

# Western Small-footed Myotis

*Myotis ciliolabrum*

Prepared by Chris Gill, MSc, RPBio  
Kestrel Consulting  
Phone: (250) 835-8256  
Email: cegill@gmail.com  
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## Conservation Status

Included in Section 7 Notice: No

Designated as Identified Wildlife: No

Federally Designated (COSEWIC): No

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

## Description

- British Columbia's smallest bat (Length: 72-90mm).
- The long, dense fur lacks sheen and varies in colour from pale tan to orange-yellow on the back, and is paler on the underside, varying from buff to nearly white.
- The ears, nose and flight membranes are black, in sharp contrast to the pale fur.
- The ears are relatively long, extending just past the nose when laid forward.
- The foot is small (less than 9mm) compared to other *Myotis* species (diagnostic feature).
- The skull is small with a gently sloping forehead.
- Distinguished from other *Myotis* species by its small size and distinctly small feet.

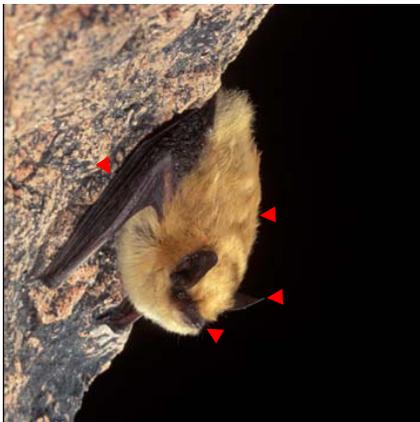


Photo: Scott Altenbach



Photo: Paul Faure

### **BEC Zones**

- BG
- IDF
- PP

### **Elevation**

300-850m

### **Important Habitat Features**

- Generally associated with arid terrain.
- Foraging occurs along the edges of cliffs, rocky slopes and riparian areas, and over grasslands
- Roosts in rock crevices, caves, tunnels, under boulders, beneath loose bark, or in buildings. Hibernates in caves and mines.
- Maternity colonies often are in abandoned houses, barns, or similar structures.

### **Forest Districts**

#### **100-Mile House**

#### **Cascades**

Central Cariboo

Chilcotin

Chilliwack

#### **Kamloops**

Okanagan Shuswap

### **Additional Information**

The range of the Western Small-footed Myotis in British Columbia is restricted to the arid, low elevation valleys of the dry interior (i.e., the Okanagan, Similkameen, Thompson, Fraser, Chilcotin and Skagit valleys).

### **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, particularly near wetlands and riparian areas.

## References

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