



BCTS
BC Timber Sales
Kootenay

**Kootenay Business Area
Species of Management Concern
Licencees, Permittees & Contractors (LPC)
General Guidance
Updated August 2016**

Introduction

Species of Management Concern are identified as potential environmental impacts associated with various Kootenay Business Area activities under its Environmental Management System (EMS). In addition certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standard requires a program to promote biological diversity such as species at risk.

Apart from the certification programs, BCTS and its Timber Sale Licensees, Permittees and Contractors are required to meet various federal and provincial legislative requirements, such as the Canadian *Species at Risk Act*, *BC Wildlife Act* and *Forest and Range Practices Act*, which relate to the management of wildlife and ecosystems. This document provides guidance to LPCs in managing the species of management concern.

Procedures

Pre-work (BCTS staff and LPC personnel)

- Review any operational requirements/constraints specific to the activity/location as identified in the Site Plan.
- Review wildlife (bird, mammal & amphibian) species listed in the 2014 *Species of Management Concern in the Kootenay Business Area* field guide. (It was decided to focus identification and management on only wildlife species at the operational level as these are the species more likely to be observed by forest workers.)
- Review notification requirements under the Notification section.

Inspections (BCTS Field Team staff)

- Were any Species of Management Concern identified during operations? If yes, follow procedures under Notification.
- Check client awareness/conformance to specific operational requirements/constraints.

Notification of sightings of wildlife species of concern (all staff and LPC personnel)

Where a Species of Management Concern is sighted in the field:

- Notify BCTS Project Supervisor ASAP.
- For observations, note (at the minimum):
 - Location (gps coordinates or sufficient information to locate on a map) of observation
 - Date of observation
 - Species
 - Number of individuals seen or heard.
- Other information that is useful is:
 - Name and contact (phone/email) information of observer
 - Habitat (plant or special features of observation location),
 - Land status of observation (e.g. crown, federal, private)
 - Adjacent landscape (e.g. disturbance, roads)
 - Condition of habitat (measure of the quality of habitat of observation)
 - Health of species (e.g. live, dead, injured/sick). If possible take a picture of the species and make field notes.
- This information is then forwarded to BCTS Project Supervisor.
- BCTS Project supervisor and Field Team/Planning staff will recommend appropriate site level measures, which may involve engaging a Qualified Professional to assess and indicate a course of action.

BCTS Project Supervisor will submit the information collected to the BC Conservation Data Centre through the following website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/wildlife/wsi/incidental_obs.htm. Please print a copy of the report pages, scan to .pdf with the date (e.g. Western Toad_Aug8-2016.pdf) and file it into the following directory for our records: K:\TSO\Forest_Certification\Certification_General\SAR\Wildlife_Incidental_Observation_Forms.