. The plant is completely covered in with hairs, except for the upper side of the leaves, giving it an easily identifiable look. Its white-yellow pea-like flowers grow in sets on upright stalks and it has hairy egg-shaped pods with one to two dark seeds.

© Matthew Fairbarns

The Dense-flowered Lupine is found in the Victoria area on Vancouver Island in southern BC.

HABITAT

- Eroding banks and benches along the shoreline above the ocean splash zone
- Dry to damp grassy openings and clay cliffs

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Residential and commercial development, and recreational use causing habitat loss and damage
- Encroachment and competition from exotic shrubs and grasses

Dromedary Jumping-slug

(Threatened)

The Dromedary Jumping-slug is ~60 mm (~0.2″) in length. It is grey with cream-coloured spots and the underside is bright yellow or orange. It has a large hump on its back and a horn at the tip of its tail.

© Kristiina Ovaska

The Dromedary Jumping-slug is found on southern and western Vancouver Island, BC.

HABITAT

- Damp old-growth and mature forests with high treetop cover and lots of downed wood
- Low elevations (the fog zone) and high elevations (the cloud zone) up to about 1200 m (~3937′)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and damage from forestry and other types of land development

Dun Skipper
vestris subspecies

(Threatened)

Dun Skipper, *vestris* subspecies, is a butterfly with a wingspan of ~2-3 cm (~1"). It has dark, purple-brown wings and a yellow-orange body.

The Dun Skipper is found on the islands and mainland of southwestern BC.

"Dun skipper in purple vitex" by Vicki DeLoach

HABITAT

- Open forests, grasslands, wetlands, wet areas (e.g., seepages) and roadsides
- Sedges and grasses are the most common host plants for larvae
- Various flowering plants (e.g., Spreading Dogbane, Alfalfa) provide nectar for adults

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and damage caused by residential and industrial development
- Use of pesticides to control European Gypsy Moth

Dwarf Sandwort

(Endangered)

The Dwarf Sandwort is short-lived herb, ~2-5 cm (~0.8-2") tall. It has small white flowers and either a single stem or a few waxy, erect stems that are simple or branched. The fruit is a tiny egg-shaped capsule with an enlarged base.

The Dwarf Sandwort is found in a small area on southern Vancouver Island, BC.

© Matthew Fairbarns

HABITAT

- Sloping seepage sites on a rocky maritime headland

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Small population size
- Being trampled by boaters or damaged by other animals

Edwards' Beach Moth

(Endangered)

Edwards' Beach Moth is a medium-sized moth with a wingspan of ~3-4 cm (~1.5"). Its head, body, and antennae are a brown-grey colour.

Edward's Beach Moth is found in a few locations on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands in southwestern BC.

© Nick Page

HABITAT

- Sheltered, sparsely-vegetated sandy beaches, beach dunes, and sandy beaches along salt marshes

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by development and recreational activities
- Invasive species such as Scotch Broom and Beach Grass
- Habitat damage caused by deer grazing

Evening Grosbeak

(Special Concern)

The Evening Grosbeak is a stocky, boldly coloured songbird with a large green-yellow bill, black tail, and black wings with a white patch. Adult males have a yellow body and a dark brown head with a bright yellow eyebrow. Adult females and juveniles are grey-brown with yellow on the back of the neck and sides.

The Evening Grosbeak is found across BC.

© Cephas

HABITAT

- Open, mature mixed wood forests, with lots of fir trees and/or White Spruce and Boreal Forests
- Gardens with bird feeders

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of Spruce Budworm, its main source of food
- Death caused by striking windows when visiting bird feeders
- Habitat loss caused by forestry
- Being hit by vehicles
- Increased droughts caused by climate change

Foothill Sedge

(Endangered)

The Foothill Sedge is a perennial plant that grows in loose tufts up to 80 cm (~31") tall. The flat leaves are ~2 mm (~0.1") wide and there are 2-3 leaves on each stem. The pale green–pale brown flowers are clustered on the flower heads at the ends of the stems.

© P. Lawn - Parks Canada

The Foothill Sedge is found on the southeastern coast of Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands, BC.

HABITAT

- Found only at elevations of less than 100 m (328') and generally within 0.5 km (0.3 miles) of the coastline
- Associated with shrubby margins of moist meadows

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Competition with invasive plants
- Habitat loss caused by fire suppression which increases the amount of shrubs
- Habitat loss caused by urban expansion and development

Fragrant Popcornflower

(Endangered)

The Fragrant Popcornflower is an annual herb 10-45 cm (~4-18") tall with white, fragrant 5 petal flowers with a yellow center. The lower leaves are long and narrow while the upper leaves are shorter and wider. The plant can produce many flower clusters.

© Rod Gilbert

The Fragrant Popcorn Flower is found on BC's Hornby Island.

HABITAT

- Low-lying, wet areas in field and coastal-meadows

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

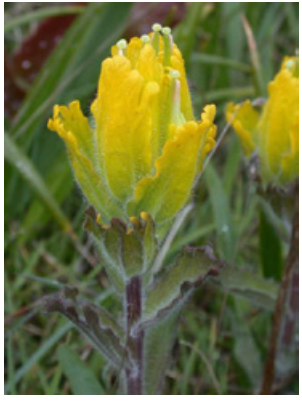
- Habitat loss, fragmentation and changes in water flows caused by development

Golden Paintbrush

(Endangered)

The Golden Paintbrush is a multi-stemmed, erect, perennial herb 10-50 cm (~4-20") in height and is covered in soft, somewhat sticky hairs. The leaves are downy and are arranged alternately along the stem. The lower leaves are long and narrow, while the upper leaves are somewhat oval-shaped, with one to three short lobes on each side. The flowers are small and are hidden by golden yellow specialized leaves.

The Golden Paintbrush is found on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands in BC.



© Wylie thomas

HABITAT

- Low elevation (>30 m (98')) maritime meadows

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss due to residential and recreational use, fire suppression activities, and the introduction of exotic species
- Marine pollution

Gray's Desert-parsley

(Threatened)

Gray's Desert-parsley is a large, fluffy perennial herb with fluffy, finely divided blue-green leaves. It is 20-40 cm (8-16") high and 40-50 cm (16-20") wide. The stems, which branch from the base, have yellow flower clusters.

Gray's Desert-parsley is found on the Gulf Islands, southern Vancouver Island, BC.

© J. Maughn

HABITAT

- Dry, stony sites with fast draining soils
- Steep, southwest-facing rock walls

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Deer grazing
- Recreational activities, specifically rock climbing and hiking, that cause trampling and dislodging of plants, soil compaction and increase erosion
- Invasive species such as Scotch Broom

Great Blue Heron
fannini subspecies

(Special Concern)

The Great Blue Heron stands over 1 m (~3') tall. Its feathers are blue-grey with white streaks. In its characteristic flight, its wings beat slowly and deeply while it holds its neck in an S-shape.

The Great Blue Heron is found on the coast and islands of BC.

© Ross Vennesland

HABITAT

- Hunts in fresh and salt water marshes, streams and rivers, grasslands, ditches, wet agricultural fields, and on coastlines
- Perches and nests in large trees such as Red Alder, Black Cottonwood, and Douglas-fir

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by forestry practices and urban and industrial development
- Human activities that disturb nesting birds (e.g., pedestrian activity, off-road vehicles, loud noises)
- Bald Eagles attacking colonies and hunting these birds, especially eggs and chicks

Grizzly Bear
Western population

(Special Concern)

The Grizzly Bear is a large and muscular bear. Adult females are 100-150 kg (220-330 lbs) and adult males are180-270 kg (397-595 lbs). Its colour ranges from blonde through shades of brown to nearly black.

