



Photos: Les Gyug

A NEST OF A WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER

Definition

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

Location

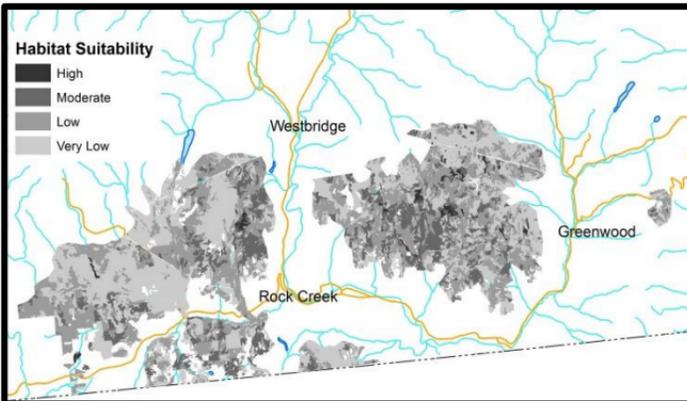
- Typically nest in or adjacent to mature coniferous stands that have large veteran western larch with heart rot
- Primarily in western larch; sometimes trembling aspen, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir between 700-1,500 m in elevation

Features

- Excavate their own cavities in trees with outward signs of decay (eg. broken tops, large stem scars, fungal conks)
- Entrance diameter: 3-4 cm

Notes

- May use the same nest year after year, but new cavities are usually excavated
- Two subspecies (*nataliae* and *thyroideus*) are recognized in British Columbia; the subspecies do not overlap in range and are indistinguishable in the field.
- Designated a Species at Risk under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and Blue-listed in British Columbia.
- Both subspecies are designated Endangered by COSEWIC.



Sensitive Timing

Courtship	Eggs Present	Young Present
Mar 15 – Apr 1	May 1 – Jun 1	Jun 1 – Jul 15

Similar features to a Williamson's Sapsucker 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

Lewis's woodpecker nest - how to distinguish:

- Lewis's woodpeckers use natural cavities or old northern flicker and hairy woodpecker nests and are much larger with an entrance diameter of 5-9 cm

Habitat	BEC	Variant
Interior Douglas-fir	IDF	dk1, dk1a, dk2, dm, dm1, dm2, mw1, mw2, un, xh1, xh1a, xh2, xh2a, xh4, xw
Interior Cedar – Hemlock	ICH	dw, mk1, mk2, mw2, xw
Montane Spruce	MS	dk, dm1, dm2, xk
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir	ESSF	mw (very rare)
Ponderosa Pine	PP	dh1, dh2, xh1, xh1a, xh2, xh2a

Information to Consider

- **Sensitive Timing: March 15 – July 15**
- Retain important habitat attributes within 200-500 m of a known nest where Williamson's sapsuckers will forage.
- Wildlife tree patches should be a minimum of 0.25 ha.
- If a confirmed or probable nest tree is a single, isolated tree within an existing open area, maintain all existing trees as well as woody debris in a 0.5 ha area.
- Refer to *Best Management Practices for Timber Harvesting, Roads, and Silviculture for Williamson's Sapsucker in British Columbia* for your area

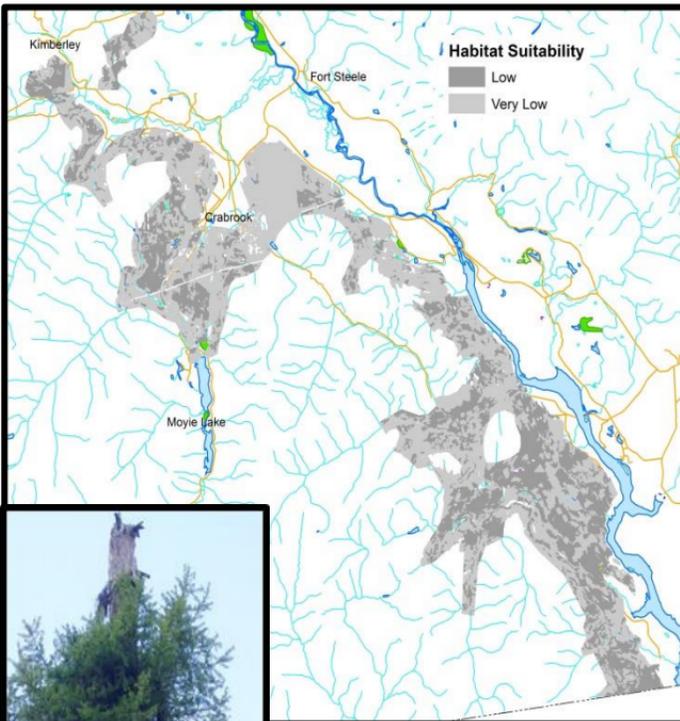


Photo: Les Gyug