

# A NEST OF A LEWIS'S WOODPECKER

## Definition

A nest and its supporting structure that either (1) is currently occupied by a Lewis's Woodpecker to hold its eggs or offspring, or (2) is habitually occupied and still capable of holding eggs or offspring of a Lewis's Woodpecker.

## Location

- Typically nest in open (<25% crown closure), mature ponderosa pine forests, riparian black cottonwood stands, recent burns, agricultural areas, and open grasslands with sporadic mature dead or dying trees (>30 cm dbh)
- Usually 3.5-9 m off the ground in deciduous and coniferous trees of decay classes 6-8
- Three areas of occupancy: Boundary, Pend D'Oreille and East Kootenay (see reverse). Isolated nests near Slocan and historic nests near Fruitvale.

## Features

- Use natural or excavated tree cavities (can excavate their own cavities or reuse old northern flicker and hairy woodpecker cavities)
- Entrance diameter: 5-9 cm
- Depth: 20-60 cm

## Notes

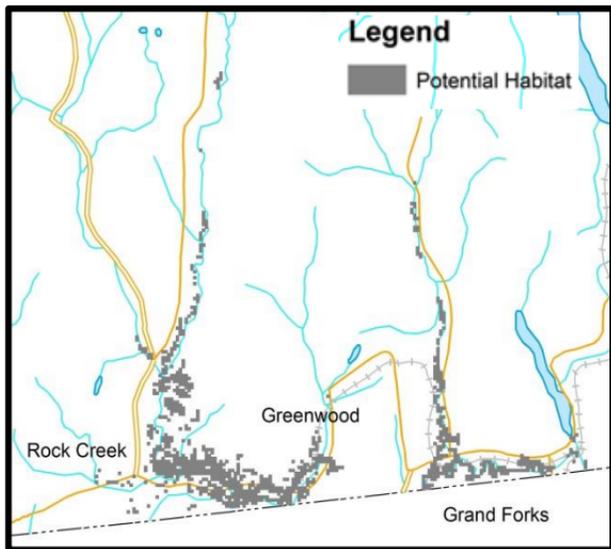
- Strong fidelity to nests; used year after year
- Quick to occupy low elevation wildfire sites and remain for up to 10 years
- Designated a Species at Risk under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and is Blue-listed in British Columbia.
- Designated as Threatened by COSEWIC

## Sensitive Timing

Courtship	Eggs Present	Young Present
May 1 – May 31	Jun 1 – Jun 30	Jul 1 – Aug 31



Photos left to right: Ian Routley, Jared Hobbs, John Cooper



## Similar features to a Lewis's Woodpecker Nest

### Owl nest - how to distinguish:

- If pellets and prey remains are present at the base of the tree the cavity is likely occupied by an owl species

### Williamson's sapsucker nest - how to distinguish:

- Williamson's sapsuckers excavate their own cavities and are much smaller with an entrance diameter of 3-4 cm

Habitat	BEC	Variant
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Interior Douglas-fir	IDF	dk1, dk2, dk3, dk4, dk5, dm, dm1, dm2, dw, mw1, mw2, un, xh1a, xh2a, xm, xw, xw2, xh4, xk
Interior Cedar – Hemlock	ICH	dw, dm, dw1, dw2, mk1, mk5, mw2, mw3, mw4, mw5, xw, wk1
Montane Spruce	MS	un, dk1
Ponderosa Pine	PP	dh1, dh2, xh1, xh2

## Information to Consider

- **Sensitive Timing: May 1 – August 31**
- Avoid high-disturbance forestry activities with potential for prolonged disturbance (i.e., more than a few hours) within 100 m of a nest from May 1–August 31.
- Within 400 m of a flagged known/potential nest tree:
  - prioritize removal of smaller (< 20 cm dbh) trees and non-preferred species (i.e., not ponderosa pine or black cottonwood) when removal of mature trees is necessary; and
  - use mechanical removal, rather than herbicides, and prioritize non-fruit-bearing species for removal, when understory vegetation brushing/clearing is necessary.

