

# Rubber Boa

*Charina bottae*

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## Conservation Status

Included in Section 7 Notice: No

Designated as Identified Wildlife: No

Federally Designated (COSEWIC): **Yes (Special Concern)**

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

## Description

- Smooth, shiny, stout-bodied snake that looks and feels like rubber.
- Length: 35-83cm (adult).
- Back is plain brown to olive green, Belly is cream to yellow, sometimes with dark flecks or brown, orange, or black mottling.
- Blunt head with a vertical pupil.
- Short blunt tail gives it a two-headed appearance.



## Forest Districts

**100-Mile House**

**Cascades**

**Kamloops**

**Headwater**

Okanagan Shuswap

### **BEC Zones**

- BGxh, BGxw
- CWHxm, CWHdm, CWHmm, CWHwm, CWHvm, CWHds, CWHms, CWHws
- ICHxw, ICHdw, ICHdk, ICHmk, ICHmw, ICHmm
- IDFxh, IDFxw, IDFxm, IDFmw
- PPxh

### **Elevation**

Occurs from sea level to 3050 m

### **Important Habitat Features**

- Burrows into rotting logs. Also found under rocks, logs or bark.
- Coarse woody debris between decay classes 6 and 9, and larger debris pieces (>10 cm diameter) are particularly important.
- Hibernation and Breeding: rock outcrops.
- Foraging: damp woodland and coniferous forest, large grassy areas, meadows, and moist sandy areas along streams.
- Structural stage:  
1a to 7: non-vegetated to old forest.

### **Additional Information**

In British Columbia it is widely distributed in the southern part of the province but appears to be present in low densities.

### **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.

- Budget permitting, develop a habitat model to help identify high value habitat found within your areas of interest. The complexity of the model, and therefore its accuracy, will be dependent on budgetary constraints.
- Identify hibernacula and critical habitat sites: 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 has been identified:

- Do not conduct harvesting and silviculture activities between October 15 and April 1.
- Where necessary, use snake drift fences and drainage culverts at intersections of roads and known travel corridors. Drift fences should be ≥75 cm high. Length will vary by site depending on area used by snakes. Consult Ministry of Environment for more information.
- Maintain critical structural elements such as rock outcrops, talus slopes, friable soils, concentrations of boulders, or other unconsolidated materials and vegetative cover.
- Maintain natural levels, decay and size characteristics as well as dispersion of Coarse

Woody Debris (CWD). Silvicultural prescriptions should avoid producing stands in the herb structural stage with no CWD and strive to conserve stands with greater than average CWD. Snakes use CWD for protective cover and to aid in thermoregulation.

- Maintain and maximize connectivity between known hibernacula and foraging habitats.
- Do not use pesticides.
- Do not conduct prescribed burning.

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