

The following procedure applies to all cutblock development as there is both a legal and ethical responsibility to protect Species at Risk – mammals, birds, fish, insects, plants, plant communities and ecosystems - potentially influenced/impacted by Primary Forest Activities. The focus of this procedure is on BC Red and Blue listed species, but additional Species of Management Concern may also be identified.

Nothing in this document relieves a Qualified Registered Professional responsible for the Site Plan from the obligation to prescribe adequate and appropriate management practices for the protection of [Species at Risk](#), wildlife and habitats under the [Wildlife Act](#) and migratory birds under the [Migratory Birds Convention Act](#).

BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer

Annually, BCTS staff will run a query from the [BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#) database to identify and compile a list of Red and Blue listed species potentially found within the Stuart-Nechako Resource District. This SAR List will be provided to staff and contractors, particularly those involved in road and cutblock development.

Contractors are required to ensure their field staff are knowledgeable of the species identified on the SAR List and have a reasonable awareness of this procedure.

Confirmed Species at Risk should be reported ([submit data](#)) to the Conservation Data Centre by observer.

Red-listed Species

Species that are Extirpated (believed to no longer exist in the wild in BC), Endangered (facing imminent extirpation or extinction) or Threatened (likely to become endangered if limiting factors not reversed).

Impacts to Red-listed species must be avoided when conducting road and cutblock development activities.

Where Red-listed species are identified (confirmed or potential);

- (a) Record the date, location (GPS preferred) and habitat features encountered.
- (b) If possible, record (eg. bird call) and photograph species and habitat/area.
- (c) Immediately notify the Ministry Representative and provide a copy of collected information.
- (d) Apply site level measures to avoid impact to the identified species. This could require discussion with BCTS staff and/or consultation with specialist(s).

The Site Plan must detail the measures and management practices that are necessary to avoid impact.

Blue-listed Species

Species that are considered to be vulnerable because of characteristics that make them particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.

Impacts to Blue-listed species must be mitigated when conducting road and cutblock development activities to avoid the species becoming Red-listed. Management strategies will vary subject to the relative occurrence/abundance of the species, the health and representative nature of the species and the scope and duration of the proposed activity.

Where Blue-listed species are identified (confirmed or potential);

- (a) Record the date, location (GPS preferred) and habitat features encountered.
- (b) If possible, record (eg. bird call) and photograph species and habitat/area.
- (c) Immediately notify the Ministry Representative and provide a copy of collected information.

- (d) Discuss with the Ministry Representative options and a proposed management strategy. This could require consultation with specialist(s).

The Site Plan must detail the measures and management practices that are necessary to mitigate impact.

Dens, nests, tree cavities, 'wildlife' trees and other habitats

Impacts to reasonably obvious wildlife habitat must be avoided when conducting road and cutblock development activities. Consideration should also be given to the potential for habitat 'recruitment' (eg. retention of deciduous trees that could become cavity nesting trees).

Where wildlife habitat is identified (confirmed or potential);

- (a) Record the date, location (GPS preferred) and a detailed description of habitat encountered.
- (b) If possible, photograph the habitat/area.
- (c) Immediately notify the Ministry Representative and provide a copy of collected information.
- (d) Apply site level measures to avoid impact to the identified habitat. This could require discussion with BCTS staff and/or consultation with specialist(s).

The Site Plan must detail the measures and management practices that are necessary to avoid impact.

Some resources that can aid in species and habitat identification:

Wildlife – [Compendium of Wildlife Guidelines in the North Area, BC](#)

Fisher – BC Fisher Habitat Working Group's [BC Fisher Habitat & Forestry Web Module](#)

Raptors – [Guidelines for Raptor Conservation](#)

Raptors – HMANA's [Guide to Hawks in North America](#)

Raptor – [BMP for Northern Goshawk](#)

Dens – Canfor's Carnivore Ground Dens Identification Guide – available from BCTS-TSN

Dens – [Bear den site selection and considerations for forest management \(study\)](#)

Wetlands – [LMH 52 Guide to Identification of Wetlands of BC](#)

[Environmental Information Resources System for Biodiversity](#) (library of resource material)

The legal background ...

Federal *Species at Risk Act* (weblink above) requires the development of recovery strategies and action plans for endangered, threatened, and extirpated species and management plans for species of special concern. Strategies include the identification of critical habitat(s) for species needing protection.

Provincial *Wildlife Act* (weblink above), Sec 34, indicates that a person commits an offence if the person, except as provided by regulation, possesses, takes, injures, molests, or destroys a bird or its egg, the nest of various species or the nest of a bird when nest is occupied by a bird or its egg.

Note: The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (weblink above) includes additional requirements for migratory birds.

Provincial *Wildlife Act*, Sec 75, indicates that a person who kills or wounds wildlife, other than prescribed wildlife, whether by accident or for the protection of life or property, must promptly report to an officer (offence for failure to report).