



Species of Management Concern: Awareness Training

BCTS Chinook
June 1st 2026



SOMC Awareness Training Overview

- Introduction & awareness!





What are Species of Management Concern?



Mountain goat

Species, ecosystems, habitats, or wildlife feature that occurs within BCTS operating areas and can be adversely affected by forestry.





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Mountain goat

Species, **ecosystems**, habitats, or wildlife feature that occurs within BCTS operating areas and can be adversely affected by forestry.



At-Risk Ecological Communities (AREC)

Examples	Status	BEC association	District
Western Redcedar/ Devil's Club	Red listed	CWHds1/07; CWHds2/07	DCK, DSQ, DSC
Red alder/ Salmonberry/ Common horsetail	Blue listed	CDFmm/09; CDFmm/Fl51; CWHvh1/10; CWHvh1/Fl51; CWHvh2/10; CWHvh2/Fl51; CWHwh1/09; CWHwh1/Fl51	DCK, DQC, DSC



Important BCTS Resources:

1. AREC Field Confirmation Procedures
2. AREC Management Guidance



Staff access: <https://intranet.gov.bc.ca/for/bcts/sustainability/sustainability/at-risk-ecological-communities>



[Ministry of Forests](#) > [BC Timber Sales](#) > [Sustainability and forestry](#) > [Sustainability](#) >

- Species of management concern
- ▾ **[At risk ecological communities](#)**
 - AREC focus lists
 - AREC field confirmation procedures
 - AREC program implementation
 - AREC awareness training
 - AREC resources
 - AREC reporting
 - AREC program Q and A
- SOMC Survey123
 - Program updates
- Migratory and breeding birds protections

At risk ecological communities



On this page:

- [Species and ecosystems of management concern program guide](#)
- [Standard operating procedures](#)
- [Master AREC list](#)
- [AREC risk rating system](#)

Sustainable forest management in B.C.

Sustainable forest management is one of the three overarching principles that govern all BC Timber Sales (BCTS) activities. As manager of approximately 20% of provincial public forest land, BCTS has both legal and stewardship obligations to manage and conserve ecosystems and habitats that might occur within BCTS operating areas and be adversely affected by forestry activities. These at risk ecological communities (AREC) are identified by a variety of sources including:

Program Updates

The provincial SOMC resources are reviewed annually. Updates to the SOMC program components, including regulatory changes, updated species information and other changes will be communicated to affected business areas and posted on the [Program Updates](#) page.

What are Species of Management Concern?



Species, ecosystems, habitats, or wildlife feature that occurs within BCTS operating areas and can be adversely affected by forestry.

- Legislation
- SFI requirements
- Not at-risk, but locally identified for social/economic reasons



Legislation

Wildlife Act

FRPA s. 7

GAR Orders

Species at Risk Act

Identified Wildlife
Management Strategy



Federal Legislation

Federal Legislation	Protection	What does it apply to?	Where does it apply?
<i>Species at Risk Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legislation that legally assigns the national biological conservation status of species based on advice of COSEWIC Provides legal protection of species listed in Schedule 1, their residences and critical habitat if located on federal land. Critical habitat is designated for species listed as Endangered or Threatened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to species listed in Schedule 1 as Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Currently SARA only includes species and does not include ecological communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquatic species and migratory birds – everywhere All other species – federal lands only
<i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designates the migratory birds that the act applies to Protects migratory birds and their nests when they contain a live bird or a viable egg The new Migratory Birds Regulations (2022) includes a list of 18 species whose nests are reused and are protected year-round, unless they have been shown to be abandoned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to migratory birds identified under the Act Some examples of groups it does not apply to are owls, jays, crows, ravens, hawks and eagles The nests of the 18 species identified in Schedule 1 of the MBR are protected year-round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies on all lands and all tenures in Canada