The Grizzly Bear is found throughout BC.

© Ross Vennesland

HABITAT

- Temperate coastal rain forests, alpine tundra, mountain slopes, upland boreal forest, and dry grasslands

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by roads and residential developments
- Poaching

Haida Gwaii Slug

(Special Concern)

The Haida Gwaii Slug is a small slug, 1-2 cm (~0.5-1″) long. It is jet black-grey or tan with tiny black tipped spikes all over its body. It also has a large hump with dark spots.

© K.Ovaska

The Haida Gwaii Slug is found on the main islands of the Haida Gwaii archipelago and on Brooks Peninsula on northwestern Vancouver Island, off the coast of BC.

HABITAT

- Open, subalpine habitats with scattered, stunted trees, low shrubs and grasses, and very damp ground, often with a moss cover at all elevations but mostly at higher elevations (<200 m (~656′))
- Humid microhabitat conditions, downed wood, rocks or a deep moss mat for protection

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or alteration caused by changes related to climate change such as moving tree line and temperature changes
- Habitat loss from grazing Sitka Black-tailed Deer
- Logging and road building

Half-moon Hairstreak

(Endangered)

The Half-moon Hairstreak is a small butterfly with a wingspan of ~3 cm (~1″). It has brown or black-brown wings with lighter edges and dark spots.

Half-moon Hairstreak is found in south-central BC.

© Kella Sadler

HABITAT

- Sagebrush, Bluebunch, and Wheatgrass habitat where Silky Lupine is found

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

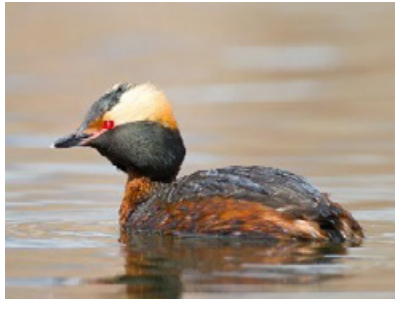
- Habitat loss or damage caused by development, other land use changes, and agricultural practices

Horned Grebe
Western population

(Special Concern)

The Horned Grebe is a small waterbird. It is black and white in the winter. When breeding, its sides and neck are chestnut-red. It has bright yellow feathers behind its red eyes, which look like "horns".

In BC the Horned Grebe is found east of the coastal mountains and on the south coast in winter.



© Jukka Jantunen

HABITAT

- Small, shallow semi-permanent or permanent ponds, marshes, and shallow bays on lake borders
- Open water with vegetation that can be seen above the water

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of wetland habitats caused by agriculture and climate change
- Pesticides, fertilizers, and animal waste that damage water bodies

Howell's Triteleia

(Endangered)

Howell's Triteleia is one of three native lily species in Canada. It is a perennial herb that grows from an underground stem. It has six 3-4 cm (~1-1.5") long flowers that are white-blue. The fruit is an egg shaped capsule with black rounded seeds.

© First Light

Howell's Triteleia is found on southeastern Vancouver Island, BC.

HABITAT

- Garry Oak woodland within the Coastal Douglas-fir zone
- Highly disturbed sites with lots of weeds

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by urbanization and fire suppression
- Invasive species such as Scotch broom

Kellogg's Rush

(Endangered)

Kellogg's Rush is a tiny annual herb, 0.4-4 cm (0.2-1.6") tall. It has one or two red-brown flowers at the top of a leafless stem.

Kellogg's Rush is found on southeastern Vancouver Island, BC.

© Tab Tannery, Flickr

HABITAT

- Seasonally wet depressions in winter which are dry in summer
- Low spots in fields and meadows in Garry Oak habitats

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Anything that changes the water level at a site
- Habitat loss and damage caused by development and recreation in Garry Oak systems

Lindley's False Silverpuffs

(Threatened)

Lindley's False Silverpuffs is an annual plant 10-70 cm (~4-28") tall. It has many small yellow flowers that grow together at the top of the stalk. It has small leaves at the base of the flower head and long narrow leaves at the bottom half of the stem. The slender black fruits are crowned with a tuft of fine white hairs.

Lindley's False Silverpuffs are found on the Gulf Islands off the coast of southeast Vancouver Island, BC.

© Matt Fairbarns

HABITAT

- Garry Oak stands or neighbouring areas
- Sandstone cliffs and steep, grassy slopes to dry, open deciduous or evergreen forests

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by housing development
- Invasive species

Little Brown Myotis

(Endangered)

The Little Brown Myotis (also called Little Brown Bat) is a small bat with a wingspan of ~22-27 cm (~8.5-10.5″). Its fur is cinnamon to dark brown and lighter on the underside.

The Little Brown Myotis is found throughout BC.

"Little brown bat in Ohio, 2014" by SMBishop

HABITAT

- Arid grassland, Ponderosa Pine forests, coastal forests and northern boreal forests
- Caves
- Human-made structures (e.g., attics, mines)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- White-nose Syndrome (caused by a fungus), which kills the bat

Long-billed Curlew

(Special Concern)

The Long-billed Curlew is a large sandpiper. It has a slender, down-curved bill ~20 cm (8″) in length. It is cream-tan tinged with cinnamon or pink. Its upper parts are streaked with dark brown, while the underparts are cream-tan. It has long light blue-grey legs.

© Matthias Bieber

The Long-billed Curlew is found in southern and central BC, south of Prince George.

HABITAT

- Dry, short grasslands and pastures with low shrubs and high grass cover
- Hayfields and wet meadows

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of nesting habitat caused by cultivation and urban development
- Habitat loss caused by industry, livestock overuse, fire control, and the spread of exotic plants
- Increased risk from predators caused by habitat being fragmented or broken into separate parts

Macoun's Meadowfoam

(Threatened)

Macoun's Meadowfoam is a small annual plant 2-5 cm (~1-2") tall. It has hairless stems, white flowers, and 2-5 leaves 1-7 cm (~0.5-3") in length. Its small fruit are and yellow-green to brown.

Macoun's Meadowfoam is found on southern Vancouver Island and adjacent Gulf Islands in BC.

© Adolf Ceska

HABITAT

- Open areas close to the sea shore mostly in Garry Oak ecosystems
- Seasonally wet depressions and water seeps (damp soil in the spring until end of April, and very dry in the summer)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

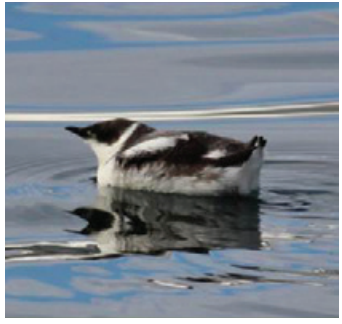
- Habitat loss caused by residential development
- Competition with introduced and invasive species

Marbled Murrelet

(Threatened)

The Marbled Murrelet is a small, plump seabird, ~25 cm (10") in length. In winter its feathers are black and white and in summer they are marbled grey-brown (for camouflage when nesting).

The Marbled Murrelet is found along the coast and islands of BC.



"Marbled Murrelet" by Tom Benson

HABITAT

- Nests in old-growth trees with high, well-hidden, moss-covered branches up to 50 km (~31.1 miles) inland
- Feeds in marine areas close to shore

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of inland nesting habitat and marine feeding habitat
- Contamination from oil spills
- Gill-nets used for fishing that entangle birds

Mountain Beaver

(Special Concern)

The Mountain Beaver is ~30-47 cm (12-19") in length. It is more closely related to squirrels than beavers. It has a thick body, covered with coarse, dark brown fur, and a short, furry tail. It nests and stores food underground.

