

Species & Ecosystems at Risk (SEAR) Training

BC Timber Sales – Kamloops Business Area



BCTS Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) General Awareness Document:

Principles of the SFI Forest Management Standard.

Protection of Biological Diversity:

- Know that Species at Risk (SAR) include plants, animals, and ecological communities
- Know what SAR exist, or could exist, in areas associated with your forest management activities
- Become familiar with Project Plans for forest operations to understand how to manage for SAR



SEAR includes:

- Provincially red- and blue-listed wildlife, plants and ecosystems,
- Regionally Important Wildlife = IWMS species,
- Federally-listed species under SARA and COSEWIC,
- Some values have management areas in the form of Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA), Ungulate Winter Range (UWR), and Wildlife Habitat Features (WHF).





Why do I need to consider these species?

- Impacts to wildlife, vegetation, fisheries and ecosystems are identified as important considerations in the Kamloops Business Area *Environmental Management System*
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative standard certification requires a program to promote biological diversity
- Compliance with the federal legislation - *Species at Risk Act*, the *Fisheries Act*, and the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*
- Compliance with the provincial legislation - *Wildlife Act* and *Forest and Range Practices Act*

Defining Wildlife



Species at Risk Act

"wildlife species" means a species, subspecies, variety or geographically or genetically distinct population of animal, plant or other organism, other than a bacterium or virus, that is wild by nature and

- (a) is native to Canada; or
- (b) has extended its range into Canada without human intervention and has been present in Canada for at least 50 years.



