

AN AMERICAN BADGER BURROW

Definition

An excavated hole that descends below ground that either (1) is currently occupied for denning, shelter or foraging, or (2) is habitually occupied and still capable of providing for denning, shelter or foraging.

Location

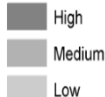
- Den in grasslands or open ponderosa pine or Douglas fir forests with fine sandy loam soils with few large rocks
- Badger burrows are often associated with existing road surfaces and embankments that have the correct soil properties

Features

- Typically round or oval in shape and have loose, freshly dug soil mounded at the entrance
- Often horizontal claw marks (approx. 1.5 cm between claw marks) on the sides of recent burrows
- Height: 15-25 cm
- Width: 20-30 cm
- Extends several meters under the ground

Notes

- Burrows may be re-dug and re-used several times over a decade
- Females may move litters to new burrows throughout the rearing season
- Sensitive during Apr 15 - Aug 15
- Designated as a Species at Risk under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and is Red-listed in British Columbia.
- Designated as Endangered by COSEWIC.



Nelson

Similar features to a Badger Burrow

Coyote and red fox burrows - how to distinguish:

- Coyote and red fox burrows are often triangular in shape, with claw marks that run vertically downward along the sides from the peak of the entrance
- Coyote and red fox burrows usually have more feces and prey remains at their entrances than badger burrows

Columbian ground squirrel burrows - how to distinguish:

- Columbia ground squirrel burrows are fairly round with entrances about 10 cm in diameter

Information to Consider

- **Sensitive Timing: April 15 – August 15**
- Activities conducted near a burrow that result in soil disturbance or compaction may damage the burrow (e.g., road or skid trail construction, felling/yarding, ground skidding, mechanical site preparation [mounding/trenching], and broadcast burning). To avoid damage to badger burrows:
- Maintain herbaceous and shrub ground cover around burrows.
- Avoid developing any new road access near clusters of known active burrows.
- Establish a no machine zone around burrows to protect them from collapse under heavy harvesting equipment (Figure 32).
 - Zone size of 5–7 m around single burrows.
 - Establish a larger zone of at least 20 m around clusters of burrows or single natal den.
 - For natal dens, avoid disturbance during the breeding season (April 15–August 15).
- Erect enclosure fencing if damage from livestock is degrading the vegetative structure or threatening the collapse of burrows.
 - Avoid placing livestock attractants (e.g., salt licks, water troughs, feeding sites) within 250 m of the burrow.
 - During the maternal period (April 15–August 15), do not construct range developments within 250 m of active burrows



Photos top to bottom:
Rich Weir, Luke Robertson

Habitat	BEC	Variant
Interior Douglas-fir	IDF	dk1, dk2, dk3, dm1, dm2, mw, mw1, mw2, un, xh1, xh2, xm, xw, xw2
Interior Cedar – Hemlock	ICH	dw, mk1, mk2, mk3, mw1, mw2, mw3, xw
Montane Spruce	MS	dk, dm1, dm2, un, xk
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir	ESSF	dc1, dc2, dcp, dk, dk1, dkw, dkp, mw, mwp, wc1, wc4, wcp, wm, wmp, xc, xcp, dw
Ponderosa Pine	PP	dh1, dh2, xh1, xh2