The Mountain Beaver is found on the southwestern mainland of BC.

Photo by Jacob Kirkland

HABITAT

- Cool, damp forested areas with loose soils

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by urban development and agriculture and forestry practices

Muhlenberg's Centaury

(Endangered)

Muhlenberg's Centaury is an annual herb, 4-8 cm (~1.5-3") tall. The leaves are arranged on the hairless stem in pairs opposite each other. It has small pink or white flowers. The fruit is a thin capsule with many small brown seeds inside.

Muhlenberg's Centaury is found on or near southeastern Vancouver Island, BC.

© Matt Fairbarns

HABITAT

- Damp open habitats specifically vernal seeps, vernal swales and saltgrass marshes
- Sites that are wet in spring but dry in summer

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Competition with invasive plant species
- Habitat loss caused by urban development and draining wetlands for agriculture

Northern Goshawk
laingi subspecies

(Threatened)

Northern Goshawk is a medium-sized raptor, ~55-61 cm (~21-24") in length. Its back and the top of its wings and head are a dark grey colour. It has a white stripe above its eyes and a black-grey mask. Its underside is white to pale grey, with streaks.

© Ross Vennesland

The Northern Goshawk *laingi* subspecies is found along the north and south coasts of BC and associated islands.

HABITAT

- Hunts mostly in mature and old forests with open understories but will also hunt in younger forests and open areas
- Nests in mature and old forests with large trees (to hold its large nests) and closed canopies (for protection)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by forestry practices
- Noise from humans that disturb nesting sites

Northern Red-legged Frog

(Special Concern)

The Northern Red-legged Frog is ~10 cm (~4") in length. Its back is brown, grey, olive, or rust colour with small black markings and ridges running down each side. The underside of its lower belly and legs are bright red.

The Northern Red-legged Frog is found on Vancouver Island and the southern half of BC's coast.

"Rana aurora" by Walter Siegmund

HABITAT

- Mature, damp forests far from open water, with fallen logs, coarse downed wood, and fallen leaves
- Slow-flowing, cool streams
- Ponds, marshes, or lake edges with aquatic plants

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by development
- Introduced, invasive bullfrogs and fish that take away habitat and eat Red-legged Frogs

Northern Rubber Boa

(Special Concern)

"Northern Rubber Boa" by Natalie McNear

The Northern Rubber Boa is ~75 cm (~30") long. The female Rubber Boa is on average 20 percent longer than and almost twice as heavy as the male. It is red-brown to yellow-brown on top and lighter in colour underneath. It looks wrinkled but has smooth scales giving it a rubbery appearance. This boa has a short, blunt tail resembling a second head, which it uses in self-defense.

The Norther Rubber Boa is the only boa in Canada and is found in southern BC.

HABITAT

- Rocky outcrops in forest clearings, stream banks, thickets, and grasslands
- Large wood, large rocks, underground rock crevices, and rodent burrows

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by urban development, construction, road maintenance, and agriculture and forestry practices
- Being hit or run over by vehicles

Oldgrowth Specklebelly Lichen

(Special Concern)

Oldgrowth Specklebelly Lichen is ~5-12 cm (~2-5") across. It is pale blue-green on top and light brown with tiny white spots underneath. It is often found with Sword Fern, False Azalea, Alaska Blueberry, Oval-leaf Blueberry, and Dwarf Dogwood.

Oldgrowth Specklebelly Lichen is found on the coast and islands of BC.

"Pseudocyphellaria rainierensis" by Richard Droker

HABITAT

- Lowland to mid-elevation old-growth forests
- Open, humid, stable forests with conifers (cone-bearing trees)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by logging practices, road construction, and hydroelectric development
- Climate change causing an increase in storms which can damage the Lichen or its habitat

Olive-sided Flycatcher

(Threatened)

The Olive-sided Flycatcher is a medium-sized songbird, ~18-20 cm (7-8") in length. Its back and sides are a deep brown to olive-grey. Its throat and belly are white.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher is found throughout most of BC, but not on Haida Gwaii.

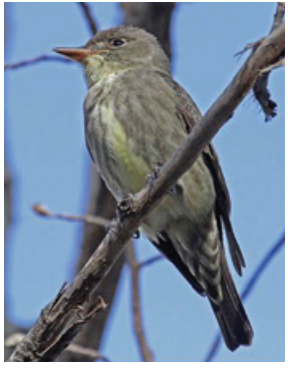


Photo by Jerry Oldenettel

HABITAT

- Nests in tall living or dying trees
- Hunts in forest openings and edges, often near water bodies

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by logging, energy production and mining, and urban development

Oregon Forestsnail

(Endangered)

The Oregon Forestsnail is a large snail with a spiraled shell ~35 mm (~1.5") across. The shell is pale brown or straw-yellow and opens with a white, flared, outer rim.

The Oregon Forestsnail is found in the lower Fraser Valley in southwestern BC and on southeastern Vancouver Island.

Photo by Laurel Parshall

HABITAT

- Older mixed-wood and deciduous lowland forests, typically with Bigleaf Maple and Black Cottonwood, with thick vegetation beneath the trees
- Stinging Nettle patches, and fallen branches and leaves

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat fragmentation, loss, or damage caused by development
- Brush-burning, trampling, and pesticides
- Introduced species that compete for food and shelter (e.g., Giant Garden Slug and Chocolate Arion slug)

Oregon Spotted Frog

(Endangered)

The Oregon Spotted Frog is ~6 cm (~2.5") in length, not including its legs. It is red-brown, with raised red to black spots on its head and back. It has golden eyes set on the top of its head. It has a light brown to orange ridge on each side. Adults have dark spots on their bellies.

Photo by Teal Waterstrat

The Oregon Spotted Frog is found in the lower Fraser Valley in southwestern BC.

HABITAT

- Warm, shallow, and muddy water with aquatic plants found within wetlands, ponds, and slow-moving waterways and any aquatic habitat that connects these main habitats

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage (e.g., pollution of waterways) caused by farming, mining, and logging practices
- Invasive species like Reed Canary Grass (which take away habitat) and bullfrogs (which eat Oregon Spotted Frogs)
- A fungal disease spreading in frogs and salamanders

Pacific Water Shrew

(Endangered)

The Pacific Water Shrew is the largest shrew in BC. It is about the size of a mouse. Its fur is dark brown or black. It has stiff hairs on the edges of its hind feet to help it swim and move short distances across the surface of the water.

Photo by Denis Knopp

The Pacific Water Shrew is found in the lower Fraser Valley region of southwestern BC.

HABITAT

- Dense, wet forests
- Streams and wetlands
- Large, coarse, downed wood in forests, streams and wetlands

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by urban development, logging, and agricultural practices

Peacock Vinyl Lichen

(Special Concern)

The Peacock Vinyl Lichen is a leafy, "jellyskinned" lichen forming in patches 2-5 cm (1-2') across. The top is pale to dark grey or brown. It is shiny and hairless with partly sunken spore-bearing bodies. When dry, the top is wrinkled.

© Tab Tannery, Flickr

The Peacock Vinyl Lichen is found along the southcoast and Haida Gwaii, BC.

HABITAT

- It grows only on trees, especially Bigleaf Maple, Red Alder, Arbutus and Black Cottonwood.

