BRITISH COLUMBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, LANDS AND PARKS

Environment & Lands Cariboo Region

Habitat Protection Branch
322 Johnston Avenue
Quesnel, British Columbia
V2J 3M5
Telephone: (250) 992-4490
Facsimile: (250)992-4403

March 15, 1999

District Manager, Quesnel Forest District
Woods Managers, Quesnel Forest District licensees
Range Officer, Quesnel Forest District
SBFEP, Quesnel Forest District

Dear Sirs:

Re: Rare Plants in the Quesnel Forest District

Attached is information regarding Red- and Blue-listed Plants in the Quesnel Forest District. Only the seven species which are within the area of forest and range management practices are included here, and each are known only from only a single location in the Quesnel Forest District. The additional species listed by the Conservation Data Centre for the District are confined to the alpine and sub-alpine in the Itcha-Ilgachuz Park.

The rusty cliff fern is near Fishpot Lake in a habitat with a forest type unsuitable for harvesting or range at this time. It therefore does not need to be considered in forest or range management at this time.

The riverbank anemone, Sprengel's sedge, and porcupine-grass occur in the settlement corridor along the Fraser River, and are of concern primarily to range management and urban planning. They do not need to be considered in forest planning at this time.

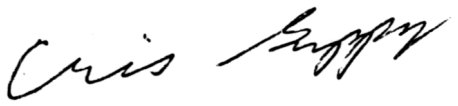
American sweet-flag inhabits wetlands and lake margins along the Barkerville Highway near the edge of TFL 52, and is of concern for range management and forest road construction. The blunt-sepaled starwort and Kruckeberg's holly fern are within TFL 52, and need to be considered in all aspects of forest management planning.

The exact locations of rare species are not for general public release, and therefore are not provided here. Affected licensees (West Fraser Mills and a woodlot operator) and the MoF range officer will be contacted separately to discuss the species of concern in their areas.

References: G.W. Douglas, G.B. Straley, and D.V. Meidinger. 1998. Rare Vascular Plants of British Columbia. MELP publication. *Also:* Conservation Data Centre web site.

Please remind your professional foresters that consultation with MELP and MOF is encouraged, should they be unclear as to the objectives of the recommended forest management practices.

Yours truly,



Cris Guppy
Forest Ecosystem Specialist
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

cc: file

Table 1. CDC Ranks and definitions.

1. Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer extant (post-1949) occurrences or very few remaining individuals) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation or extinction.
2. Imperiled because of rarity (typically 6-20 extant occurrences or few remaining individuals) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation or extinction.
3. Rare or uncommon (typically 21-100 occurrences); may be susceptible to large-scale disturbances; e.g. may have lost extensive peripheral populations.
4. Frequent to common (greater than 100 occurrences); apparently secure but may have a restricted distribution; or there may be perceived future threats.
5. Common to very common; demonstrably secure and essentially ineradicable under present conditions.

Table 2. Rank modifiers.

In addition to the above numerical ranks, there are four letter qualifiers and a question mark that can sometimes be used with them.

H = Historical occurrence; usually not verified in the last 45 years, but with the expectation that it someday may be rediscovered
X = Apparently extinct or extirpated, without the expectation that it will be rediscovered
? = Limited information is available and the number of extant occurrences is expected to be greater
T = Designates a rank associated with a subspecies or variety
Q = Taxonomic validity of the element is not clear or in question

Notes: Specific items of interest or problems are noted. In some cases, where pertinent specific references are cited. An extensive bibliography is provided in Douglas *et al.* (1989, 1990, 1991, 1994) for many of the taxa in most of the vascular plant families in BC, thus it has not been repeated here. The collection dates of either historic (pre-1950) or extant (post-1949) are given for some elements. We have also noted where a reader may locate color illustrations of some of our rare plants. Black and white illustrations (mainly line drawings), of course, may be found in major regional floras (e.g., Abrams 1940, 1944, 1951; Ferris 1960; Hitchcock *et al.* 1955, 1959, 1964, 1969; Hultén 1968; Porsild and Cody 1980) as well as numerous smaller works such as the Royal BC Museum handbooks. The specific location of black and white illustrations in the latter publications has not been noted in this manual.

RED LIST

The RED LIST includes 193 extant (post-1949) S1 or S2 native vascular plant taxa that are candidates for legal designation as endangered[1] or threatened[2] species. These plants usually occur in endangered or threatened habitats. The list also includes 42 historic (pre-1950 [SH]) or extirpated[3] (SX) taxa. In addition, 7 globally rare (G1, G2, T1 or T2) plants not considered above (taxa which would otherwise be treated as S1? and S2S3 taxa on the BLUE LIST), also appear on the RED LIST. The latter usually have all or a large part of their range in BC. A total of 242 taxa are included on the RED LIST.