Provincial Legislation

Provincial Legislation	Protection	What does it apply to?	Where does it apply?
<i>Wildlife Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits the hunting, trapping, wounding of endangered or threatened species and all native wildlife species (S.26) Protects a bird or its egg, the nest of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron or burrowing owl or the nest of a bird not referred to when the nest it occupied by a bird or its egg (S.34) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All native species. Designated endangered or threatened species (S.13) include Burrowing Owl, Sea Otter, Vancouver Island Marmot, American White Pelican Nests of eagles, peregrine falcons, osprey, herons or burrowing owls Active nests of all bird species 	Everywhere in BC
<i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7 Notices are objectives set by government for consideration during forestry planning (result of strategy in FSP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincially designated species at risk Regionally important wildlife (none currently identified) Winter survival of specified ungulate species (GAR S.12) 	Provincial Crown Land
Identified Wildlife Management Strategy supported by the <i>Government Actions Regulation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IWMS (2004) is policy used to establish Wildlife Habitat Areas (GAR S.10) and the implementation of general wildlife measures (GAR S.9) for species designated as identified wildlife that are affected by forest or range operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified Wildlife = Species at Risk and Regionally Important Wildlife Includes plant communities 	Provincial Crown Land
<i>Government Actions Regulation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify wildlife habitat features (GAR S.11) such as a fisheries sensitive feature, a marine sensitive feature, as significant mineral lick or wallow, the nest of a bald eagle, osprey, great blue heron or a category of species at risk that is limited to birds, any other localized feature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various species Specifically named species in GAR S.11(d) include bald eagle, osprey, great blue heron Currently only designated in the Kootenay Boundary region 	Provincial Crown Land



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

SFI-00001

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity

Performance Measure 4.2: Certified Organizations shall protect threatened and endangered species, critically imperiled and imperiled species (Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values), and natural communities and old-growth forests.

- Indicator 4.2.1: Program to protect threatened and endangered species.
- Indicator 4.2.2: Program to locate and protect known sites of flora and fauna associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities, defined as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.

SFI Criteria

- SARA schedule 1
- FRPA/FPPR, Section 7, GAR
- Identified Wildlife Management Strategy
- BC Wildlife Act species

- BC red or blue list
- NatureServe Global
(G1/G2 /S1/S2)



Why protect SOMC?



Northern red-legged frog

- Achieve sustainable forest management goals
- To maintain biological diversity
- To comply with federal legislation
- To comply with provincial legislation
- To maintain Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification

The Chinook SOMC Program



Grizzly bear

1. Standard Operating Procedure
2. Tracking Form & Survey123
3. Focus Lists
4. Operator Awareness Sheet
5. Field card packages



Business area certification

Expand all

Collapse all

Babine (TBA) ▼

Cariboo-Chilcotin (TCC) ▼

Chinook (TCH) ▼

Kamloops (TKA) ▼



Kootenay (TKO) ▼

Species of management concern

- [TCH Species of Management Concern Focus List DHG 2026 \(PDF, 170KB\)](#)
- [TCH Species of Management Concern Focus List DCK, DSQ, DSC 2026 \(PDF, 195KB\)](#)
- [TCH Operator Awareness Sheet 2025 \(PDF, 923KB\)](#)
- [TCH SOMC & AREC Tracking Form 2025 \(PDF, 174KB\)](#)
- [TCH Species of Management Concern Standard Operating Procedure 2026 \(PDF, 690KB\)](#)
- [TCH Species of Management Concern Training Slides \(PDF, 12MB\)](#)
- [TCH Haida Gwaii SOMC Field Reference Package \(PDF, 7MB\)](#)



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 	<p style="text-align: center;">Species of Management Concern & At-Risk Ecological Communities Standard Operating Procedure Chinook Business Area 2026-05-25</p>
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INTRODUCTION