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by forestry
- Air pollution
- Increased seasonal drought caused by climate change

Peregrine Falcon

anatum/tundrius/pealei subspecies

(Special Concern)

The Peregrine Falcon is about the size of a crow. Adults have a dark "hooded" head, blue-grey back, and a white to grey front with dark spots and stripes.

Subspecies: *anatum* © Gordon Court

The *anatum* subspecies breeds on BC's south coast and in the lower Fraser valley. The *pealei* subspecies breeds on the central coast, Haida Gwaii, Triangle Island, and parts of Vancouver Island. The *tundrius* subspecies breeds in the far north and passes through BC during migration.

HABITAT

- Open areas
- Natural and human-made perches (e.g. cliffs and tall buildings)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Pesticide use that can poison these birds
- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development
- Loss of prey
- Removal of juvenile falcons from the wild for falconry

Phantom Orchid

(Endangered)

The Phantom Orchid has an above ground stem that is ~65 cm (~25″) high, topped with clusters of up to 20 white flowers. It also has a larger underground stem with thick, branching roots.

The Phantom Orchid is found in a few locations in southwestern BC.

"Phantom Orchids" by Ben

HABITAT

- Mature coniferous or mixed forests and sometimes older second growth forests
- Requires an intact below-ground fungal network which is found with various tree species

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development, and forestry practices
- Some recreational activities (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, off-roading)

Pink Sand-verbena

(Endangered)

Pink Sand-verbena is a perennial herb with stems ~1.5 m (~5′) long and pink flowers 6-8 mm (~0.02″) long. The flowers are grouped together in round clusters. Each tube shaped flower has five lobes that flare out at the top.

The Pink Sand-verbena is found on the west coast of Vancouver Island, BC.

© Ross Vennesland

HABITAT

- Upper sand beaches, just above the high tide line and dune ecosystems

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Two beachgrass species and other invasive species that stop Pink Sand-verbena from growing
- Disturbance from humans (e.g., excessive trampling)

Pink-footed Shearwater

(Endangered)

The Pink-footed Shearwater is a medium-sized seabird with a stocky body and long broad wings. It has grey-brown upperparts, a white belly with grey markings, white wing linings, and a dark grey head. Its bill is pink with a dark tip.

© Peter Hodum

The Pink-footed Shearwater is found off the west coast of BC between March and October.

HABITAT

- Marine habitats with lots of food to eat (along the continental slope, shelf, and shelf-break)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Being caught in fishing nets (bycatch)
- Oil and other pollution
- Eating plastics

Poor Pocket Moss

(Endangered)

Poor Pocket Moss is very small. Its yellow-red stalks are 2-3 mm (~0.01″) long and its leaves are 1.5-2.3 mm (~0.07″) long.

Poor Pocket Moss is only found in Canada at one location in North Vancouver, BC.

© Rene J.Belland

HABITAT

- Wet silty outcrops in small streams

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Single Canadian population is vulnerable to chance events and extreme weather events caused by climate change

Prairie Lupine

(Endangered)

© Walter Siegmund

Prairie Lupine is a perennial plant 20-45 cm (7.9-17.7″) tall. It forms a tuft of several stems coming from the same thick stem base. It has 5-9 small leaves arranged like the fingers of an open hand. Silky hairs cover the leaves and stems. It has blue, white, and purple pea-like flowers at end of each stem and grows hair-covered seedpods that are 1-3 cm (~0.5-1″) in length.

Prairie Lupine is found on coastal plains on southeastern Vancouver Island, BC.

HABITAT

- Dry, rocky habitats, from grassy meadows to steep, rocky slopes with poor, thin and well-drained soil

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss cause by development and recreation
- Competition with introduced and invasive species

Purple Sanicle

(Threatened)

The Purple Sanicle is a perennial herb 10-60 cm (~4-24″) tall. It has jagged leaves at the base and the flower head is a cluster of tiny prickly purple flowers.

The Purple Sanicle is found on southeastern Vancouver Island and nearby Gulf Islands, BC.

© Elaine with Grey Cats

HABITAT

- Meadow openings, sandy banks, and grassy knolls
- Sun exposed areas

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and fragmentation caused by urban development and recreational activities
- Suppression and competition from invasive plant species

Rayless Goldfields

(Endangered)

Rayless Goldfields is an annual herb with a small, bell-shaped flowering head. It has many pale yellow flowers packed tightly together. The stems and leaves are hairless.

The Rayless Goldfields is found near Victoria on southern Vancouver Island, BC.

© Matt Fairbarns

HABITAT

- Muddy seasonal pools, or on muddy ground found on the surface of the water-saturated part of the ground (i.e., perched water tables)
- Very wet conditions in the winter and spring, and dry conditions during the summer months

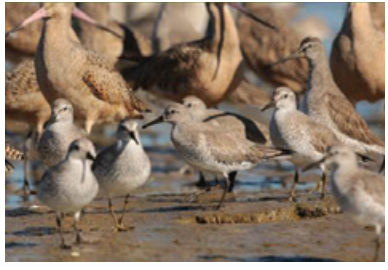
THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Competition from invasive plants
- Trampling caused by hiking

Red Knot
roselaari type

(Threatened)

The Red Knot is ~23-25 cm (9-10") in length. In the breeding season, its face and front feathers are rich brown-red and its back is dark brown or black mixed with red and grey. In the non-breeding season, its back is plain grey and it has dull grey or brown streaks on its white front.



"Red Knot" by Aaron Maizlish

The Red Knot *roselaari* type migrates along BC's Pacific coast. The Fraser River Estuary in BC's Lower Mainland is a Red Knot migration stopover site.

HABITAT

- Coastal areas with broad intertidal flats

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development and energy production
- Introduced and invasive species

Red-necked Phalarope

(Special Concern)

© Onioram

The Red-necked Phalarope is a small shorebird. For most of the year, it has white along its head, throat, and breast, with dark upperparts, and a stripe along its eye. In the spring, it has red-orange on the sides and base of its neck. The remainder of its plumage is blue-grey and white. The females are more brightly coloured than males.

The Red-necked Phalarope is found along the BC coast during migration and breeds in the extreme north of BC.

HABITAT

- Marine environments and fresh water lakes and ponds
- Low and sub-arctic wetlands

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of freshwater ponds and expansion of shrubs in breeding areas
- Poor water quality
- Microplastics and contaminants in food sources

Rigid Apple Moss

(Endangered)

© Terry McIntosh

The Rigid Apple Moss is a small, pale yellow-green moss. It is called "Apple Moss" because of its tiny, green, round, smooth reproductive structures.

The Rigid Apple Moss is found on southern Vancouver Island and adjacent Gulf Islands, BC.

HABITAT

- Garry Oak ecosystems
- Either well-drained, shallow soil, or on certain types of rock outcrop faces
- Seepage areas (areas where underground water source seeps to the surface)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

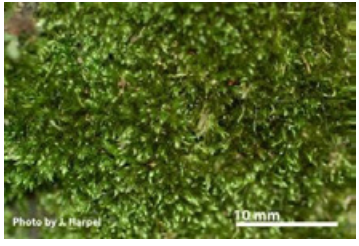
- Habitat loss caused by residential development
- Habitat damage caused by grazing goats and deer

Roell's Brotherella Moss

(Endangered)

Roell's Brotherella Moss is a small, green or green-yellow moss that grows in turf-like mats. It has tiny flat stems and its leaves are jagged along the top edges.

Roell's Brotherella Moss is found in southwestern BC.