BLUE LIST

The BLUE LIST includes vulnerable[4] rare taxa that could become candidates for the RED LIST in the foreseeable future. It also features plants that are suspected of being vulnerable, but for which information is lacking at this time. These taxa, totalling 357 taxa, are ranked as S1? or S2S3. In addition, 9 locally frequent, but globally important (G3 or T3) taxa, are also included here. The BLUE LIST includes a total of 369 plants.

1 Endangered: Any indigenous species, subspecies or variety facing extirpation or extinction in British Columbia.

2 Threatened: Any indigenous species, subspecies or variety likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.

3 Extirpated: Any indigenous species, subspecies or variety no longer known to exist in the wild in British Columbia, but existing elsewhere.

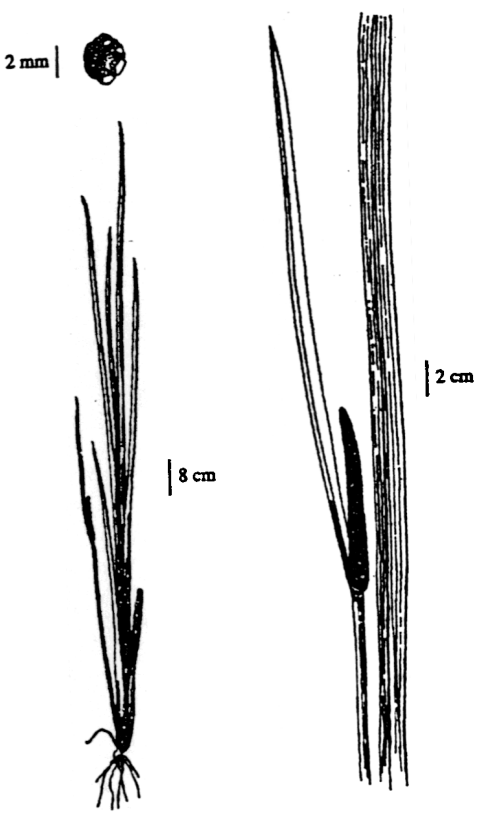
4 Vulnerable: Any indigenous species, subspecies or variety of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.

Acorus americanus **(Raf.) Raf.** (*A. calamus auct. non* L.)

American sweet-flag

Habitat/Range: Shallow water in the montane zone (IDF, MS, SBS); rare in S BC east of the Coast-Cascade Mountains; N to NT, E to NF and S to WA, ID, MT and E US.

Global/Provincial Rank: G5 S1? Status: Blue



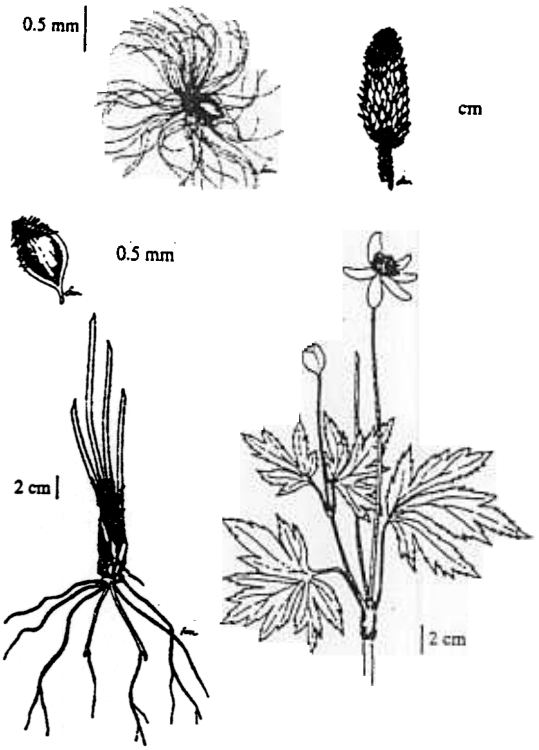
5 Abbreviations for the biogeoclimatic zones of BC can be found on page 4.

Anemone riparia Fern. (*A. virginiana* L. var. *riparia* [Fern.] Boivin)

Riverbank anemone

Habitat/Range: Moist to mesic sites in the lowland and montane zones (CWH, SBS); rare in SW and EC BC, known recently only from Quesnel; E to NF and S to ME, IL and MN.