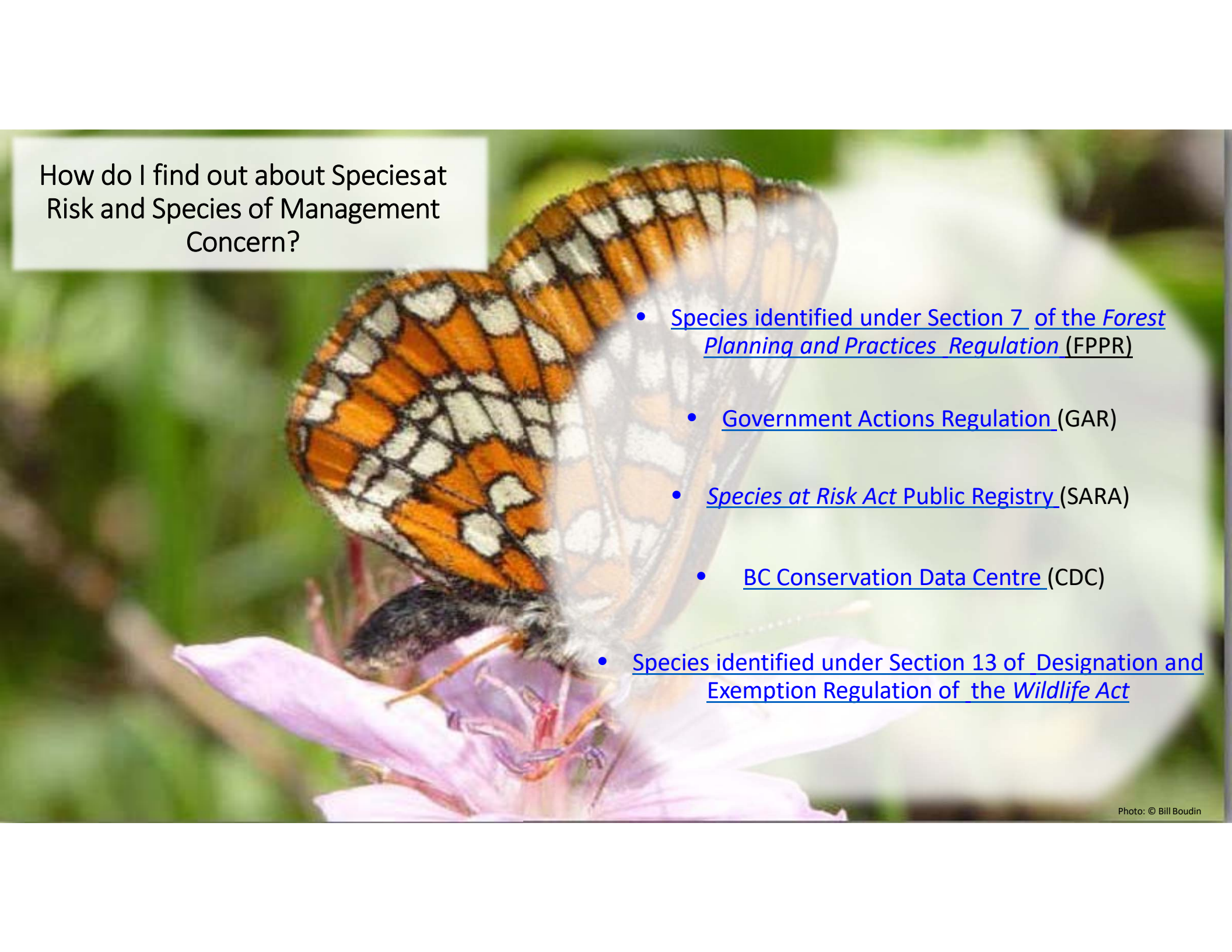
Wildlife Act

"wildlife"

- (a) means raptors, threatened species, endangered species, game and other species of vertebrates prescribed by regulation, and
- (b) for the purposes of sections 3 to 5, 7, 8, 84 (6.1) to (6.4), 97.1 to 98.1 and 108 (2) (v), includes fish, but does not include controlled alien species;

"species" means a species, sub-species, variety or geographically or genetically distinct population of

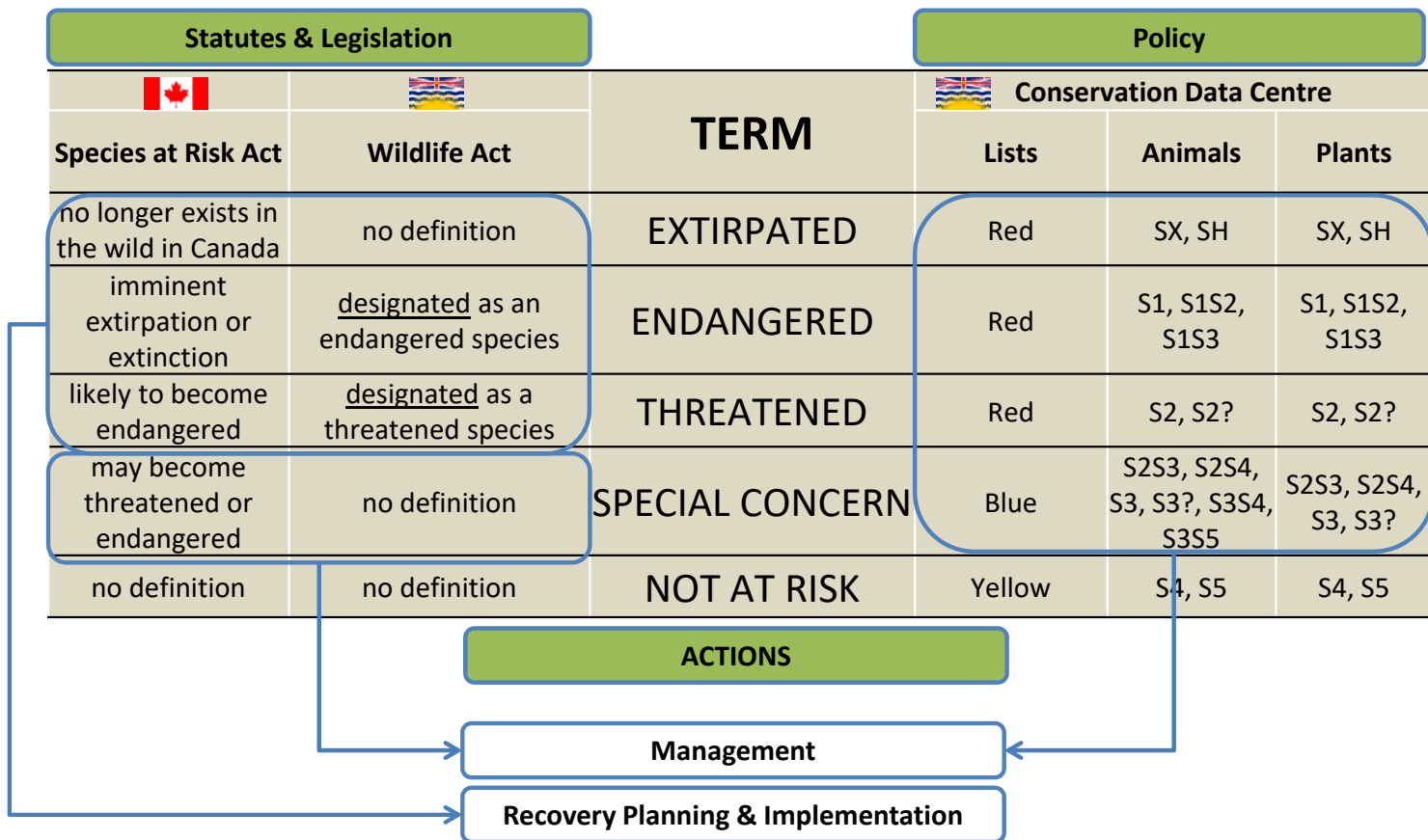
- (a) animals,
- (b) fish,
- (c) plants, or
- (d) other organisms, except bacteria and viruses