© J. Harper

HABITAT

- Cool, humid mixed deciduous and coniferous second-growth and old-growth forests
- Stream terraces, swampy floodplains, creek ravines
- Grows on trunks of live trees, rotting logs and stumps, especially Red Alder, Bigleaf Maple, Western Flowering Dogwood, and Birch

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development, recreational and tourism activities (e.g. trail construction, maintenance, replacement of native trees), and mining

Rosy Owl-clover

(Endangered)

The Rosy Owl-clover is a small annual herb with a single or branched stem 10-40 cm (~4-16") tall. It is rose-purple and is covered in short hairs. It has pink-purple and cream flowers and round fruits.

The Rosy Owl-clover is found on southern Vancouver Island in BC.

© Matthew Fairbarns

HABITAT

- Shallow seasonal pools of water which are dry in summer
- Open areas with damp winters and dry summers

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Invasive plants
- Trampling caused by walking and hiking

Rusty Blackbird

(Special Concern)

The Rusty Blackbird is slightly smaller than an American Robin. In winter, its feathers are a rusty hue. In the breeding season, the males are completely black and the females are grey-brown.

The Rusty Blackbird is found throughout most of BC's interior.

© Neal Foord

HABITAT

- Boreal forests
- Wetland shores (e.g., edges of slow-moving streams, peat bogs, marshes, swamps)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by energy development and production, land conversion, and agriculture and forestry practices

Sand-verbena Moth

(Endangered)

The Sand-verbena Moth is a nocturnal moth with a 3.5-4 cm (~1.5") wingspan. It is dark golden brown with black and light yellow lines on its forewings. The caterpillars have pale stripes and they change from green to brown as they age.

© Dr. Jeremy Tatum

The Sand-verbena Moth is found on the sandy coasts of southwestern BC and south toward Puget Sound.

HABITAT

- Sandy, dry environments with Yellow Sand Verbena (its host plant)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Invasive plants and pesticides
- Habitat loss and damage caused by recreation on sand dunes
- Rising sea levels and temperature changes caused by climate change

Seaside Birds-foot Lotus

(Endangered)

The Seaside Birds-foot Lotus is a multi-stemmed, sprawling perennial herb, which grows 20-50 cm (~8-20") wide. It has clusters of small pea-like flowers. The flowers are mostly yellow with pink-purple "wings". It has egg-shaped leaves in rows along the stem and long seed pods.

© Barbara J Collins

The Seaside Birds-foot Lotus is found on the southeastern coast of Vancouver Island, BC.

HABITAT

- Seasonally wet maritime meadows and open woodlands, usually within 50 m (~164') from the shoreline
- Some tree top cover but there are usually few trees because of wind, salt spray, and drought

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by an increasing amount of woody vegetation and invasive grasses
- Grazing from introduced Canada Geese and Eastern Cottontail Rabbits

Seaside Bone Lichen

(Threatened)

The Seaside Bone Lichen's main body is ~8 cm (3") across. It resembles a small bush with fine pale grey branches. It often grows on the branches of conifers, particularly Shore Pines.

The Seaside Bone Lichen is found on the southwestern end of Vancouver Island in BC.

Photo by Bruce McCune

HABITAT

- Coastal Western Hemlock and Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zones within 100 m (328') of the ocean
- Rocky ledges exposed to wind and ocean spray

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by forestry practices
- Climate change causing increases in the strength and number of winter storms

Seaside Centipede Lichen

(Endangered)

Seaside Centipede Lichen is a cushion-shaped leafy lichen shaped ~2 cm (~1″) in length. The lobes are thin, stiff, separate and irregularly branched with hairs along the edges. The upper surface is pale green-white with white spots and the lower surface is white.

The Seaside Centipede Lichen is found on coastal southern Vancouver Island, BC.

© Anna Roberts

HABITAT

- Lower branches of Sitka Spruce trees in old-growth Western Hemlock forests

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by logging and residential development
- Human recreation
- Increasing intensity of winter storms

Sharp-tailed Snake

(Endangered)

The Sharp-tailed Snake is ~20.5-45.5 cm (8–18″) long and roughly the thickness of a pencil. It is red-brown, yellow-brown, or grey on top and its underside is light with black bars. Its name comes from the large scale or "scute" at the tip of the tail.

The Sharp-tailed Snake is found in a few locations on southern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands, BC.

"Sharp-tailed Snake *(Contia tenuis)*" by Marshal Hedin

HABITAT

- Dry forested ecosystems with natural openings and many places to take shelter (e.g., rocky slopes, fallen logs and cracks in rocks)
- Usually found on warm south or west facing slopes

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Introduced and invasive species (e.g., Scotch Broom)
- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development
- Being hit or run over by vehicles

Short-Eared Owl

(Special Concern)

The Short-Eared Owl is ~34-42 cm (~13.4-16.6") in length. Adults' feathers are streaked with a mix of beige, brown, and black. It gets its name from the small feather "tufts" on its head that look like ears.

The Short-Eared Owl is found throughout most of BC.

"Short-eared Owl - *Asio flammeus*" by Tarique Sani

HABITAT

- Open areas with low vegetation, such as grasslands, marshes, meadows and river valleys

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development and agricultural practices

Short-tailed Albatross

(Threatened)

The Short-tailed Albatross is a large seabird with long, narrow wings that span over 2 m (~7.5'). It has black and white wings, and black tail fringes. Its head and the back of its neck are pale yellow. It has a large, pink, hooked bill with a light blue tip.

The Short-tailed Albatross is found off the coast of BC except in December.

"An adult Short-tailed Albatross takes off from the turbulent waters of the North Pacific, just south of the Aleutian Island Archipelago." by Jess Finlay

HABITAT

- Marine habitats with lots of food to eat (along the continental slope, shelf, and shelf-break)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

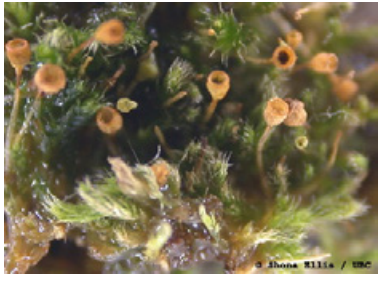
- Being caught in fishing nets (bycatch)
- Oil and other pollution
- Eating plastics

Silver Hair Moss

(Endangered)

Silver Hair moss is tiny and grows in creeping flat mats, often with other moss species. It has silver, white-green leaves that end in a hair-like formation.

Silver Hair Moss can be found only on Sumas Mountain in the Lower Mainland, southwestern BC.



© Shona Ellis

HABITAT

- Semi-exposed rock or the surface of tree bark that is seasonally dry

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and damage caused by land development and forest fire
- Chance events because of small population size and being at the northernmost part of its range

Slender Popcornflower

(Threatened)

The Slender Popcornflower is an annual herb with a single or branched stem 5-25 cm (~2-10") tall. It has leaves at the base that form a rosette shape and it has a few hairy leaves on the stem. The small flowers are arranged in a coiled grouping at the tip of the stem. Each flower has five white petals. The small fruits look like small bumpy cross-shaped nuts.

© Jim Morefield

The Slender Popcorn Flower is found on southeastern Vancouver Island and adjacent Gulf Islands off the coast of BC.

