









Species of Management Concern Awareness Training



















BCTS Seaward-tlasta Business Area April 2025

SOMC Awareness Training Overview BCTS Seaward April 2025

- What are Species of Management Concern?
 - Legislation Federal and Provincial
 - SFI Certification
 - SOMC criteria
- Why protect SOMC?
- SOMC program components
- Business Area (BA) SOMC Focus List Species
- Reporting BCTS Seaward SOMC focus species
- Identification Resources



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What are Species of Management Concern? BCTS



SOMC include the following:

- Species and ecological communities that are designated as being at risk by federal or provincial agencies
 - Federal included on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (only animal or plant species, not plant communities or ecosystems)
 - Provincial included on the red or blue list (species and ecological communities)
- Species listed in specific regulations
 - BC Wildlife Act , e.g. Bald Eagles
 - FRPA IWMS, GAR species (WHAs or UWR), e.g. Northern Goshawk
- Species that are not at risk but require special management for social and/or economic reasons, e.g black bears

Sustainable Forestry Initiative®



BC Timber Sales is certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Forest Management Standard (2022) **Objective 4 . Conservation of Biological Diversity** <u>Performance Measure 4.2</u>: *Certified Organizations shall protect threatened and endangered species, critically imperiled and imperiled species (Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values), and natural communities and old-growth forests.*

- <u>Indicator 4.2.1</u>: Program to protect threatened and endangered species.
- <u>Indicator 4.2.2</u>: Program to locate and protect known sites of flora and fauna associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities, defined as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.



Why Protect SOMC?



- Achieve sustainable forest management goals, an overarching BCTS principle
- To maintain biological diversity
- To comply with federal legislation *Species at Risk Act, Fisheries Act, Migratory Birds Conventions Act* and the *Migratory Birds Regulations*
- To comply with provincial legislation BC Wildlife Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act
- To maintain Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification – BCTS is required to have a program to protect threatened and endangered species and ecosystems.



Seaward Business Area Species of Management Concern Program







SOMC Program Components

- **1. SOMC Standard Operating Procedure**
- 2. Focus Lists
- **3. Operator Awareness Sheet**
- 4. Field Cards
- **5. SOMC Awareness Training**

SOMC SOP and Focus Lists

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Birds

ubspecie

American Goshawk, *loingi*

atricapillus Iainai

Hirundo rustica

herodias fannini

haliaetus

Dryocopus pileatus

Antigone

creech-Owl

kennicottii subspecies



Species of Management Concern & At Risk Ecological Community Standard Operating Procedure Seaward-Tlasta Business Area 2025-04-02

SOMC

Program

Components

INTRODUCTION

BCTS is committed to manage Species at Risk identified through federal and provincial legislation, as well as to meet Sustainable Forest Management certification requirements. Additionally, some species and species habitat features do not have legal requirements but are still recognized by BCTS as needing additional management guidance. Together these species are referred to as Species of Management Concern (SOMC). BCTS has similar legal and certification obligations related to the management of At Risk Ecological Communities (AREC).

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is intended to provide guidance to all BCTS staff and Multiphase Development (MPAD) contractors related to BCTS SOMC and AREC programs. The corporate framework on the development of SOMC and AREC programs is outlined in the provincial <u>BCTS Species</u> and <u>Ecosystems of Management Concern Guide</u>

(https://intranet.gov.bc.ca/assets/intranet/flnrord/bcts/tos/sustainability/somc/somc_program_guide.p df).

SCOPE

This SOP covers all phases of Primary Forest Activities (including Silviculture Activities). It includes and applies to relevant Business Area staff, and contractors working for BCTS. In addition, licensees and permittees have requirements to follow as identified in this SOP and Appendix 4 is applicable to them.

Intended For (✓): Others available upon request			MPAD	Road Contractors	Silviculture Contractors	TSL Licensees and Permittees
SoMC & AREC SOP			~			
Appendix 1	SoMC & AREC Management Guide	~				
Appendix 2a	Animal and Plant Species List	*	*			
Appendix 3	SoMC Field Cards ¹	~	~			
Appendix 4	SoMC Operator Awareness sheets ²	~		~	~	~
Appendix 5	BCTS SoMC Field Observation Form	~	~			
Appendix 6	AREC Field Procedures and AREC Field Procedure Cards	~	~			