BCTS is committed to managing species-at-risk, identified through federal and provincial legislation, as well as to meet Sustainable Forest Management certification requirements. Additionally, some species and species habitat features do not have legal requirements but are still recognized by BCTS as needing additional management guidance. BCTS has similar legal and certification obligations related to the management of At-risk Ecological Communities (AREC). **Collectively, these species, habitats, and habitat features, are referred to as Species of Management Concern (SOMC).**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is intended to provide guidance to all BCTS Chinook (TCH) staff, contractors, licensees, and permittees, related to SOMC. In this SOP, the term SOMC includes AREC, unless otherwise specified. The corporate framework on the development of SOMC programs is outlined in the provincial [BCTS Species and Ecosystems of Management Concern Guide](#).

SCOPE

This SOP covers all aspects of forestry planning, block and road development, and silviculture. It includes and applies to relevant TCH staff, licensees, and contractors working for TCH. This SOP is applicable to all BCTS operations in the Chilliwack, Squamish, and Haida Gwaii forest districts, and all land tenure in which TCH operates as a forest land management partner with 3rd party entities, e.g., community



	<p align="center">Species of Management Concern: Tracking & Reporting Form Chinook Business Area 2025-04-08</p>
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The purpose of this form is to document observations of Species of Management Concern (SOMC), as required in the *Species of Management Concern & At-Risk Ecological Communities Standard Operating Procedure*. This form applies to all species and ecosystems listed on the applicable Chinook Focus Lists. Contractors must submit this form to Chinook (TCH) staff for further tracking and data management. For BCTS staff, incidental observations may instead be submitted via the “Chinook Species of Management Concern Observation” survey in Survey123, which is preferable. All related SOMC program documents can be found on the [BCTS Chinook EMS website](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Licence, block, or road	
Full name of person reporting	
Company or representation	
DOCUMENTATION OF PRE-EXISTING SOMC RECORDS	
Using the spatial tools available from 1) the Conservation Data Centre and 2) the “wildlife inventories – incidental observations” layer in iMap, review the development area for documented occurrences of SOMC listed on the Focus List(s). Note how to request secure (masked) CDC data .	
Date of assessment	
Species, ecosystem, or feature documented	
CDC Occurrence Number	
Coordinates (lat/long; decimal degrees preferred)	
Comments	
FIELD OBSERVATIONS	
Date of assessment or observation(s)	
Species, ecosystem, or feature observed	
Coordinates (lat/long; decimal degrees preferred)	
Comments	

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name
Amphibians	Western toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>
Birds	American goshawk, laingi subspecies	<i>Accipiter atricapillus laingi</i>
	Ancient murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>
	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
	Great blue heron, fannini subspecies	<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>
	Marbled murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>
	Northern saw-whet owl, brooksi subspecies	<i>Aegolius acadicus brooksi</i>
	Peregrine falcon, pealei subspecies	<i>Falco peregrinus pealei</i>
Gastropods	Haida Gwaii Slug	<i>Staala gwaii</i>
Mammals	Haida Ermine	<i>Mustela haidarum</i>
	Little brown myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>
	Black bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
Fish	Cutthroat trout, clarkii subspecies	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>
Bryophytes	Dalton's moss	<i>Daltonia splachnoides</i>
	Drooping-leaved beard-moss	<i>Oxystegus recurvifolius</i>
Lichens	Oldgrowth specklebelly	<i>Pseudocyphellaria rainierensis</i>
	Flaking tarpaper	<i>Collema flaccidum</i>
Vascular Plants	Aleutian adder's-mouth orchid	<i>Malaxis monophyllos var. monophyllos</i>
	Fairy-slipper	<i>Calypto bulbosa</i>
	Black hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>
	Devil's club	<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>
	Highbush cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>
	Narcissus anemome	<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>
	Richardson's geranium	<i>Geranium richardsonii</i>
	Calder's lovage	<i>Ligusticum calderi</i>
	Western cowbane	<i>Oxypolis occidentalis</i>
	Common harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
	Common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
	Pacific crab apple	<i>Malus fusca</i>
	Yellow pond-lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
	Stink currant	<i>Ribes bracteatum</i>