HABITAT

- Garry Oak ecosystems on coastal bluffs and other dry grassy slopes with gravelly or rocky soils

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

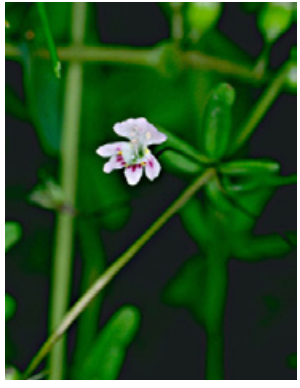
- Habitat destruction and fragmentation caused by housing development and urbanization
- Competition from invasive species
- Fire suppression
- Grazing by animals

Small-flowered Tonella

(Endangered)

The Small Flowered Tonella is an annual herb, 5-25 cm (~2-10") tall. It has long stalks and tiny blue and white flowers surrounded by a grouping of four petal lobes on one side and one larger petal lobe on the other. The outer petals are white with blue, purple or pink spots or streaks.

The Small-flowered Tonella is found on western Salt Spring Island, BC.



© John C. Game

HABITAT

- Typically west-facing, talus (fallen, broken rock) slopes
- Open Bigleaf Maple, Arbutus, Douglas-fir, and Garry Oak forests

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by residential development
- Fire suppression
- Invasive species

Sonora Skipper

(Special Concern)

The Sonora Skipper is a small butterfly with a wingspan of ~25-30 mm (~1"). The upper sides of its wings are rusty orange and brown with a dark border.

The Sonora Skipper is found in a small area in south-central BC.

Polites sonora (Sonoran Skipper) by S. Rae

HABITAT

- Damp, grassy openings in mountainside forests
- Damp logged areas, agricultural meadows, and grassy roadsides

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and damage caused by agricultural practices and residential and commercial development
- New tree growth that causes the loss of open areas

Spotted Owl
caurina subspecies

(Endangered)

The Spotted Owl - *caurina* subspecies is ~45 cm (18″) in length with a wingspan of ~90 cm (35″). It has dark brown feathers speckled with small, pale spots over most of its body. It has light feathers around its large, dark eyes.

The *caurina* subspecies of the Spotted Owl is found in the southwest mainland of BC.

© Jared Hobbs

HABITAT

- Mature and old, coniferous and mixed-coniferous forests with uneven-aged trees, including numerous large trees with broken tops, large holes and large dead or dying trees (i.e. snags)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Barred Owls, which compete for habitat and prey
- Habitat loss and damage caused by road-building, logging, fire and fire suppression

Streambank Lupine

(Endangered)

The Streambank Lupine ranges in height from ~0.3-1 m (~1-3′). It has light blue-purple pea-like flowers.

The Streambank Lupine is found on the southwestern mainland of BC and in one location on southern Vancouver Island.

© Brian Klinkenberg

HABITAT

- Open sandy or gravelly stream banks with little leaf cover
- Areas with seasonal flooding

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by agricultural development and forestry practices
- Use of herbicides that can kill this plant
- Introduced and invasive species

Tall Bugbane

(Endangered)

Tall Bugbane stands ~1-2 m (~3-6') tall. It has small, white flowers grouped in bunches of 50-900. It is typically found in damp areas of mixed wood forests with Douglas-fir, Bigleaf Maple and Devil's Club.

The Tall Bugbane is found in the Cultus Lake–Chilliwack River area of southwestern BC.

© Dianne Fristrom

HABITAT

- Old and mature mixed coniferous and deciduous forests, most commonly with Douglas-fir and Broadleaf Maple.
- Prefers moist parts of forest (e.g., seepages and near water courses), and also small, sunny gaps in the canopy

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by forestry practices, industrial activities, and residential and commercial development
- Some recreational activities (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, off-roading)
- Introduced and invasive species

Tall Woolly-heads

(Endangered)

The Tall Woolly-heads is an annual plant, 1-15 cm (~0.4-6") tall. It has tiny round fruit, hairy branched stalks and silky leaves. The flower heads are round and clustered at the forks of the stalks and at the top of the stalks.

The Tall Woolly-heads is found on southern Vancouver Island, BC.

© Matthew Fairbarns

HABITAT

- Depressions in the ground that are very wet in the winter and dry in the summer
- Open exposed areas which are seasonally flooded

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by residential development and recreational activities

Taylor's Checkerspot

(Endangered)

Taylor's Checkerspot is a medium sized butterfly with a pattern of orange, red, and pale cream and black checkered bands outlined with black on the underside of its wings. The upper wings have alternating black and orange bands. Taylor's Checkerspot is a subspecies of the butterfly commonly called Edith's Checkerspot.

© Jennifer Huron

Taylor's Checkerspot is found on southeastern Vancouver Island and Denman Island, BC

HABITAT

- Garry Oak ecosystems
- Open, damp to wet clearings with low areas, meadow pastures, and clearcut areas that are re-growing

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by development
- Changes to the forest (i.e., forest succession) that cause the loss of open habitat with lots of light and moisture which is needed by the plants the larvae depend on

Threaded Vertigo

(Special Concern)

The Threaded Vertigo has a cylindrical shell that is ~2.4-3.3 mm (~1/10") long. The shell is marked with fine parallel growth lines. It is often found on ferns and shrubs.

The Threaded Vertigo is found on the Sunshine Coast, southern Vancouver Island, and the southern Gulf Islands of BC.

Photo by Robert Forsyth

HABITAT

- Coniferous or mixed-wood forests, often with Bigleaf Maple trees
- Elevations below 200 m (650')

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Some recreational activities (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, off-roading)
- Introduced and invasive species

Townsend's Mole

(Endangered)

The Townsend's Mole is ~20 cm (~9") in length from nose to tail. Its short fur is dark brown to grey and may appear lighter in the summer months. It has broad, shovel-like front feet with long claws that it uses for tunneling. It builds large molehills and spends most of its life underground.

Photo by Jerry Kirkhart

Townsend's Mole is found in a small area of BC's lower Fraser Valley.

HABITAT

- Spends most of its life in underground tunnels and burrows
- Pasturelands, grassy fields, lawns, and areas with loose soils

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

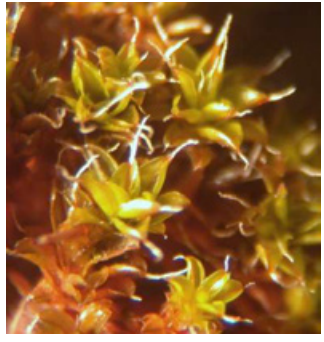
- Agricultural practices that cause habitat loss, prey loss, or directly harms or kills this species
- Persecution by humans who view moles as pests
- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development
- Use of pesticides that cause declining numbers of prey (e.g., earthworms)

Twisted Oak Moss

(Special Concern)

The Twisted Oak Moss is 2-5 mm (~0.15") tall. It grows in small clumps on tree bark, usually Garry Oak. It is twisted when dry and flat when wet. It has small round spore sacs at the tips of the stems.

The Twisted Oak Moss is found on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, and one small area in Vancouver, BC.



© Terry McIntosh

HABITAT

- Tree bark, especially Garry Oak bark forming isolated patches and it is rarely found growing with other mosses or lichens
- Most commonly grows on lower tree trunks, but is sometimes found on upper branches

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Loss of Garry Oak trees caused by urbanization, agricultural development, and removing trees on private properties

Vancouver Island Beggarticks

(Special Concern)

Vancouver Island Beggarticks is ~50-100 cm (20-40") tall. It has yellow flowers and can be bushy with many branches and stems. It is regularly found in areas used by ducks (may be due to soil conditions).

Vancouver Island Beggarticks is found in coastal areas of southern BC.

