

# Pallid Bat

## *Antrozous pallidus*

Prepared by Chris Gill, MSc, RPBio  
Kestrel Consulting  
Phone: (250) 835-8256  
Email: cegill@gmail.com  
Date: October 23, 2007

### Conservation Status

Included in Section 7 Notice: No

Designated as Identified Wildlife: No

Federally Designated (COSEWIC): **Yes (Threatened)**

Species identified in Kamloops, Lillooet or Merritt SFMP: **Yes (Lillooet)**

### Description

- Large pale bat (length: 9-14cm, wingspan: 33-38cm).
- Fur is creamy beige on back and nearly white on belly.
- Large eyes and ears.
- Flight: wing beats are much slower than other bats (only 10-11 beats per second).
- Sometimes found hunting insects on the ground.
- Large size and pale fur distinguishes this bat from other bat species in British Columbia (all other big eared bats are considerably darker).



## Forest Districts

Okanagan Shuswap

## BEC Zones

- PP
- BG

## Elevation

Pallid Bats have been found at elevations up to 2,440m in other areas of its range, but have only been found at elevations less than 500m in British Columbia.

## Important Habitat Features

- In BC, foraging is conducted in open, flat sparsely vegetated areas, most often dominated by antelope brush, big sagebrush, bunchgrass or ponderosa pine.
- Day roosts are usually in a warm, horizontal crevice, most often a rock crevice. Pallid bats have also been found roosting in rock cracks, holes, tree hollows, behind tree bark, and under rock overhangs.

## Additional Information

The Southern Okanagan Basin Ecoregion and possibly the Similkameen Valley and Thompson River Valley, have appropriate Pallid Bat habitat (consisting of high cliffs and a hot arid climate).

## Management Recommendations

Consult with a Registered Professional Biologist prior to implementing the following management recommendations because certain situations may require custom solutions based on specific site characteristics.

- Identify locations where this species is known to occur: if available, obtain occurrence data from the Conservation Data Centre (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/cdc/>) and if necessary conduct surveys to confirm presence or absence of this species.

In areas where this species is identified:

- Protect hibernacula and maternity sites from disturbance. Bat-friendly gates can be used to stop the public from entering these sites.
- If the area of forestry operations includes sites with cliffs or rock outcroppings which have openings or crevices (especially those which have sunny aspects), then these sites should be incorporated into wildlife tree patches (WTPs) where possible, or some other retention strategy which preserves the integrity of the site. Do not disturb occupied sites.
- Create a buffer zone such as a wildlife tree patch around identified hibernacula and maternity sites. The size of WTPs or other retention patches around hibernaculum or maternity roosts should be a minimum of 3.0 ha (approximately 100 m radius or equivalent area), and if possible be centered on the habitat feature. This will reduce disturbance from machinery as well as maintaining canopy cover near roosting sites.
- Do not blast, remove rock or talus, or construct roads within the WTP or other retention patch surrounding the hibernaculum or maternity roost unless there is no other practical option. Consult with Ministry of Environment staff in this situation.

- Do not conduct forestry activities (harvesting, salvage, road building, etc.) within the WTP or other retention patch surrounding the hibernaculum or maternity roost.
- Retain a selection of stand structural elements, such as large green trees, large diameter (>30 cm dbh) wildlife trees (class 3–8), logs on the forest floor, and canopy gaps. Where available, snags should have cracks, peeling bark, bird holes, broken tops and hollow interiors.
- Do not construct roads through foraging habitat (open, flat sparsely vegetated areas, most often dominated by antelope brush, big sagebrush, bunchgrass or ponderosa pine) located adjacent to known roosting sites.
- Do not use pesticides.

## References

B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. 2004. Fringed Myotis in Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife – Accounts V. 2004. B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Victoria, B.C. 7pp.

Chapman, K., K McGuiness, and R.M. Brigham. 1994. Status of the Pallid Bat in British Columbia. B.C. Minist. Environ., Lands and Parks, Wildl. Branch. Working Rep. WR-61. 32pp.  
Gill, C. 2005. Townsend's Big-eared Bat Guide. Developed for Kamloops BC Timber Sales. 7pp.

Ferguson, H and J. M. Azerrad. Management recommendations for Washington's priority Species: Volume V. Washington Department of Fish and Game. 10pp.

K. Chapman, K., K. McGuiness, and R. M. Brigham. 1994. Status of the Pallid Bat in British Columbia. Wildlife Branch Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks Victoria, B.C. 28pp.

Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks. 1999. *Antrozous pallidus* in Rare Amphibians, Reptiles, and Mammals of British Columbia.