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Amphibians	Western toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>
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	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
	Great blue heron, fannini subspecies	<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>
Gastropods		
Mammals		
Fish		
Bryophytes		
Lichens		
Vascular Plants		

Focus List Development:
Risk Ranking

Black hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>
Devil's club	<i>Oplopanax horridus</i>
Highbush cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>
Narcissus anemome	<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>
Richardson's geranium	<i>Geranium richardsonii</i>
Calder's lovage	<i>Ligusticum calderi</i>
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ophyllos






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Species of
Management Concern
Field Reference:
TCH Mainland
DCK, DSQ, DSC
BCTS Chinook
June 1st 2026



Species	Habitat	Identification
 	<p>Western toad <i>Anaxyrus boreas</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest, wetlands, grassland, meadows, shrub lands, or subalpine or alpine meadows and dry habitats - Usually not far from water
	<p>Pileated woodpecker <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i></p> <p>*N/A on Haida Gwaii*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest birds that require large, standing dead trees and downed wood - Prefers live hardwoods for nesting, especially trembling aspen and black cottonwood, but paper birch, red alder and maple are also used. Conifers are used but less frequently
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skin dry with bumpy warts, coloration light to dark green to brown or even reddish - Distinguished by cream-colored to white stripe down the length of back - Tadpoles are black or dark brown and relatively small (1.2-3 cm, 2.5-3 cm total length prior to metamorphosis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very large woodpecker - Long, chisel-like bill - Triangle crest on head - Mostly black with white stripes on the face and neck and a flaming-red crest - In flight, wings are broad and crow-like with large white patches on underside of wing



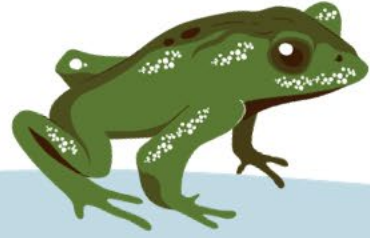
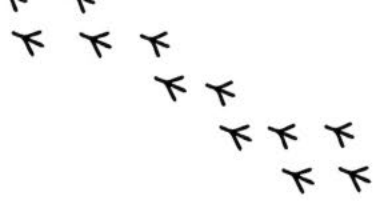
Focus Lists



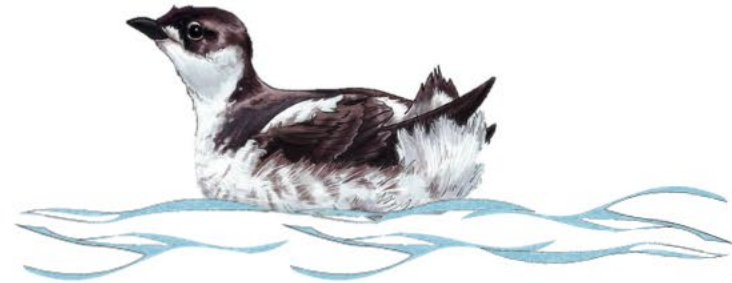
Plants & Animals	DCK, DSQ, DSC	DQC
Amphibians & reptiles	6	1
Birds	16	8
Gastropods	1	1
Insects	2	N/A
Mammals	12	3
Fishes	2	1
Bryophytes	2	2
Lichens	5	2
Vascular Plants	7	22
At-risk ecological communities	262	30



Great blue heron



a peak into the focus lists...





