



## British Columbia Conservation Data Centre – 2024 Update

Did you know that the BC Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC) is not only part of the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship, but is also a member of the non-profit organisation, [NatureServe Canada](#), and the international [NatureServe](#) Network? There are over 60 network programs in Canada and the United States sharing a common method for ranking and mapping species and ecosystems.

How incredible to have a dataset that crosses borders!

BC Conservation Data Centre respectfully acknowledges that it carries out its work on the territories of many First Nations and that Indigenous Knowledge is important to understanding species and our relationships to each other.

### \*Highlights\*

BC CDC has an exciting new project to develop **habitat models** for B.C. species at risk following NatureServe standards of reproducibility, metadata documentation and confidence assessment. Habitat models will assist in the conservation and management of species in B.C. with a goal of making them publicly accessible online.

BC CDC is participating in a multi-agency collaboration to improve mapping and assessment of wetlands through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Provincial Wetland Project and [Canadian National Wetland Inventory](#). Data and assessments will be integrated with the provincial [Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification](#) (BEC) and Ecosystem Information programs and supporting databases.

BC CDC continues to work on species at risk inventory on lands throughout British Columbia, including on lands managed by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Parks Canada and BC Parks. Inventories inform Element Occurrences, conservation status assessments, and management of species and ecosystems at risk.

Over 230 species and ecological communities were added to our database and over 430 conservation status assessments were completed resulting in 208 changes to the BC Red/Blue/Yellow Lists. Read about the BC Red/Blue/Yellow Lists [here](#).

Over 1,500 Element Occurrences have been added or updated, and over 2,000 new observations have been incorporated into our data this year.

What is an Element Occurrence? Read about it [here](#).

The BC CDC responded to over 750 custom data requests in 2024 and our web tools were accessed over 400,000 times per year.

## 2024 Taxonomy, Classification, and Rank Updates

BC CDC annually releases:

- updates to conservation status ranks of selected species and ecological communities,
- additions of new species and ecological communities in BC and
- changes in species taxonomy and ecological community classification.

BC CDC data updates are made available through [BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#) (BCSEE). BCSEE reflects the Provincial [Resource Inventory Standards Committee](#) (RISC) standard for scientific names, English names and species codes (RISC codes) for species and ecological communities in BC.

Below is a summary, you can read the full list of changes [here](#). Find previous years' changes [here](#).

### **Animal Updates:**

The Zoology Unit made taxonomy or rank changes to the bird, mammal, amphibian, and invertebrate groups, and made additions of one bee, one arachnid and one beetle. There were two English and scientific name changes to birds this year, and eighty English name changes of robber flies. In total, 196 animals were reviewed for changes in status rank, resulting in 44 status rank changes.

### **Plant Updates:**

The Botany Unit made changes to the vascular plants, lichens, liverworts, macrofungi, mosses and slime mold groups. In total, across these groups, 38 new taxa were added and 25 were excluded. There were 21 changes to names or taxonomy (mostly vascular plants), and there were 219 conservation status rank changes (mostly for mosses).

### **Ecological Community Updates:**

The Ecology Unit removed one ecological community from the list in B.C. Fifteen ecological community conservation status ranks were reviewed, resulting in five changes in conservation status ranks due to new information. There were 107 new Element Occurrences mapped and 56 updated for 12 ecological communities.

## Data Access

Information on species and ecological communities at risk is available via our website and tools:

**BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer (BCSEE)** Use this [application](#) to:

- generate lists of BC's species and ecological communities
- conduct searches using criteria including conservation or legal status, and spatial distribution
- download your results to Excel
- access related reports and documents

**Range Data:** The “Search by Area” option in BCSEE is driven by range data. As the range data are updated, the results from the “Search by Area” option will be refined. Refined range data will be uploaded to BCSEE and be publicly accessible for download through the BC Data Catalogue soon for [species](#) and [ecological communities](#).

**CDC iMap:** Use our custom [application](#) to view mapped known locations (Element Occurrences) of species and ecological communities at risk and print Element Occurrence records; export those to Excel, PDF, or Shapefile. \*Watch for EcoAtlas BC, coming soon!