BCTS Seaward (tlasta) Species of Management Concern (SoMC) SOP - Appendix 2a Mammals List - 2025														
English Name	Scientific Name	BCTS Seaward Focus List	Location	Global Status	BC List	BC Wildlife Act	Provincial FRPA	IWMS	SARA	BCTS FSP	Focus List Rationale			
Mammals														
Black Bear	Ursus americanus	Yes	Generalist. Requires similar habitat as Grizzh Bears	G5, (2006)	Yellow	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Included as Focus Species: GBRO, specific habitat requirements (dens).			
Grizzly Bear	Ursus arctos	Yes	Breeding pairs mainland only. CWH, MH	G4	Blue	Yes	Yes (May 2004)	Yes	1-SC (Jun 2018)	Yes	Included as Focus Species: Blue- listed, IWMS, SARA Schedule 1- SC, GBRO. Use a variety of habitats; foraging habitats and denning sites should be		English Name Scie Nam Amphi	
											protected.		Northern Red-legged	Rana auro
Little Brown Myotis	Myotis lucifugus	Yes	Maternal roosts under loose bari of and inside wildlife trees	Yes G3	Blue	Yes	No	No	Yes 1-E (Dec 2014)	No	Included as Focus Species: Hibernaculum though to be concentrated in Karst caves (mostly unknown locations). White nose syndrome is serious threat.		Frog	
Mountain Goat	Oreamnos americanus	Yes	CWH-MH- AT. Mainland only	Yes G5, (2016)	Blue	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Included as Focus Species: Blue- listed; UWRs and GWM. Need awareness of timing and noise restrictions.		Pacific	Ascaphus
Vancouver Island Marmot	Marmota vancouverensis	Yes	Vancouver Island only. Upper MH and AT	Yes G1 (2016)	Red	Yes	Yes (2004)	Yes	Yes 1-E (Dec 2003)	No	Included as Focus Species: Red- listed, IWMS, SARA Schedule 1-E. Marmots will relocate into younger cutblocks thinking it is alpine tundra.	- (Coastal) Tailed Frog		truei
Western Water Shrew	Sorex navigator brooksi	Yes	Riparian habitat	G5T2T3	Blue	Yes	No	No	No	No	Included as Focus Species: Also known as a common water shrew.		Toad	boreas

 Scientific Name
 Scientific Name

 Amphibians orthern os
 Rana aurara Ana aurara
 Bald Eagle

 Bann Swallow
 Bann Swallow

 Information aurara
 Bann Swallow

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 Great Bue Herron, founition subspecies

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 Ascophus troner

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SOMC Resources

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Species of Management Concern Appendix 4: Operator Awareness Sheet

Consistent with the BCTS Environmental Field Procedures (EFPs 01 -08): Stop work and contact (report to) your project supervisor and the BCTS representative if any of the following features are found and previously unidentified.

Do not disturb the feature, document the location and take photos if possible.

BCTS Licensees / Permittees / Road Contractors:

Consistent with the TSL clauses and BCTS Advisory Bulletin No. 2015/09/22 "Having a Plan":

- Licensees are responsible for ensuring all their operations are in accordance with the BCTS Seaward (tlasta) Forest Stewardship Plan, and all relevant legislation.
- Licensees may have the responsibility to change the plan and are advised to consult a Qualified Professional.
- Additional information on how BCTS identifies & manages these features is available upon request.



Barn Swallow (Nest)

Legal Reference: Species at Risk Act (Threatened),

Migratory Birds Regulation sec. 5, Wildlife Act-

Section 34(a), (c), BC Yellow-list

(Nest/Colony/Rookery)



Great Blue Heron

Legal Reference: Wildlife Act-Section 34(b)

Legal Reference: BCTS Seaward (tlasta) Forest Stewardship Plan; Wildlife Act-Section 34(b); Species at Risk Act (Special Concern); Migratory Birds Regulation sec. 5, Schedule 1.

Osprey (Nest)



Legal Reference: Wildlife Act-Section 34(a), (b), BC Yellow-list

Pileated Woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus)

Description:

 Large crow sized (40-49 cm) woodpecker. Largest woodpecker in North America.

- Mostly black with a bright red crest and white stripes extending down the neck from the bill to underwing area.
- Sexes are similar in appearance. Male has a red patch on the gape off base of
- In flight striking white on linings of
- underwings are revealed. Flies with slow, jerky wing beats.
- Excavates a deep rectangular cavity
- used by secondary cavity dwellers.

Similar Species

 Red-breasted sap sucker has a red head, neck and upper chest, but much smaller. Excavations are shallow. Northern Flicker is also a large woodpecker that deeply excavates a (usually round) cavity used by secondary cavity dwellers. Males have a small red slash below the gape and a speckled body

Biology:

 Diet consists of carpenter ants, other ants, woodboring beetle larvae, termites and other insects such as flies, spruce budworm and caterpillars, some fruit and nuts

- Drill rectangular or irregular shaped feeding holes with rough edges in rotten wood.
- · Feed in snags, logs, stumps and windthrow.
- · Pairs stay together in their territory all year round.
- · Pairs excavate a new nest cavity each vear
- Entrances to nesting cavities can be circular, slightly oval (tear drop shaped) or rectangular with smooth edges; vertical diameter around 12 cm and horizontal diameter around 9 cm.