focus highlight

amphibians of Haida Gwaii



Western Toad



Northern red-legged frog



focus highlight

Oregon forest snail



© Robert Forsyth



Dun skipper



Johnson's
hairstreak





Ancient Murrelet



Northern Saw-whet owl



Spotted owl



Olive-sided flycatcher



Marbled Murrelet



Western screech owl



Common nighthawk



Barn swallow



focus highlight

Pileated woodpecker









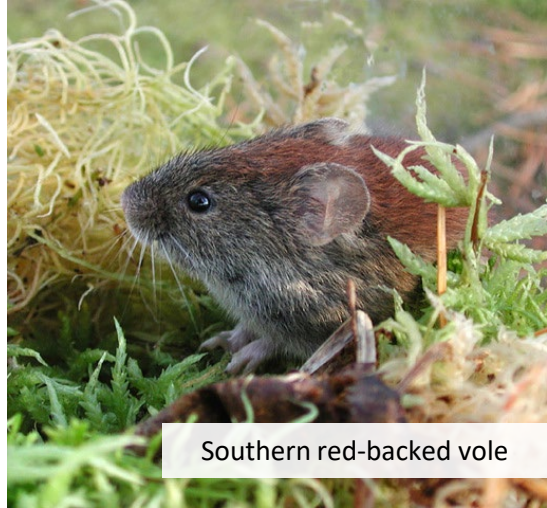
Grizzly bear



Mountain beaver



Mountain goat



Southern red-backed vole



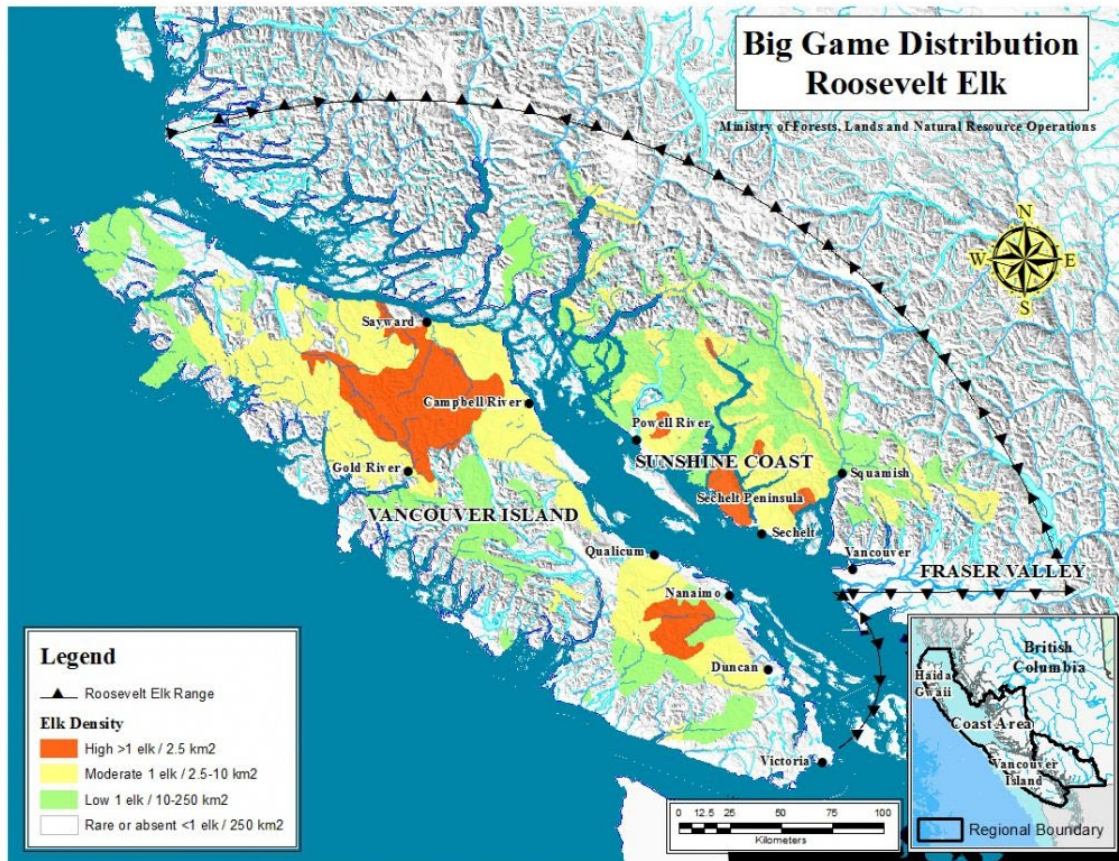
Wolverine



Fisher

focus highlight

Roosevelt elk





focus highlight



Bear dens

COASTAL BEAR DEN IDENTIFICATION MANUAL



Helen Davis, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.
Artemis Wildlife Consultants | Victoria, BC | January 2021



