

Background to Species Identification Guide

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BCTS Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area (CCBA) has instituted a Species of Management Concern Program to help meet their Sustainable Forestry Initiative. The program provides information to help identify and manage species at risk that occur in areas where CCBA operates. BC has greater numbers of native species than any other Province in Canada of which 1377 species are listed as being extirpated, endangered, threatened, or of special concern (BC Conservation Data Center 2009). The Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area has 151 species of animals, birds, fish, and plants along with 99 plant communities that have been designated at risk or are of management concern. Protection for these species is provided by the Federal Species at Risk Act, British Columbia Wildlife Act, Provincial Red and Blue lists, BC Conservation Data Center, Identified Wildlife Strategy, Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA), and higher level plans such as the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan (CCLUP).

The federal government enacted the Species at Risk Act (SARA) in 2002. This helped to fulfill Canada's obligations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and some requirements of the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk, signed with the provinces in 1996. These initiatives were driven by high levels of public concern in Canada for threatened and endangered species. Under SARA, 155 species are listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened and 68 are listed as of special concern. The BC Wildlife Act specifically protects four species (Burrowing Owl, Sea Otter, Vancouver Island Marmot, and American White Pelican). The Act also protects the nests of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron or burrowing owl, and the nest of any other bird when it is occupied by a bird or eggs. The Provincial Red list includes species that have been designated as extirpated (no longer exist in the wild in BC), endangered (facing imminent extirpation), or threatened (likely to become endangered due to limiting factors). The Provincial Blue list includes species that are considered vulnerable (of special concern because of sensitivity to human activities or natural events). Identified Wildlife are species at risk and regionally important wildlife that BC Environment has designated as requiring special management attention under the Forest and Range Practices legislation. The species included in the Identified Wildlife Strategy include some listed under SARA and others that are on the Provincial Red or Blue list. Species that are included in higher level plans are also of management concern due to their importance regionally. The CCLUP provides legal direction in the Cariboo-Chilcotin for the management of certain species. From these documents and in consideration of commitments made in the CCBA Forest Stewardship Plans, 252 species/communities were selected for the BCTS Species of Management Concern Program.

This book provides guidance for the identification of selected rare plants and rare animals, where identification will assist in their management. A selection of rare communities are also included, where information beyond what is in the standard MFR site series identification guide or the *Wetlands of BC* book. The species management issues are addressed in "Guppy, C.S. 2009. *Species of Management Concern for BC Timber Sales Cariboo-Chilcotin Business Area*. Unpublished report prepared for the BC Timber Sales, Williams Lake, BC" and summarized in "Guppy, C.S. 2009. Field Guide to Wildlife Habitat Management."

The digital (CD) plant identification resource "Interactive Plant Keys and Color Photos for British Columbia" from Flora ID Northwest (Oregon), www.xidservices.com is strongly recommended.