A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a pink flower. The background is a soft-focus green and white.

How do I find out about Species at Risk and Species of Management Concern?

- [Species identified under Section 7 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* \(FPPR\)](#)
- [Government Actions Regulation \(GAR\)](#)
- [Species at Risk Act Public Registry \(SARA\)](#)
- [BC Conservation Data Centre \(CDC\)](#)
- [Species identified under Section 13 of *Designation and Exemption Regulation of the Wildlife Act*](#)

Defining Species at Risk - Actions



Statutes & Legislation

Processes Available for Protection of SEAR

Canada Wildlife Act	National Wildlife Areas
Migratory Birds Convention Act	Migratory Bird Sanctuaries Habitat protection requirement
Species at Risk Act	Habitat protection requirement



National Parks of Canada Act	Park Park Reserve
Fisheries Act	Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas Habitat protection requirement

Park Act	Conservancy Class A Park Class B Park Class C Park Recreation Area
Protected Areas of BC Act	Conservancy Ecological Reserves
Ecological Reserve Act	Ecological Reserves
Environment and Land Use Act	Protected Areas
Wildlife Act	Wildlife Management Area Motor Vehicle Restricted Area Public Access Restricted Area Habitat protection requirement



Land Act	Reserve Withdrawal Conditional Withdrawal Land Revested in Government Notation of Interest Minister may establish FRPA objectives
Water Act	Habitat protection Wildlife Habitat Areas Wildlife Habitat Feature Ungulate Winter Range Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds Temperature Sensitive Streams Habitat protection - fish Habitat protection - wildlife
Forest & Range Practices Act	

How do I fulfill my obligations? BC- FPPR – Section 7 Notices

Most of the species identified in Notices under the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) Section 7 are addressed through:

- Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA's),
- Ungulate Winter Range orders set under the Government Action Regulations,

It is always a good practice to review the Notices just in case there have been changes:

- [FPPR Section 7 - Species at Risk Notices](#)
- [FPPR Section 7 - Ungulate Winter Range Notices](#)

[General Information on FPPR Section 7 notices and Objectives set by Government for Wildlife](#)



How do I fulfill my obligations? BC- GAR

Under the *Forest & Range Practices Act*, the [Government Actions Regulation](#) (GAR) directs how the B.C. provincial government establishes land designations or stewardship measures for forest and range values.