Global/Provincial Rank: G4G5 S1 Status: Red

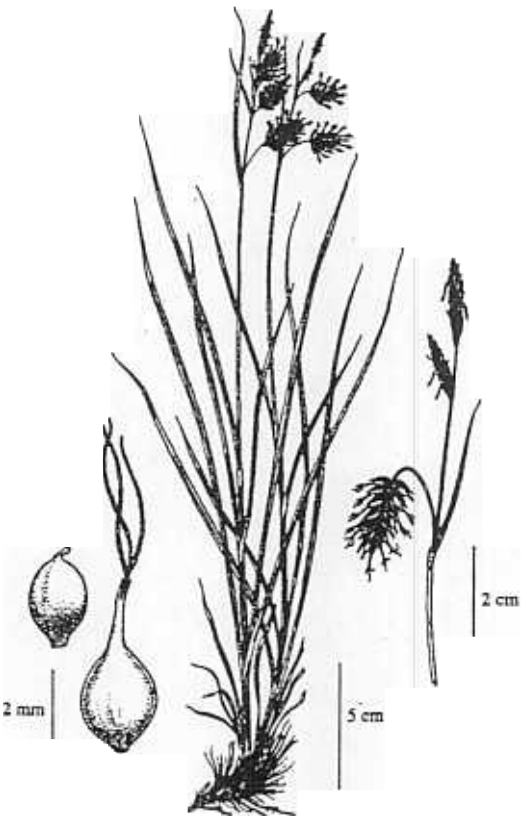


Carex sprengelii **Dewey ex Spreng.**

Sprengel's sedge

Habitat/Range: Moist to wet, open sites in the montane zone (SBS); rare in EC BC; E to PQ and NB and S to NJ, NE and CO.

Global/Provincial Rank: G5? S1 Status: Red

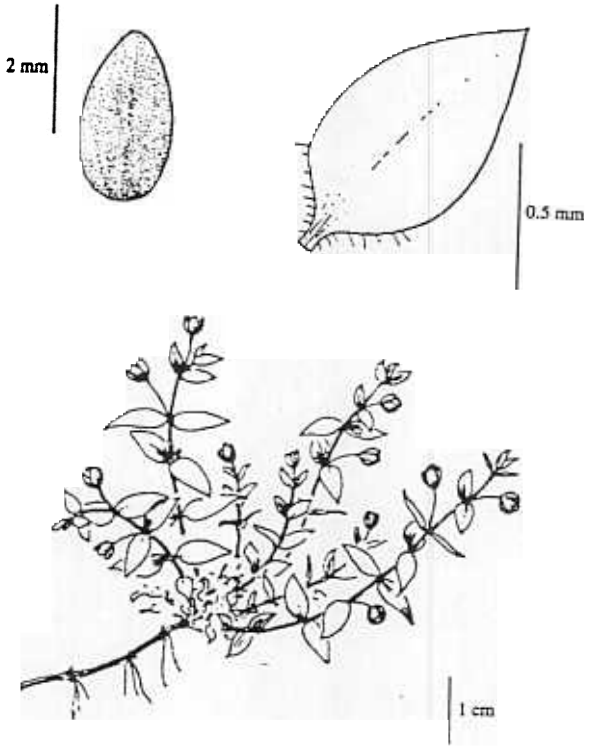


Stellaria obtusa **Engelm.**

Blunt-sepaled starwort

Habitat/Range: Wet to moist sites in the steppe and montane zones (CWH, ESSF, ICH, IDF); rare E of the Coast-Cascade Mountains in S BC; E to AB and S to CO and CA.

Global/Provincial Rank: G5 S2S3 Status: Blue

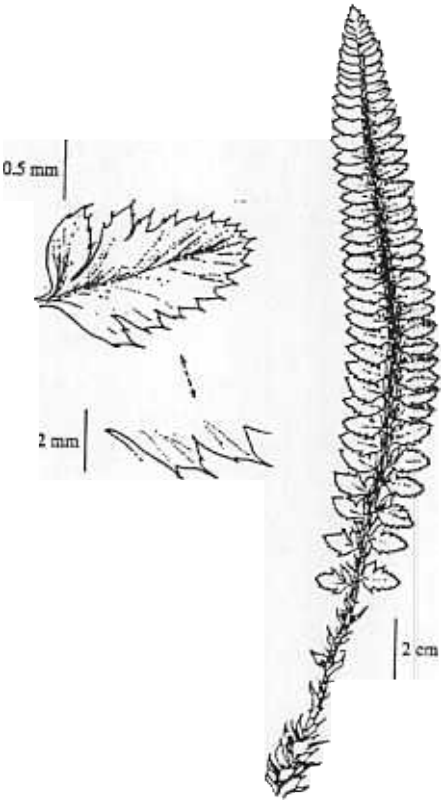


Polystichum kruckebergii **W.H. Wagner**

Kruckeberg's holly fern

Habitat/Range: Dry to mesic ultramafic rock outcrops in the montane to alpine zones (AT, ESSF, IDF, MH, SWB); rare in SW and SC BC, disjunct to NW BC (Cassiar Mountains); S to MT, ID, UT and CA.