(typically > 40cm) live or dead trees with heart rot.

· Nest trees typically have only one cavity, roost trees may have numerous entrance

holes Clutch size of 2-5, one brood annually.

Eggs are glossy white

 Incubation by both parents 15-18 days. Nestlings stay in nest 24-31 days.

Vocalization: Some people mistake the piliated woodpecker call with a Northern Goshawk alarm call

 https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Pilea ted Woodpecker/sounds

Phenology



Photo Credit: All About Birds

Habitat:

 Forest birds that require large, standing dead trees and downed wood. Mature evergreen, deciduous or mixed forests can be used. . Found in suburban areas where large dead trees are present.

Field Cards

Vancouver Island Marmot (Marmota vancouverensis) Habitat

Operating Procedure (2023) and follow Suitable habitat is scarce and highly the steps outlined If deemed necessary by BCTS, consult · Open subalpine meadows, on south to with a professional biologist

west-facing treeless slopes at 1000-1500m. Home range, 0.02-0.05 km². · Sufficient soil for burrowing, with large rocks or stumps for burrowing under and for lookout sites. · Colonies have been found in conifer forest, logging slash, road banks, and cleared ski runs. · Individual marmots occasionally take up

residence in valley-bottom gardens. · Burrows usually below rocks in or near meadows . Entrances, 35-45 cm diameter and

located on downhill side of boulders or below stumps. Those used as hibernation or birth sites usually have some dirt mounded on the low side of the entrance. · Hibernacula can be identified either by grass and mud "plugs" found at tunnel entrances in late autumn, or by

Legal Reference:

. It is an offense to kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual of a wildlife species that is listed as an extirpated species, an endangered species or a threatened species [Species at Risk Act s. 32(1) (Endangered)] It is an offence to wound or kill wildlife unless subject to a hunting license. (Wildlife Act) Minimum Legal Buffer: N/A Not a comprehensive list of all legal requirements

SARA Schedule: 1- Endangered.

Suboptimal habitat

Provincial List: Red.

Identified Wildlife: Yes.

Status

emergence tunnels through the snowpack in May or early June. · Forestry impacts include facilitation of access for wolves and cougars through logging roads, and roads and cutblocks can be mistaken by Marmots as suitable aloine habitat which are subootimal. especially with regen growth. Field Guidance: . If species and/or burrows observed, do not disturb the burrow and limit activity in the immediate area.

· Take photos and record sighting's coordinates. · Report the observation (sightings or burrows) to supervisor and contact BCTS

fragmented.

Business Area Management Recommendations:

 Refer to BCTS Seaward/tlasta Species of Management Concern Standard





Focus List Species Habitat Features

- Habitat features of species groups
 - Field cards have detailed information for future reference
- <u>Early identification of SOMC and</u> <u>their habitat features aids in</u> <u>planning</u>







Amphibian Breeding Habitat





Coastal Tailed Frog

- Breed in stream habitats on the mainland coast,
- require permanent water flow,
- non-fish bearing reaches
- 15-30% gradient
- step pool morphology



Pond Breeding Amphibians



Northern red-legged frog





Western Toad



<u>Regional Amphibian ID Keys</u> – ID keys for frogs, toads, salamanders and amphibian eggs





If handling amphibians to identify the species:

- use clean wet hands free of chemicals such as sunscreen or insecticides and wear disposable gloves if possible.
- Minimize the handling time to reduce stress.
- Don't handle amphibian egg masses. Observe them and provide photos and approximate measurements of their size for species confirmation.
- Risk of chytrid fungus and ranavirus → emerging infectious diseases are one of the leading causes of amphibian declines worldwide. Humans can act as vectors in transmitting these diseases, so handling of amphibians should only be done when necessary.

Bird Nests









Barn Swallow Nest



Sandhill Crane Northern tip of VI and mainland coast







Great Blue Heron

12

Bird Cavity Nests





Pileated Woodpecker























DO NOT HANDLE BATS!

Although the risk of contracting rabies from bats is rare, it is a very serious disease.

If you have been in physical contact with a bat:Notify your supervisor.Immediately contact your health care provider.

Bat species identification in the field should only be done by a qualified biologist! It isn't easy and for most species requires handling the bat.

Bear Dens





Winter Bear Dens **MUST** have:

- An entrance >25cm wide
- A dry bedding cavity >60cm

Evidence of bear use of a den:

Hair

•

- Claw and bite marks
- Vegetation used as bedding may be present



Black Bear



SAFETY!

Use caution if approaching a suspected bear den during the winter hibernation period for personal safety and to avoid disturbing a hibernating animal (WLRS Protocol). Potential hibernation period is Nov. 1 to May 15.

Assessment of a bear den during the winter should only be done if absolutely necessary!

> Take Bear Aware Training

DO NOT Handle Wildlife!