Species specific Orders under Government Actions Regulation (GAR) are:

- [Wildlife Habitat Areas](#) (WHA)
- [Wildlife Habitat Features](#) (WHF)
- [Ungulate Winter Range](#) (UWR)



Federal- SARA

The general SARA prohibitions include s.32 (protection of individuals) and s.33 (protection of residences), and the protection of critical habitat (s.58) apply on federal lands for most SARA Schedule-1 listed species (Threatened, Endangered, Extirpated). If the species is a migratory bird or an aquatic species then s.32 and s.33 apply on all lands and waters in Canada. Only if placed under an Order (e.g., s. 60, s.61, s.80) will these prohibitions apply off of federal lands for species other than migratory birds and aquatic species. The SAR Public Registry will contain information on any potential protection order or gazette statement of critical habitat protection for a species.



Federal- SARA

During planning, the Imap critical habitat layer may show polygons for Great Basin Spadefoot, Rattlesnake and Gophersnake, Lewis Woodpecker, Whitebark Pine, Williamson's Sapsucker, Caribou, and others!

Recovery strategies provide information on the extent and location of critical habitat polygons, what are the biophysical attributes that make critical habitat, and what constitutes as activities likely to result in the destruction of critical habitat.





photo: Jeanine St. Amour



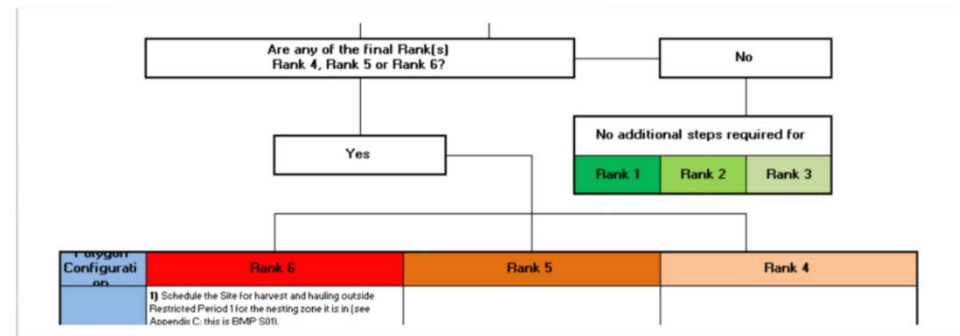
1181443/08 photo: pchoui open source R.F.

Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA, 1994)

MBCA online at: <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/page-1.html>

BCTS Tools & Strategies:

- Arc GIS Migratory Bird Ranks
- The Migratory Bird Strategy -TKA Final Excel matrix



- Migratory Bird Background Doc: Communication - Management Tool (May 2016)

