Species of Management Concern Training For Licensees

Kamloops Business Area

Specific to the Merritt / Lillooet Field Team

Updated March 2023 By BCTS Staff

Species at Risk

- Federal Statutes and Legislation
  - ❖Species at Risk Act
  - ❖Canada Wildlife Act
- Provincial Statutes and Legislation
  - ❖Wildlife Act

EMS Requirements

- If you spot any unknown Species at your worksite:

STOP WORK
and contact your project supervisor and the BCTS representative if:

- You are uncertain of the Project Plan, your responsibilities, or the location of hazardous/sensitive areas.
- A previously unidentified resource feature, resource value (e.g. cultural) or sensitive area is found.
- You experience unfavourable weather or site conditions that could cause environmental damage.
- You observe conditions that have the potential for immediate environmental damage.
- You believe the Project Plan will not work.

- BCTS staff will review operations and collect information for reporting purposes.

Birds found in Merritt

The following species may be encountered by a Licensee during Operations:

Owls and Birds

Flammulated Owl ***Psiloscops flammeolus***
Williamson's Sapsucker ***Sphyrapicus thyrodius***

Flammulated Owl *Psiloscops flammeolus*

Habitat

- Multi age class stands with multiple canopy layers for roosting and nesting.
- Ponderosa Pine and Douglas fir for nesting.
- Nests are generally found in Woodpecker cavities.

Identification

- Very small owl (16-19 cm length).
- Dark eyes.
- Small distinctive ear tufts.
- Plumage is variegated red and grey.

Action Required

- If a Flammulated Owl is seen on or near active worksite, Stop Work.
- Notify BCTS.

Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*

Habitat

- Preferred habitat is in coniferous trees.
- May utilize trembling aspen.
- Requires large live or recently dead trees to establish nests.

Identification

- Robin sized woodpecker.
- Male has black head with white stripes behind and below the eyes.
- Female has yellow belly, pale brown back with black bars.

Action Required

- If a Williamson's Sapsucker is seen or nests found on active worksite, Stop Work.
- Notify BCTS.

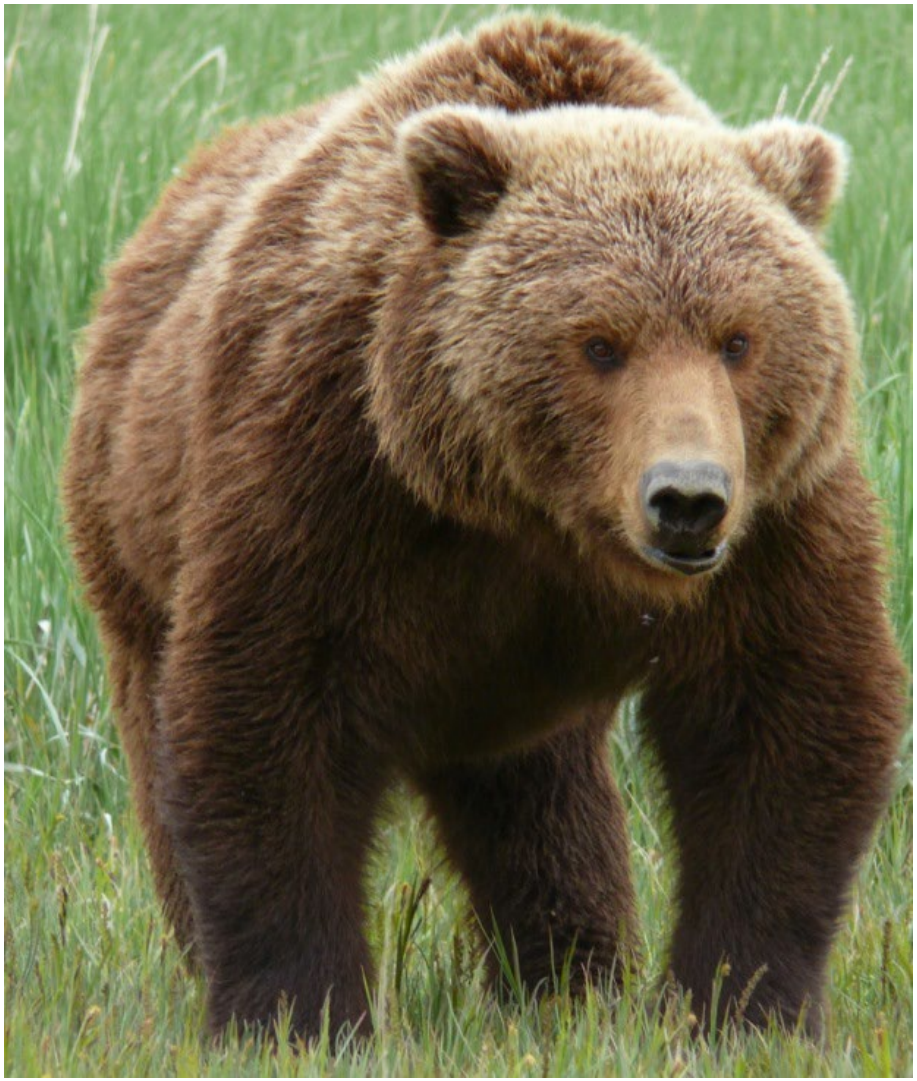
Mammals found in Merritt

The following species may be encountered by a Licensee during Operations:

Carnivores, Rodents and Bats

Grizzly Bear ***Ursus arctos***
American badger ***Taxidea taxus***
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep ***Oovis canadensis***
Mountain Beaver ***Aplodontia rufa***
Spotted Bats ***Eudema maculatum***

Grizzly Bear *Ursus arctos*



Habitat

- All elevations from sea level to high alpine meadows
- Avalanche tracks are important habitat in the spring for forage opportunities

Identification

- Large heavy bodied bear
- Facial profile is dished
- Small round ears
- Hump of muscle on the shoulder

Action Required

- Avoid encounters with these Bears

American Badger *Taxidea taxus*

Habitat

- Inhabits flat to steep terrain
- Valley bottoms to alpine
- Silty, loamy, clayey and sandy soils are key
- Grasslands and dry, open forests most common

Identification

- Heavy bodied, short legs with long front claws
- Short busty tail
- Black patches on the face and cheeks
- Yellowish gray to light brown
- White stripe extending from snout

Action Required

- If an American Badger is seen on near an active worksite
- Notify BCTS

Bighorn Sheep *Ovis canadensis*

Habitat

- Generally found in herds from valley bottoms in the winter to high elevation in the summer.
- Open grasslands to alpine
- Conifer forests to talus slopes
- All on moderately steep to steep slopes

Identification

- Medium rich brown body with a short black tail, white muzzle and rump
- Rams have horns off the top of the heads that curl around past the eyes.
- Ewes have short spike horns that do not curl.

Action Required

- If you see this animal on or near active operations, Stop Works
- Notify BCTS

Mountain Beaver *Aplodontia rufa*

Habitat

- wet soils with water within 1 meter of the surface
- Found in draws and moist areas
- Sites dominated with red alder and sword fern

Identification

- Large rodent approximately the size of a muskrat
- Has a short furry tail
- Dark brown with a light brown belly
- Cheeks have long silver whiskers
- Small round ears and small eyes

Action required

- If a Mountain Beaver is seen on or near an active worksite
- Notify BCTS

Spotted Bat *Eudema maculatum*

Habitat

- Foraging and day roost habitat includes riparian areas, marches, fields, grasslands and open forest.
- Closely associated with rugged arid habitats.
- Dry interior valleys in BC.

Identification

- Relatively large bat with distinctive markings.
- Three white spots on it’s black back, one on each shoulder and one on the rump.
- Very large pink ears.

Action required

- If a colony of Spotted Bats is seen on or near active operations, Stop Work.
- Notify BCTS.

Amphibians in Merritt

The following species may be encountered by a Licensee during Operations:

Frogs

Coastal Tailed Frog ***Ascaphus truei***

Coastal Tailed Frog *Ascaphus truei*

Habitat

- Clear mountain streams with step pool morphologies with gradients that are not too low or too steep
- Will inhabit pool-riffle habitats of fish bearing streams

Identification

- Often a distinct copper bar or triangle between the eyes and snout
- Small frog with a large head, vertical pupil and broad, flattened outer hind toes
- Males have short conical tails

Action Required

- If a Coastal Tailed Frog is found on or near active operations
- Notify BCTS

Reptiles in Merritt

The following species may be encountered by a Licensee during Operations:

Snakes

Great Basin Gopher Snake ***Pituophis catenifer deserticola***
Western Rattlesnake ***Crotalus oreganus***

Great Basin Gopher Snake *Pituophis catenifer desertocola*

Habitat

- Distribution throughout the warm dry grassland
- Den sites found in the Ponderosa Pine or Bunchgrass zones
- Forage in riparian areas in grassland habitat.

Identification

- Light brown to yellowish brown with dark brown-black squares down the back; on the tail the squares look more like stripes.
- Smaller, more irregular brown-black markings on the side
- Head is slightly wider than the neck
- Eyes are relatively large with a round pupil
- Distinctive black line between the eyes

Western Rattlesnake *Crotalus oreganus*

Habitat

- Forages in grasslands, wetlands and riparian areas with coarse woody debris
- Denning sites inside rock outcrops on southern facing slopes

Identification

- Broad triangular head that is wider than the neck
- Rattle at tip of tail produces a buzzing sound when disturbed
- Dark stripe below theye
- Dark markings banded with light color along the back

Action Required

- If a Western Rattle snake is found on or near active operations
- Notify BCTS