focus highlight

Bats



Little brown myotis

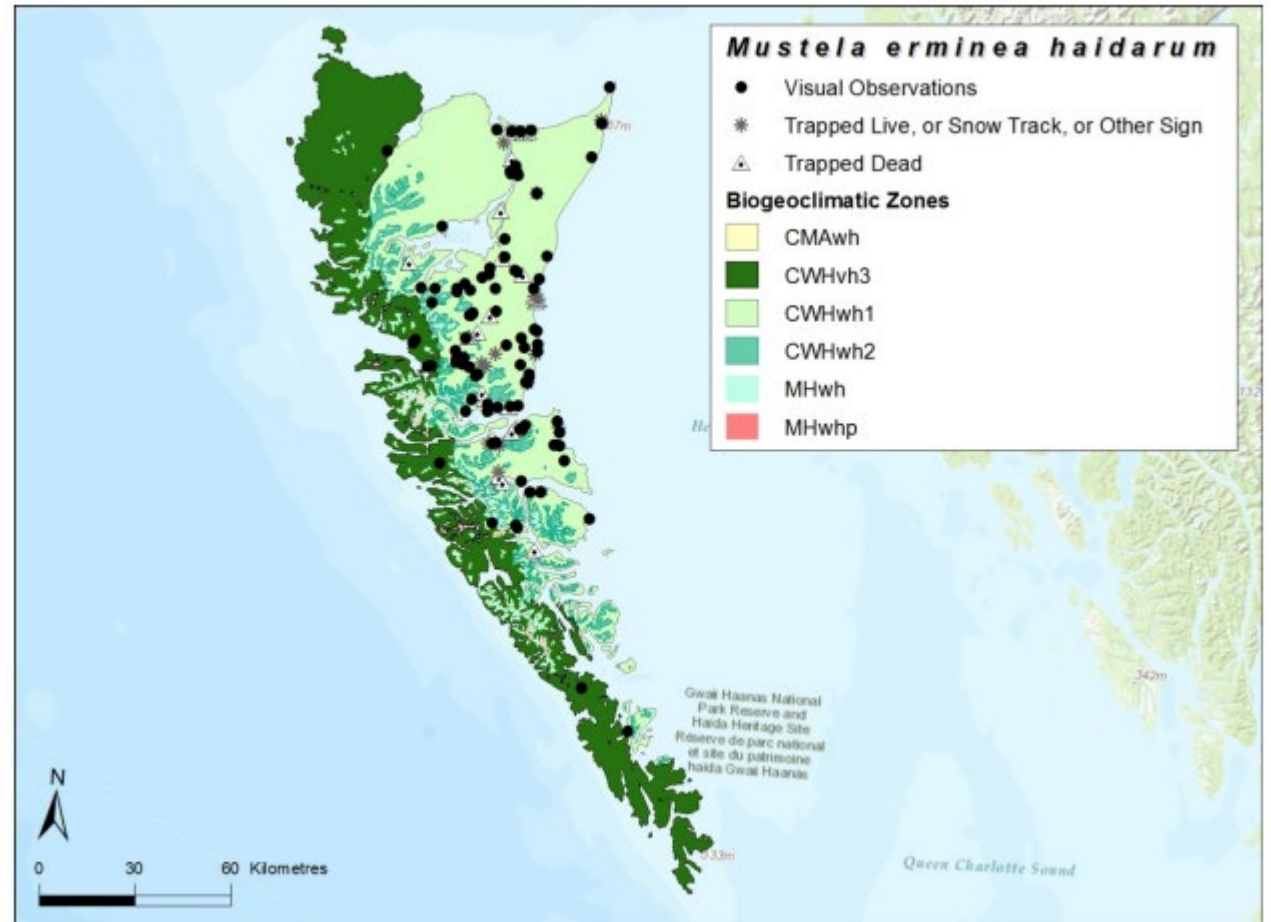


Fringed myotis

focus highlight



Haida Ermine





DCK, DSQ, DSC Bryophytes



Roell's brotherella



Silver hair moss



DCK, DSQ, DSC Lichens





1 DCK, DSQ, DSC Plants



Cascade rockcress



Near navarretia



Mountain holly fern

2 DCK, DSQ, DSC Plants





Haida Gwaii Bryophytes & Lichens



Dalton's moss



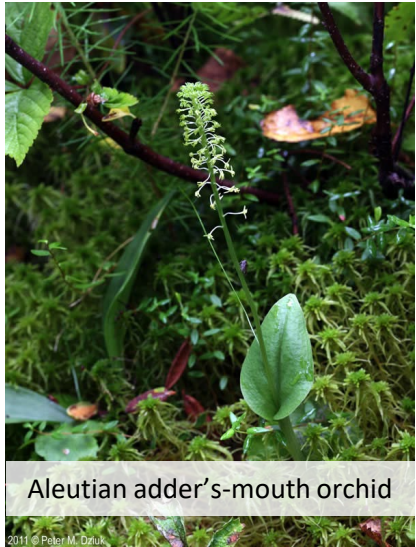
Drooping-leaved beard-moss



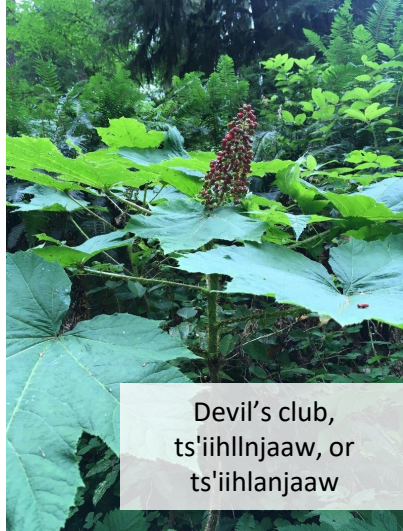
Flaking tarpaper

1

Haida Gwaii Plants



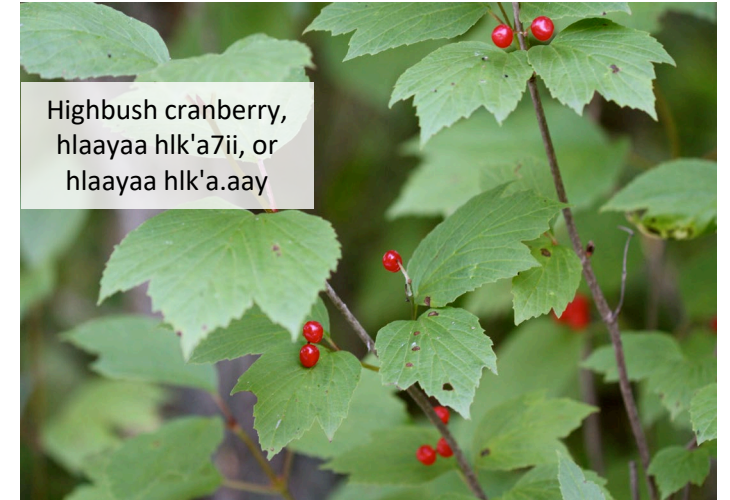
Aleutian adder's-mouth orchid



Devil's club,
ts'iihlnjaaw, or
ts'iihlanjaaw



Black hawthorn,
k'anhll or
xaayuwaa hlk'a.aay



Highbush cranberry,
hlaayaa hlk'a7ii, or
hlaayaa hlk'a.aay



Narcissus anemone



Trailing black currant,
kaigunlkai, or
k'it'agwaandaa
hlk'a.aay



Cloudberry,
k'aaxu ts'alaang.ga, or
k'a.àw ts'alaangaa xil



2 Haida Gwaii Plants



Richardson's geranium



Western cowbane



Common juniper, kaayda kaxawaay, or
hik'am.aal I



Common harebell, dal(xil)-guhlahl



Pacific crabapple, k'anh7l, or
k'ayanhla



Stinging nettle,
gudang.xaal, or
gudang.aal



3 Haida Gwaii Plants



Yellow pond-lily, xil gaaydlgins, or xil giidlagang



Stink currant, galgun xil, gal.un hlk'a.aay