Conservation Status Categories

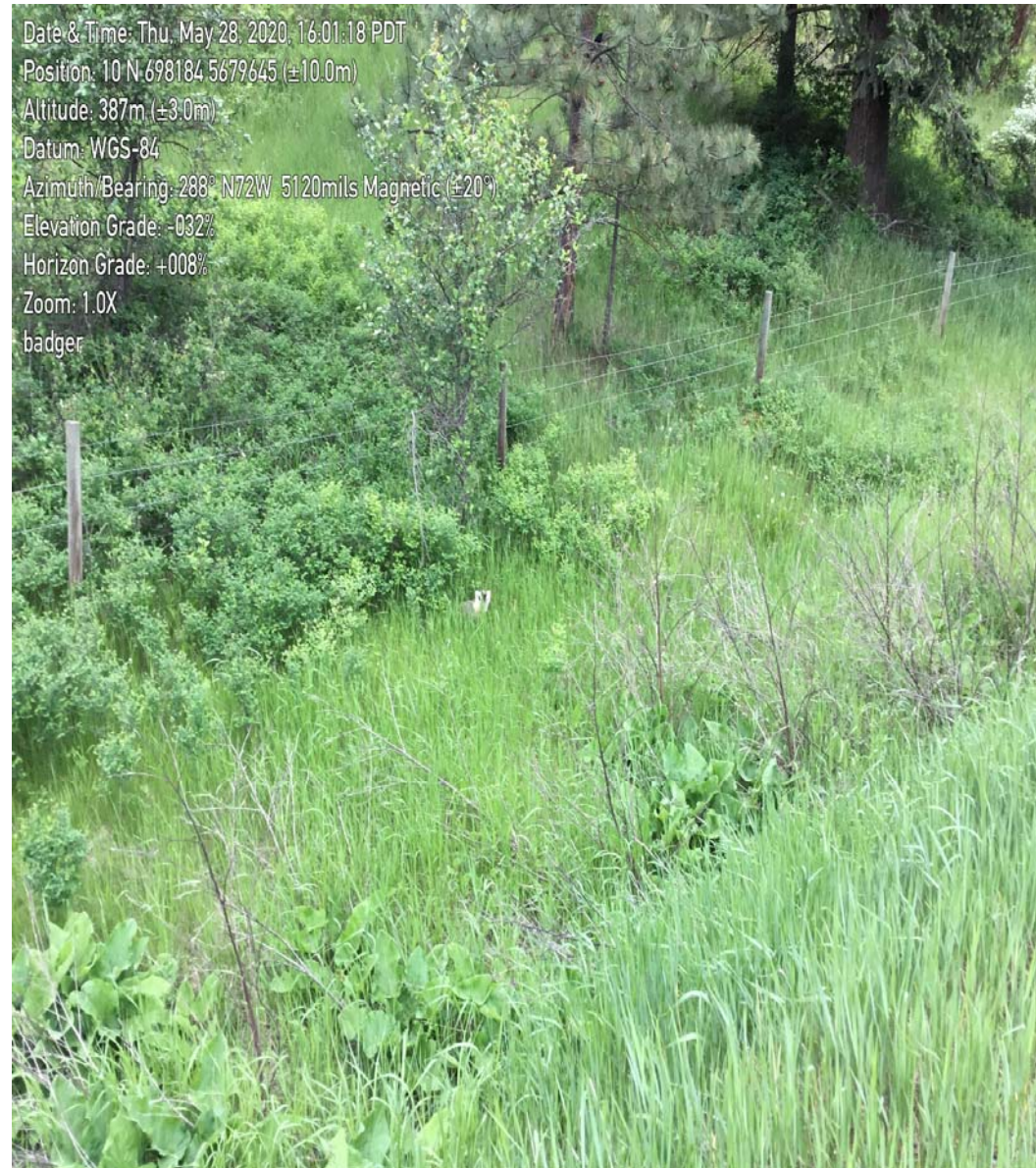
SARA and COSEWIC

- **Extinct (X):** Species no longer exists.
- **Extirpated (XT):** Species no longer exists in the wild in Canada but exists elsewhere.
- **Endangered (E):** Species is facing imminent extinction or extirpation.
- **Threatened (T):** Species may become endangered if limiting factors for survival are not reversed.
- **Species of Concern (SC):** Species may become threatened or endangered due to biological factors and identified threats.
- **Not at Risk (NAR):** species is determined to not be of conservation concern.
- **Data Deficient (DD):** Species lacks sufficient data to determine a conservation status.



Species at Risk in BC

- Provincial Red & Blue-listed species and Federal SARA-listed species, warrant special consideration in planning and development.
- In BC, specialists with the [Conservation Data Centre](#), in consultation with other experts, assign species conservation status ranks. The Red and Blue lists provide a list of species for consideration for more formal designation as Endangered or Threatened, either Provincially under the *British Columbia Wildlife Act*, or nationally by the *Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada* (COSEWIC).
- The BC Conservation Data Centre has the most complete list of species of concern and will be our main source for designation information.



Conservation Data Centre (CDC)

The BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) assess the provincial conservation status, track changes of conservation status, and provide biological and status information about species in BC

Colour-coded status categories:

- **Red:** Any indigenous species, sub-species or ecological community that is *Threatened, Endangered, or Extirpated* in BC.
- **Blue:** any indigenous species, sub-species or ecological community that is considered *Vulnerable (Special Concern)* in BC.
- **Yellow:** ecological communities or indigenous species which are not at risk in BC.