Global/Provincial Rank: G4 S2S3 Status: Blue

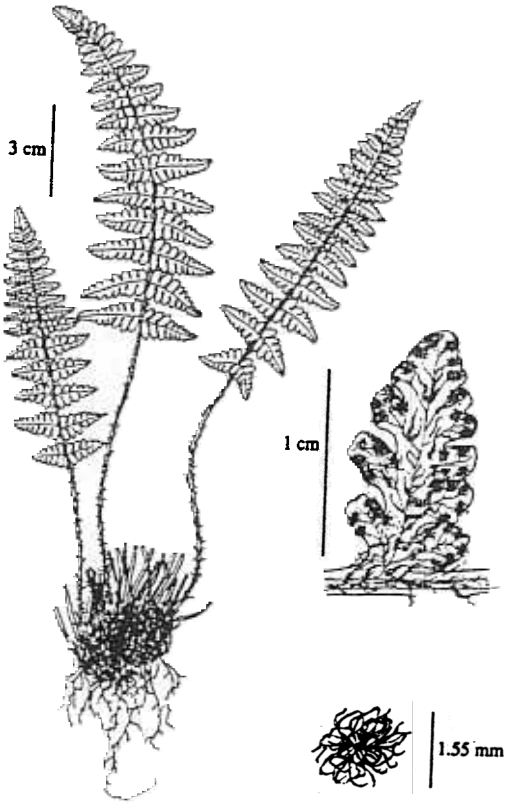


Woodsia ilvensis (L.) R. Br.

Rusty cliff fern or woodsia

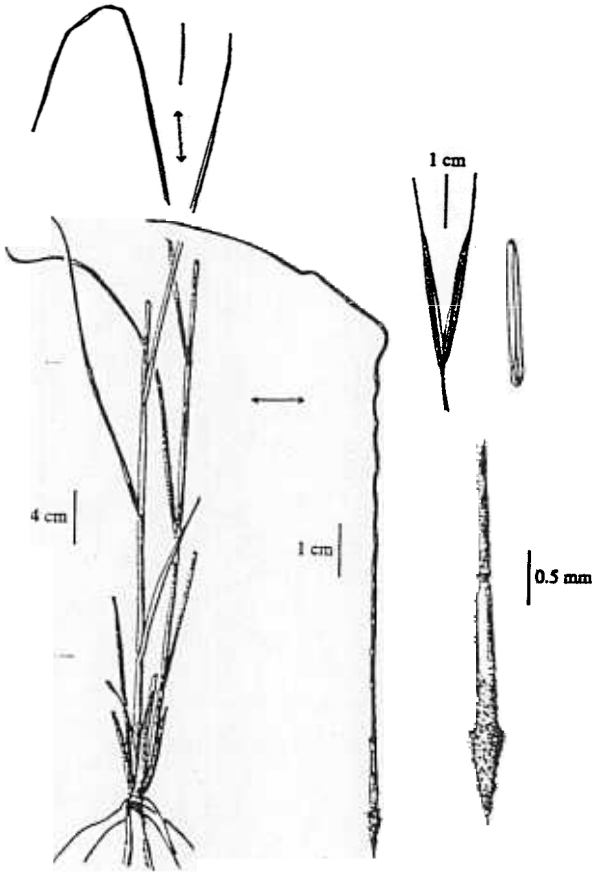
Habitat/Range: Dry rocks and scree slopes in the montane to alpine zones (MH, SBPS, SBS); rare throughout BC in and east of the Coast-Cascade Mountains; circumpolar, N to AK, YT and NT, E to NF and S to NC, IL and MN; Eurasia.

Global/Provincial Rank: G5 S2S3 Status: Blue



Stipa spartea Trin. (*Hesperostipa spartea* [Trin.] Barkworth)

Porcupine-grass

Habitat/Range: Dry to mesic slopes and open forests in the steppe and montane zones (BG, IDF); rare in SC and SE BC; E to ON and S to PA, IA, IN, OK and NM.

Global/Provincial Rank: G5 S1 Status: Blue