"*Bidens amplissima* (Vancouver Island Beggarticks)" by Tab Tannery

HABITAT

- Edges of wetlands, estuaries, ditches, and low areas in fields

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by agricultural, residential and commercial development
- Introduced and invasive species

Vancouver Island Marmot

(Endangered)

The Vancouver Island Marmot is ~67-72 cm (~26-28") in length from its nose to the tip of its tail. It has chocolate brown fur with contrasting patches of white fur on the nose, belly, and top of the head.

Vancouver Island Marmot is found only on Vancouver Island, BC.

© Marmot Recovery Foundation

HABITAT

- Subalpine meadows usually between 900 m and 1500 m (~2950' to 4920') above sea level
- Natural and human-made habitats, such as logged areas and ski-runs

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- New tree growth that causes the loss of open areas
- Loss of cover that increases exposure to predators
- Climate change, which causes changes in glacier or avalanche patterns

Victoria's Owl-clover

(Endangered)

Victoria's Owl-clover is ~2-20 cm (~1-8") tall. Its leaves are red- purple in colour.

Victoria's Owl-clover is found on southern Vancouver Island and small islands nearby in southwestern BC.

"*Castilleja victoriae* (Victoria owl-clover)" by Tab Tannery

HABITAT

- Approximately 50 m (~164') of the shoreline at 1 - 5 m (~3.3 - 16.4') above sea level
- Open areas, often in Garry Oak Ecosystems
- Edges of winter and spring fed water bodies (e.g., vernal pools and seeps)

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Recreational activities that trample this plant
- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development
- Introduced and invasive species
- Climate change causing increases in the strength and number of winter storms

Vivid Dancer

(Special Concern)

The Vivid Dancer is a damsel fly about 29.5-35 mm (1.16-1.4") long. The species is characterized by a bright blue colour, especially in males. Vivid Dancer is distinguished from other damselflies by its long legs, wing veins and reproductive organs.

The Vivid Dancer can be found in southern BC.

© Argia Vivida

HABITAT

- Thermal springs and cooler spring-fed creeks in the Interior
- Water habitats and nearby forests

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss due to water diversion or degradation
- Altering springs for human recreation

Wandering Salamander

(Special Concern)

The Wandering Salamander is 75-130 mm (~3-5") in length from tip to tail. It has a grey and bronze spotted pattern covering a brown to grey-black head, back and tail. It has long legs and squared-off toes which helps it to climb trees.

© Barbara Beasley

The Wandering Salamander is found on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, BC.

HABITAT

- Damp places under bark, logs and in cracks of decaying wood
- Old coniferous forests, edges of forests, or even residential yards

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by logging and development
- Severe and prolonged droughts due to climate change

Warty Jumping-slug

(Special Concern)

The Warty Jumping-slug is ~20 mm (~.075") in length. It has a hump on its back with a yellow shell and a little horn on the tip of its tail. It gets its name from the small bumps on its back and because it "jumps" away (using a squirming motion) when threatened.

Hemphillia glandulosa (Warty Jumping-slug) by Kristiina Ovaska

Warty Jumping-slug is found on southern Vancouver Island, BC.

HABITAT

- A wide range of forest types (e.g., old-growth, Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock, second-growth mixed wood)
- Very damp forest floors and riparian areas with decaying logs, fallen leaves, moss, and shade from the forest canopy

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by forestry practices
- Introduced and invasive species

Water-plantain Buttercup

(Endangered)

The Water-plantain Buttercup is a perennial herb, ~60 cm (~23.6″) tall with one or many stems. The leaves are ~14 cm (~5.5″) long and ~7cm (~3″) wide, jagged, and narrow at each end. It has small bright yellow flowers with five petals and small dry fruits.

The Water-plantain Buttercup is found along the southeast coast of Vancouver Island, BC.

© Jamie Fenneman

HABITAT

- Low elevation, seasonally wetland pools and wet, coastal Garry Oak meadows

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Mowing and trampling
- Competition from invasive plants
- Being eaten by grazing animals

Western Grebe

(Special Concern)

The Western Grebe is a large waterbird. It has a white throat, breast and belly. Its head, neck, back and wings are black and grey. It has bright red eyes and a long, pointed yellow-green bill.

The Western Grebe is found in the southern interior of BC and along the entire coast of BC in winter.

© Frank Schulenburg

HABITAT

- Nests near shores of lakes and marches with stable water levels, open water, and vegetation
- Large lakes during migration where it feeds
- Sheltered salt or brackish water in bays, inlets, estuaries, lagoons and channels during the winter

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Being disturbed by humans where they nest and breed
- Habitat loss and damage especially to the vegetation that can be seen above the water in lakes and marshes
- Oil and other chemical pollution, and harmful algal blooms
- Being caught in fishing nets (bycatch)

Western Painted Turtle
Pacific Coast population

(Endangered)

The Western Painted Turtle is ~25 cm (10") in length. It has a smooth dark upper shell, and a bright red or orange underside covered by large distinctive markings.

The Western Painted Turtle Pacific Coast Population is found in BC's Lower Fraser Valley, Sunshine Coast, and Texada, Vancouver, and Salt Spring islands.

© Kym Welstead

HABITAT

- Slow-moving or stagnant freshwater bodies, including shallow ponds, lakes, marshes, ditches, and streams
- Floating logs or other objects where these turtles can sun themselves out of the water
- Loose, warm, well-drained soils up to ~150 m (~500') from the water's edge

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by development and land use practices
- Being hit or run over by vehicles
- Predators that eat eggs, invasive species that eat hatchlings (e.g., Bullfrogs), and introduced competitors (e.g., Red-eared Sliders) that may transmit disease

Western Screech-Owl
kennicottii subspecies

(Threatened)

The Western Screech-Owl is ~19-25.5 cm (~7.5-10") in length. It is mostly grey-brown, but its front is lighter and it has a white breast with thin dark streaks.

The Western Screech-Owl *kennicottii* subspecies is found along the coast of BC, including Vancouver Island.

"Western Screech Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*)" by Randy R. Magnuson

HABITAT

- Low elevation forest and woodland
- Mixed deciduous-coniferous forests, usually near a stream
- Tree cavities

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by urban development and agricultural and forestry practices
- Barred Owls that prey on this bird

Western Toad

(Special Concern)

The Western Toad is ~12.5 cm (~5") in length, although males are slightly smaller than females. It has bumpy skin that varies in colour from olive-green to red-brown to almost black. Its belly is usually pale with black splotches and it may or may not have a light stripe along its back.

Photo by J. N. Stuart

The Western Toad is found across most of BC.

HABITAT

- Breeds in shallow water usually with a sandy or silty bottom (e.g., ponds, wetlands, stream back waters, shallow lakes)
- After breeding it may stay close to aquatic habitats or move to upland areas below the frost line such as forests, forest openings, shrub and marsh areas

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by residential and commercial development
- Being hit or run over by vehicles
- Fungal disease that spreads in frog and salamander species

Western Waterfan

(Special Concern)

The Western Waterfan is a leafy lichen that forms in small rosettes that are attached to rocks at or below water. It is olive-black and jelly-like when wet but slate gray-black and crisp when dry. The upper surface is smooth and dull, and the lower surface has pale veins. Its fruit are red-brown.

© D. Richardson

The Western Waterfan is found near the towns of Clearwater, Smithers, Terrace and Whistler, BC.