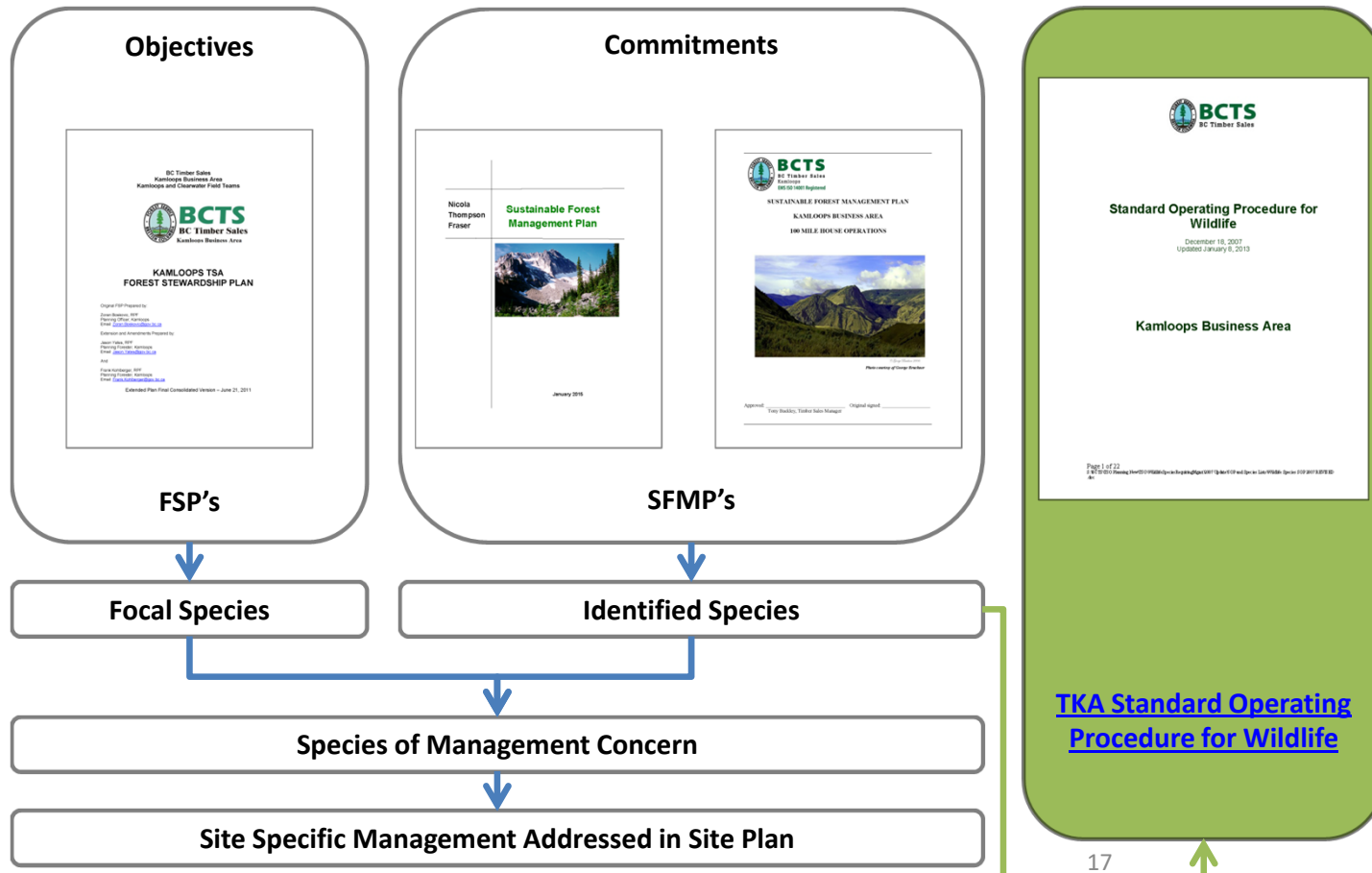
[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#)

[CDC iMap](#)



