

July 1, 2018

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to define the responsibilities and procedures for identifying and managing species of management concern.

**SCOPE**

This SOP addresses those species and ecosystems located within the Skeena Business Area (BA) that require special management considerations due to their potential vulnerability to adverse impacts from forestry related activities, or their commercial or social importance. These species include all those that are of provincial conservation concern (e.g. species that are threatened, endangered or are of special concern as considered by the Conservation Data Centre) and those that are locally or regionally important (e.g. as considered by SRMPs, LRMPs etc.).

This SOP applies to all Skeena BA staff involved in the planning and administration of contracts related to planning and operational activities for log dumps, cutblocks and roads and TSL harvesting.

PROCEDURE	Responsibility
<b>Planning Activities for Log Dumps, Cutblocks and Roads:</b>	
<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>Refer to the <i>BCTS Skeena Focal Species Listing</i> and be informed of the potential species and ecosystems of management concern for all areas subject to forestry activities relating to log dumps, cutblocks and roads.</p> <p>Refer to the <i>Guide to Species of Management Concern</i> and the <i>BCTS Skeena Field Guide to Wildlife Management and Focal Species Identification</i>.</p> <p>Be informed of the management strategies for all potentially present or affected species, ecosystems and wildlife habitat features within the areas subject to planned forestry activities.</p>	<p>Planning Forester            Woodlands Supervisor            Practices Forester</p>
<p>By March 31, 2022 and every five years or less, thereafter, engage the services of a qualified registered professional to review and update as necessary the <i>Species at Risk Rating Matrix</i>, the <i>BCTS Skeena Focal Species Listing</i>, the <i>Guide to Species of Management Concern</i> and the <i>BCTS Skeena Field Guide to Wildlife Management and Focal Species Identification</i> to reflect any changes in conservation status, occurrence information or management direction that must be considered.</p> <p>Inform the Woodlands Supervisors, Planning Foresters and Practices Foresters of any changes to these documents.</p>	<p>Planning Officer</p>

Contract Planning, Tendering and Award	Responsibility
<p>During the contract planning and tendering phase for all new log dump planning, cutblock layout or, road layout and design activities, there must be a requirement identified and incorporated into contract documents that specifies that the preparer of any Site Plans (i.e. prescribing forester) must review the <i>BCTS Skeena Focal Species Listing</i>, the <i>BCTS Skeena Field Guide to Wildlife Management and Focal Species Identification</i> and the <i>Guide to Species of Management Concern</i> and must provide a declaration to this effect.</p> <p>Commencement of work will be contingent on this requirement being met and the declaration must be retained on the contract file.</p>	<p><b>Contract Coordinator</b></p>
<b>Pre-work Meeting</b>	
<p>During the pre-work meeting for all new log dump planning, cutblock layout or, road layout activities the Contract Coordinator will review with the Contractor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The list and identification aids for all species and ecosystems of management concern and wildlife habitat features potentially present in the vicinity of the planned activities. The identification aids for these species and wildlife habitat features include the <i>BCTS Skeena Field Guide to Wildlife Management and Focal Species Identification</i> and the references and additional information sources listed in the <i>Guide to Species of Management Concern</i>.</li> <li>○ The management strategies to be considered for these species, ecosystems and wildlife habitat features, if present. The management strategies, if applicable, are from the <i>Guide to Species of Management Concern</i>. The wildlife habitat feature management strategies, if applicable, are from the <i>BCTS Skeena Field Guide to Wildlife Management and Focal Species Identification</i></li> <li>○ The reporting procedure if a species or ecosystem occurrence is identified, including reporting to the Conservation Data Centre as may be recommended by the <i>Guide to Species of Management Concern</i> or the <i>BCTS Skeena Field Guide to Wildlife Management and Focal Species Identification</i>.</li> <li>○ The mandatory protection afforded to raptor nests under the Wildlife Act and the need to protect and report such sites to the Contract Coordinator.</li> <li>○ The requirement for the Contract Coordinator to be notified by the Contractor in the event that, in the course of their work, it is not considered practicable by the contractor to prescribe or implement the management strategies reviewed during the Pre-work meeting. The Contractor must review the circumstances with the Contract Coordinator for a determination of the management direction that will apply. The services of a qualified registered professional may be required to support this determination.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contract Coordinator</b></p>
<b>Contract Monitoring</b>	
<p>Ensure that any operational plans developed for the area by the contractor (e.g. Site Plan or Road Design) specify the management strategies to be employed for the relevant wildlife habitat features and species or ecosystem of management concern to ensure subsequent activities are conducted accordingly.</p>	<p><b>Contract Coordinator</b></p>
<b>Operational Activities for Road or Log Dump Construction, TSL Harvesting:</b>	
<b>Pre-work Meeting</b>	
<p>During the pre-work meeting for all road or log dump construction or TSL harvesting activities the Forest Technician / Contract Coordinator will review with the Licensee / Contractor the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The management strategies to be implemented for Species of Management Concern as specified within the relevant operational plans for the activity.</li> <li>○ The mandatory protection afforded to raptor nests under the Wildlife Act and the need to protect and report such sites to the Forest Technician / Contract Coordinator for further direction.</li> </ul> <p>*See the TSL Pre-work Content Template and Supplemental Guidance for further information.</p>	<p><b>Forest Technician / Contract Coordinator</b></p>

## REFERENCES

The following BCTS documents are integral to this SOP and may be accessed from the links provided:

*Guide to Species of Management Concern, BCTS Skeena Business Area* (Guppy 2012, Updated McElhanney, 2017)  
<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/TSK/external/!publish/EMS2/SFM/Guide-Species-Management-Concern-TSK.pdf>

*Species at Risk Rating Matrix,*  
<G:\BCTS\CERTIFICATION\Species at Risk & Invasive Plants\Species at Risk!\Management Guides & Risk Rating\TSK SOMC Risk Rating Matrix\TSK SOMC Listing and Risk Ratings 2017\SOMC Listing and Risk Matrices.xlsx>

*BCTS Skeena Focal Species Listing* (McElhanney, 2017)  
<G:\BCTS\CERTIFICATION\Species at Risk & Invasive Plants\Species at Risk!\Management Guides & Risk Rating\TSK SOMC Focal Species and Block Analyses\TSK Focal Species List and Block Analysis 2017\SOMC Focal Species Listing TSK.pdf>

*BCTS Skeena Field Guide to Wildlife Management and Focal Species Identification* (Guppy, 2012 Updated McElhanney, 2017)  
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/TSK/external/!publish/EMS2/SFM/Field-Guide-Wildlife-Management-Rare-Plant-TSK.pdf>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following documents may be referred to for further information and are available on-line:

*Identified Wildlife Management Strategy* (2004)

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/iwms/index.html>

*Managing for Species at Risk in British Columbia: Guidance for Resource Professionals* (2009)

[http://member.abcfp.ca/web/Files/policies/guideline\\_Species\\_at\\_Risk\\_2009.pdf](http://member.abcfp.ca/web/Files/policies/guideline_Species_at_Risk_2009.pdf)