HABITAT

- At or below water level, in spring-fed streams in open subalpine and sometimes alpine meadows, above a 1200 m (3960') elevation
- Wide variety of rock types in streams

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by human intrusion and recreational activities and changes to streamflow and water chemistry

White Meconella

(Endangered)

White Meconella is an annual herb ~1-8 cm (~0.5-3″) tall. Its stems are blue-green and it has a single white flower at the top of the stem. Spoon-shaped leaves form a basal rosette.

White Meconella is found in southern Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands of BC.

© Tab Tannery

HABITAT

- Open rocky or grassy areas that are wet in spring and dry in summer
- Steep, south-facing hillsides with shallow and arid soils

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and damage caused by development, recreation, livestock, fire suppression and invasive species

White-top Aster

(Special Concern)

White-top Aster is a perennial herb 10-30 cm tall (~4-12″). It has lance-shaped leaves attached to the stem. It has 9-21 small pale yellow flowers, surrounded by white flowers which make it look like a daisy. It has purple anthers (little stems coming from the yellow centre). The dry fruits have dense grey hairs and a fringe of white bristles.

White-top Aster is found on southern Vancouver Island, BC.

© Matthew Fairbarns

HABITAT

- Dry sites in Garry Oak woodlands

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by urbanization and recreation
- Competition from woody invasive plants
- Grazing animals such as Black-tailed Deer

Wolverine

(Special Concern)

The wolverine is a stocky, medium-sized carnivore. It is the largest land based member of the weasel family, ~1 m (3.3') in length not including the tail. Its brown-black fur is long, coarse, and glossy. It has a pale facial mask and two pale stripes on the sides of its body starting at the shoulder.

© Susanne Nillsson-wiki

The Wolverine is found across BC (except Haida Gwaii).

HABITAT

- A wide variety of habitats, from valley bottoms to alpine tundra

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

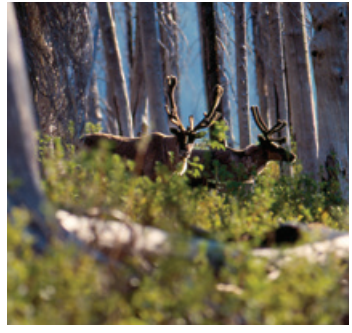
- Habitat loss and fragmentation caused by human development, such as roads, cities, and industrial activity
- Potential overharvest
- Less spring snow cover during the denning period caused by climate change

Woodland Caribou

Southern and Northern Mountain populations

(Threatened and Special Concern)

Mountain populations of Woodland Caribou are one of the largest types of caribou. Both males and females have antlers. Their coats are dark brown with a patch of grey-white under their necks, on their underbelly, and above their hooves.



© Lee Harding

The Mountain populations are found throughout BC.

HABITAT

- Large ranges of relatively undisturbed, interconnected habitat, with diverse topography that includes: alpine tundra, subalpine forests, low-elevation forests, and wetlands
- Mature and old forests with lots of lichens on trees and on the ground

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss or damage caused by development, industrial and recreational activities
- Being hunted by wolves, bears, wolverines, and cougars
- Avalanches, landslides, and climate change that increases severe weather events

Yellow Montane Violet
praemorsa subspecies

(Endangered)

The Yellow Montane Violet is a herb 5-20 cm (~2-8″) tall with yellow flowers that have 5 petals. Its leaves are small, dark green and hairy, and mainly at the base.

The *praemorsa* subspecies of the Yellow Montane Violet is found on the southeast coast of Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands, BC.

© Chris N.Junck

HABITAT

- Garry Oak woodlands and maritime meadows in open, sunny areas

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss caused by residential development
- Invasive plants

Yellow-banded Bumble Bee

(Special Concern)

The Yellow-banded Bumble Bee is a medium-sized Bumble Bee with a short head and tongue length relative to other Bumble Bees. It has a distinct yellow and black abdominal band pattern.

The Yellow-banded Bumble Bee is found in eastern and central BC, with some sightings reported on the coast.

© COSEWIC Secretariat

HABITAT

- Mixed woodlands, farmlands, urban areas, montane meadows, prairie grasslands and boreal habitats
- It nests underground in pre-formed cavities like abandoned rodent burrows and rotten logs

THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Possible threats include introduced diseases from managed Bumble Bees used in greenhouses, pesticides from agriculture, climate change, and habitat loss from urbanization and agriculture

Species at Risk Act and Private Land

Did you know...

- The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) applies on all lands and waters in Canada
- How it applied depends on land tenure
- Canada and British Columbia work together through a formal Agreement on Species at Risk
- Provincial and local governments can protect species at risk and their critical habitat through existing tools (e.g., bylaws, zoning, permitting, *Water Sustainability Act, Wildlife Act*)
- Land owners and managers play an important role through the stewardship actions they choose to take

What is critical habitat?

- The habitat the species needs to recover or survive, as identified in a final recovery strategy or action plan
- Critical habitat is identified using the best available information which includes:
  - The area within which critical habitat is found
  - The environmental features the species needs (e.g., types of plants, water bodies)

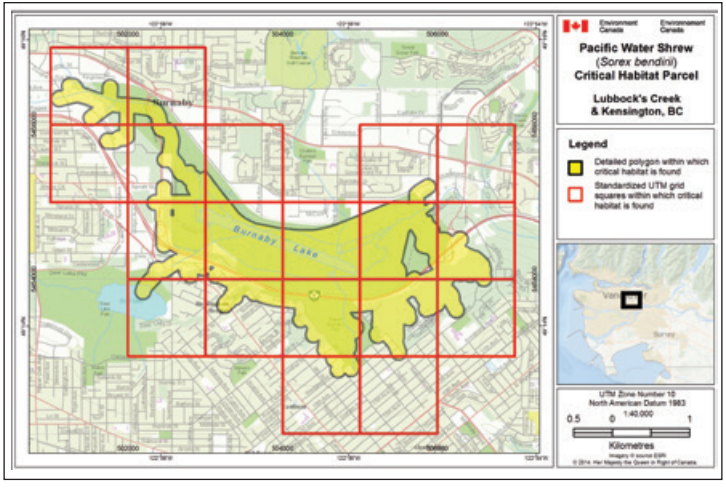
What does it mean to have critical habitat on your land?

- It may mean that your current land use is compatible with the needs of the species. Thank you!
- If you plan to change how you use your land, you can get advice from species experts in order to avoid harming species or their habitat

How is critical habitat protected?

- Protection of critical habitat means avoiding activities that could destroy it
  - Critical habitat is 'destroyed' if the habitat is not available to the species when it needs it
  - Destruction can result from a single action or multiple actions over time (cumulative effects)
- The existing laws of the provinces and territories may protect critical habitat (Note: If new laws or regulations are considered, you will be consulted before anything changes)
- Stewardship actions, or best management practices, can also help species survive and recover
- SARA's legislated powers are only considered if the above measures have not protected the species and its critical habitat
- The goal is to meet the conservation needs of the species while minimizing impacts and inconvenience to landowners

Example of a Critical Habitat Map



Area within which critical habitat occurs for Pacific Water Shrew at Lubbock's Creek and Kensington Interchange (Burnaby, B.C.). Critical habitat is represented by the shaded yellow polygon where the criteria set out in Section 5.1. are met. The 1 km x 1 km UTM grid overlay shown on this figure is a standardized national grid system that highlights the general geographic area containing critical habitat.

What support is available to help landowners protect critical habitat?

- Tax incentives for "EcoGifts"
- Funding programs (e.g., Habitat Stewardship Fund)
- Conservation Agreements
- Information to assist in land use planning

To learn more about SARA and species at risk, please visit: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

NOTES

NOTES

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