Wright's filmy fern



Northern rice-root,
7inhllng, or
stla k'iist'aa



Indian hellboure, gwaayk'yaa, or gwaayk'aa



Black swamp gooseberry, gudga gi gayd, or xaayuwaa



Fairy slipper,
skil taawaatlIxaay, or skil taw

At-Risk Ecological Communities (AREC)

Examples	Status	BEC association	District
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Important BCTS Resources:

1. AREC Field Confirmation Procedures
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What to do if you observe an SOMC



Reporting

1. Contact **BCTS**
Consultants/contractors - email your contract supervisor
BCTS – notify practices/planning foresters

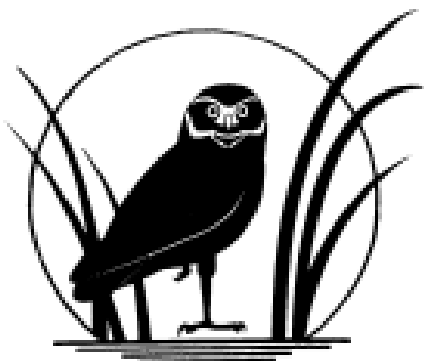
2. **Tracking & Reporting**

- It is recommended that all occurrences are reported through the BCTS PO Species of Management Concern Survey.

For contractors: complete a Survey123 record or the Species of Management Concern Tracking & Reporting Form and submit to BCTS contract manager.

For staff: For TCH staff, complete a Survey123 record. If contract managers receive a form from contractors, they are responsible for entering the record in Survey123 on the contractor's behalf.

3. **Submit occurrences of SOMC to the CDC.**








SOMC Program Resources

- External EMS website (**SOMC documents here**):
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales/forest-certification/ems-sfm#mandatory>
- **AREC field confirmation procedures and management guidance:**
<https://intranet.gov.bc.ca/for/bcts/sustainability/sustainability/at-risk-ecological-communities>
- **BC Conservation Data Center (CDC)** : <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre>
- **Submit SOMC data** to the CDC : <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-data-information/submit-wildlife-data-information>

Additional Resources & ID Support

Merlin Bird ID (App)	
iNaturalist (App)	
Seek (App)	
South Coast Forest Snail ID (PDF)	https://www.sccp.ca/app/snail-id-tips
Coastal Black Bear Den ID Manual (PDF)	http://artemiswildlife.com/AWC Bear Den ID manual v2.pdf
BC Fisher Working Group (website)	https://www.bcfisherhabitat.ca/
Regional Amphibian ID Keys (PDF)	https://bcreptilesandamphibians.trubox.ca/identification-keys-amphibians/
BC Community Bat Programs (website)	https://bcbats.ca/

Training Checklist

- ✓ Watch the training presentation
- Review the EMS documents
- Contact Cheryl Tejszerski to have your training recorded!





Chinook Contacts

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Provincial Operations Contact

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time for a celebration of
knowledge!