**BC Data Catalogue:** [Download](#) CDC Element Occurrences as Shapefile, Geodatabase, CSV, KML, GeoRSS or GeoJSON or connect to the WMS URL.

**Submit data:** Help us keep our information current! [Submit information](#) relating to BC's animals, plants, and ecological communities.

For more information on the above tools, and more, please visit our [Explore Data](#) web page.

## Client Service

Questions from clients include how to use our online tools, requests for secure data and information, and our methods for ranking and mapping species and ecological communities. This year's breakdown of clients included 757 custom requests (Figure 1).

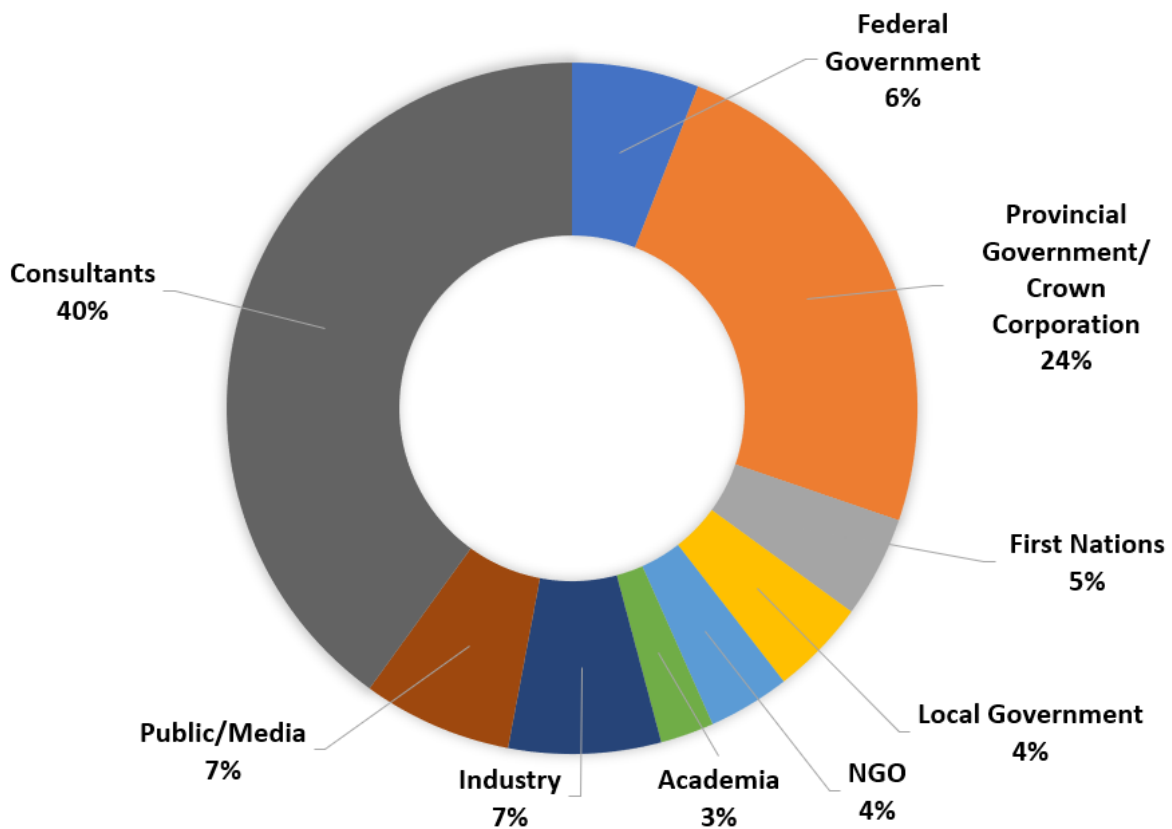


Figure 1. 2023/24 breakdown of client data requests.

If you have any questions, please contact us [cdccdata@gov.bc.ca](mailto:cdccdata@gov.bc.ca)