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We don't want to cause any harm to wildlife, and we don't want to expose staff to any danger! •take photos or videos to confirm species ID from a safe distance

•If these methods are not adequate to confirm species identification and a SOMC is suspected, then consult with BCTS Practices Forester if a qualified biologist should be contacted to conduct a follow up survey. If you are able to catch wildlife, it likely means they are sick or injured (other than amphibians)!

- Do not pick up a dead animal of any species with bare hands; use gloves or a shovel!
- If you find a sick or injured wildlife, do not transport it! **Call the Conservation Officer Services 1-877-952-7277** to report it!

Additional resources:

- There is a provincial website on what to do if you find sick, injured or dead wildlife: <u>What to</u> <u>do if you find sick, injured, or dead wildlife -</u> <u>Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</u>
- Contact MARS Wildlife Rescue (250) 337-2021



NEW - Oldgrowth Specklebelly Lichen

Victoria Buzz: 'Old-growth carnage': Activists concerned over clear-cut forest near Port Alberni (PHOTOS)

July 3, 2024 By: Curtis Blandy *Victoria Buzz*

The Ancient Forest Alliance also says that an at-risk species, specklebelly lichen, was recently documented in the area and this particular lichen can only be found in old-growth groves.

Rare lichen enlisted in old-growth logging battle

JUSTINE HUNTER >

PORT RENFREW, B.C.

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

The tiny lichen that could stop Teal-Jones from logging Fairy Creek's old-growth

By Shaena Lambert | News | September 11th 2021



Description:

•Oldgrowth specklebelly is a large, blue-gray leafy lichen.

It is the only BC lichen with a spotted lower surface – tiny white spots on a pale brownish background, and torn lobe margins.

•Oldgrowth specklebelly is a distinctive lichen, easily recognized in the field.

Habitat:

Preferred habitat is on bark of lower canopy trees, especially amabilis fir, within the dripline of yellow-cedar. Also found on Hw, Yc, Cw and yew.

 Found in oldgrowth forests over 200 years old.
 Found at low to moderate elevations in the Coastal Western Hemlock Zone – often in CWHvm2 or upper elevations of vm1.

•Elevations of 185-980 m.







Field Guidance:

Do not disturb the plant.

Confirm species identification through photos and specialist if necessary.
Document and GPS the location.

Report to BCTS.

Field Guidance:

Refer to BCTS Seaward Species of Management Concern Standard Operating Procedure and follow the steps outlined.
Consult a QRP, if deemed necessary by BCTS, to verify identification and to implement a stand level management strategy identifying necessary buffer.









What to do if you observe an SOMC or a habitat feature used by a SOMC?





SOMC Reporting



Report to the BCTS Multiphase Contract Coordinator and Practices Forester for documentation, tracking and management.

BCTS will submit applicable observations to the BC Conservation Data Centre as Incidental Observations at: <u>Submit Wildlife / Plant Data and Information - Province of</u> <u>British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</u>

The BCTS SOMC Field Observation Form (SOMC SOP Appendix 5) is available as a reference for data collection purposes (use is optional).

- Record the location on a map, GPS or iPad
- Take photos and video if possible. If possible, include scale of some sort or describe scale (e.g. ping pong ball, tennis ball, baseball etc.).
- General description of the habitat, including stand age and structure. Note any special features such as amount of coarse woody debris and wildlife trees.
- Record the elevation and slope of the site.



SOMC Program Summary:

- ✓ The BCTS SOMC Program includes a SOMC SOP, Focus Lists that identify the SOMC for the Seaward Business Area, and Field Cards
- ✓ Early identification and reporting of any SOMC or their habitat features is helpful for BCTS and our operational planning
- SOMC management is typically focussed on habitat features associated with SOMC such as bird nests, bear dens, wildlife trees, and amphibian breeding locations
- ✓ If you see something that you think is a SOMC or a habitat feature but are unsure, report it to BCTS and additional verification can be completed

✓ Report to BC Conservation Data Centre –





BCTS Seaward SOMC Contacts:

Species ID Resources

- <u>Regional Amphibian ID Keys</u> ID keys for frogs, toads, salamanders and amphibian eggs
- <u>BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer</u> data about species and ecosystems in BC



<u>iNaturalist</u> – identification tool for plants and animals



<u>Seek</u> – developed by iNaturalist, will work without internet connection



<u>Merlin Bird ID</u> – bird identification by sight and sound

Mascha Bremer, Planning Forester, mascha.bremer@gov.bc.ca (236) 319-4017

Deidre Haight, Planning Officer, <u>deidre.haight@gov.bc.ca</u> (250) 956-5085

or Practices Forester

Provincial Operations Contact: Dori Manley, BCTS Wildlife Resource Specialist, dori.manley@gov.bc.ca (250) 850-1847