Guidance & Procedures

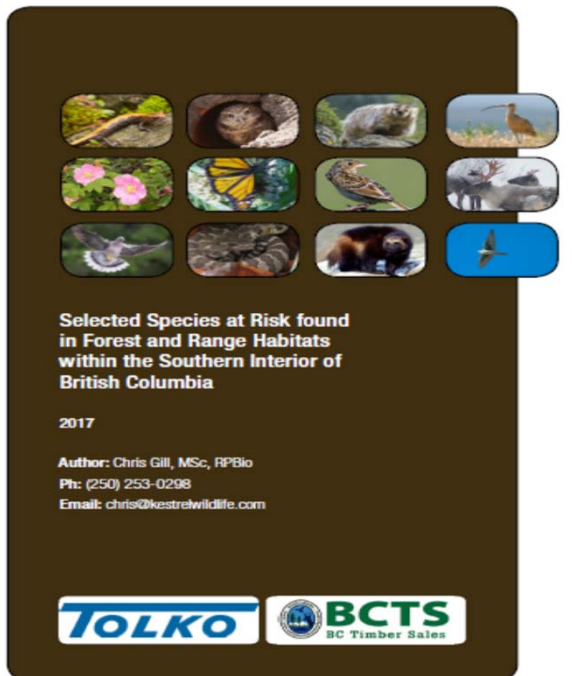
Linkages



TKA-specific links to information and guidance on Species of Management Concern from EMS

Field Guide

[Click HERE for the link](#)



July 2014

[Stick Nest Identification Guide](#)

[Burrow Identification Guide](#)

[Northern Goshawk Brochure](#)

At the planning stage...

Identify:

- Which species are likely to occur in the area?
- Habitat requirements? WHA? WHF?
- Sensitivities? (water, wetlands, rare/unique ecosites).

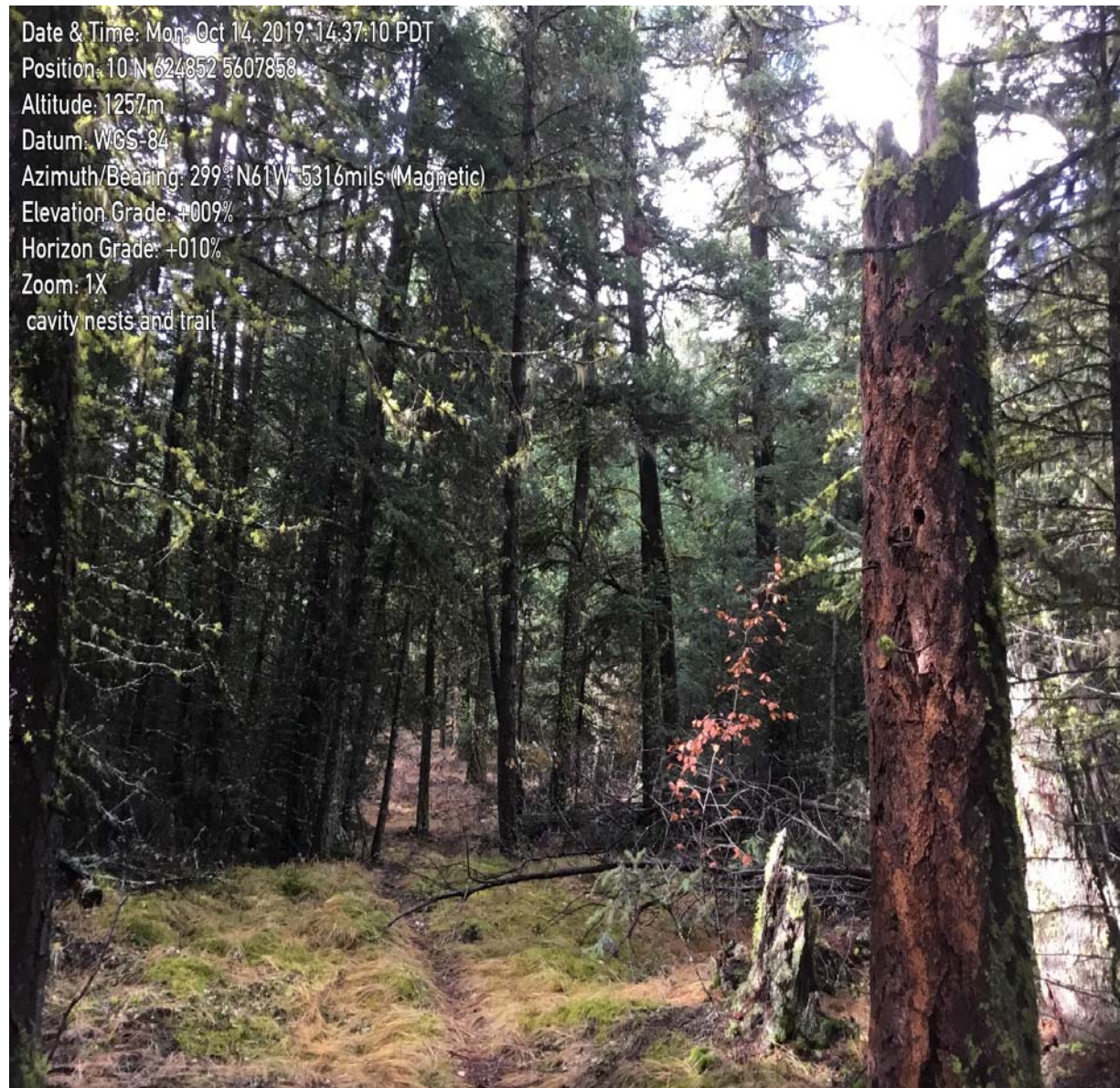
Tools:

[Habitat Wizard, BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer and CDC iMap / Field Team mxds](#)



During crafting of the site plan ...

- Review any operational requirements or constraints specific to an activity or location for species that were identified either in the field or during the planning phase,
- Review associated requirements or management strategies,
- Review Forest Stewardship Plan and operational planning maps



REPORTING & NOTIFICATION

If a Species of Management Concern (SMC) or Wildlife Habitat Feature (WHF) is identified in the field...



STOP WORK AND CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR IF:

You're uncertain of the project plan, your responsibilities or hazardous/ sensitive areas.

You observe unfavourable conditions that could cause environmental damage.

A previously unidentified resource feature is found.

Species at risk sightings.

Hazardous material spills, uncontrolled fires or landslides occur.

Any safety hazards, close calls/ near misses or accidents that occur.



If a Species of Management Concern or Wildlife Habitat Feature is identified in the field...

- **NOTIFY BCTS** Project Supervisor ASAP
- **Observations:**
 - Location (GPS, or map location)
 - Date of observation
 - Species
 - Number of individuals seen or heard
- **Collect helpful information:**
 - Name and contact info
 - Habitat
 - Land status (crown, federal, private)
 - Adjacent landscape (i.e. roads, disturbance)
 - Habitat quality
 - Health of species (live, dead, sick ,injured)
 - Photos



If you are the BCTS Project Supervisor...

Does this occurrence require action?

1. Timing restrictions?
2. Buffers?
3. Reporting to CDC/Habitat Officer?
4. If unsure, contact a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio).



Stay Current!

- Species conservation status can change depending on the immediacy of population declines, identified threats, and addition of new information.

Examples:

- Three species of bats were added to the SARA Schedule 1 listing as *Endangered* after white-nose syndrome was identified as an imminent threat to species survival.
- Fisher (population 5, central interior) is now Provincially red-listed
- Badgers are Federally endangered as of 2018
- Black swift is a SARA Endangered species as of 2019
- Western Toad was a blue-listed species when the Field Guide was created in 2014, is now listed provincially as yellow but a SARA species of concern (2018).

- WHF, WHA, UWR information may change as new information is compiled, priorities shift, policy changes, etc.



Photo: Shane Petry

Once again ... links to important sites.

- [Species identified under Section 7 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*](#)
- [Government Actions Regulation](#) (GAR)
- [Species at Risk Act Public Registry](#) (SARA)
- [BC Conservation Data Centre](#) (BC CDC)
- [Species identified under Section 13 of Designation and Exemption Regulation of the *Wildlife Act*](#)
- [BCTS EMS site](#)



Photo: Shane Petry



Western Rattlesnake

Gary Napa



Little Brown Myotis

Joe Kosack/PGC Photo



Western Screech-owl

Laura Keene

Species of Management Concern

Just a few examples...

Questions?
Contact
Your BCTS
Representative



Whitebark pine

Adrian Leslie