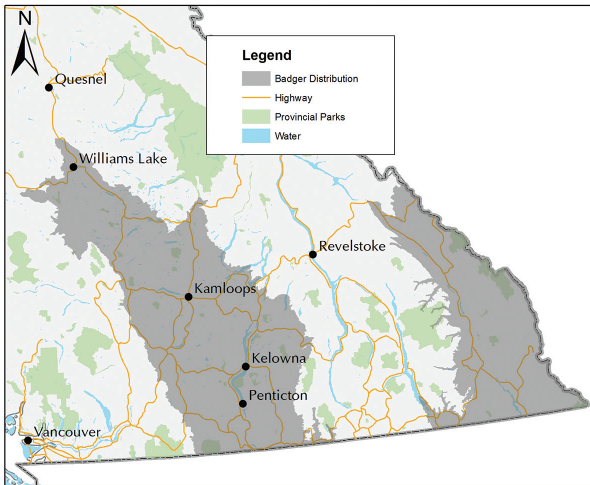


DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

- Southern interior of British Columbia
- Variety of habitats including grasslands, shrub-steppe, dry open forests or open forest patches
- Can be found in logged or burned forests and at disturbed areas such as landings
- Badgers require soils suitable for digging for prey. Soils that hold their structure and can be burrowed into without collapsing are preferred.



BIOLOGY

- Breed in late July and August and give birth in late March or early April
- Litter sizes range from one to five kits
- Juvenile dispersal generally occurs in June through August.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT/ REPORT BADGER SIGHTINGS

The BC Badger Website at: www.badgers.bc.ca

CONTACT

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Thompson Okanagan region,
Resource Management

1259 Dalhousie Drive
Kamloops, British Columbia

References

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/esd/atlas/species/badger.html>

BC 2004, Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife - Badger
<http://badgers.bc.ca/>

<http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/efauna/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Taxidea%20taxus>

Photo credits

Cover: American Badger by Richard Klafki

Inside left: Burrow by FLNRORD, Badger by Richard Klafki

Inside centre: by FLNRORD



American Badger

Taxidea taxus jeffersonii



CONSERVATION STATUS

Badgers are an endangered species under the federal Species at Risk Act and are on the Red List in B.C. as assessed by the Conservation Data Center. There are only about 30 adult badgers in the Thompson area.



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DESCRIPTION

- Distinctive head markings, including a white stripe that runs down the top of their head and black markings on their face
- Short and stout with dense, course, shaggy hair reaching nearly to the ground
- Extremely long claws (front claws often more than 5cm)
- About 60-90cm long & weighing about 6-12kg.

BADGER BURROWS

- Located on flat to steep terrain from valley bottoms to alpine climates
- Mound of dirt at entrance to a large elliptical hole
- Silty, loamy, clayey and sandy; amount of coarse fragments range from medium to high
- Burrows are about 20–30 cm wide and 15–25 cm high
- Claw marks may be seen along sides and top, 3–5 cm apart
- Badgers regularly re-use burrows across their range. They use burrows for resting, foraging, food storage, giving birth and raising young.



DIET

- Favorite foods include Columbian ground squirrels, yellow-bellied marmots, and northern pocket gophers
- Badgers will eat pretty much any small creature they can catch including voles, muskrats, rabbits, chipmunks, mice, birds, bird eggs, insects, and even snakes!
- Badgers rely on a highly developed sense of smell to locate prey.



Columbia ground squirrel, a significant food source for badgers.

FUN FACTS

- Black patches or 'badges' on each side of the face give the badger its name.
- Abandoned burrows provide important nesting sites for other wildlife such as burrowing owls.
- Yellow bellied marmots are often mistaken for badgers.

Yellow bellied Marmot occupying a badger burrow.



THREATS TO BADGERS

- Roads — highway mortality
- Habitat loss from various factors including urban and rural development, forest encroachment, orchards and vineyards, and cultivation (row-crop) agriculture
- Persecution, illegal or accidental trapping
- Extermination of prey species reducing food availability and secondary poisoning from rodenticides.

HUMAN-BADGER INTERACTIONS

Although badgers generally pose little threat to humans, female badgers with kits may be protective of their young when approached.

Please remember BADGERS ARE WILD ANIMALS and should not be approached.

Killing or harassing a badger is prohibited under British Columbia's Wildlife Act.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A BADGER

- Give them lots of space, at least 50m
- Do not approach or feed them
- Report all sightings to www.badgers.bc.ca
- To report wildlife in conflict contact the **Conservation Officer Service Reporting Line** at 1-877-952-7277