

Species at Risk in our Backyard



Why we need to be concerned...

BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS THE HIGHEST BIODIVERSITY OF ANY PROVINCE OR TERRITORY IN CANADA. Like other living things, humans tend to prefer the best locations, such as along watercourses or coastlines, to reside and work. This is true of the areas on B.C.'s South Coast.

THE LOWER FRASER VALLEY IS ONE OF B.C.'S TOP FIVE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS. Humans have an important role to play by ensuring our activities, now and in the future, sustain the biodiversity that makes our valley livable.

BIODIVERSITY PROVIDES US WITH VALUABLE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR FREE. For example, Burns Bog provides water and air filtration services, with an estimated value of \$60 million annually.



Streambank Lupine

WHY CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY?

- Plants and animals supply us with a wide variety of food, building materials, energy, and medicines
- Forests moderate our climate, reduce greenhouse gases (absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen), and clean our air
- Trees shade us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, reduce urban temperatures, and decrease energy costs
- Trees also retain soil, slow runoff during storm events, and conserve water
- Soil filters our water and stores nutrients for plants
- Riparian/wetland areas and headwater streams prevent erosion, provide flood protection, and act as natural pollutant filters to improve our water quality
- Diverse animal and plant populations naturally limit pest species
- Bats, moths, butterflies, and birds act as pollinators for the one third of our food plants that require wild pollinators to produce successful crops
- Biodiversity can not be artificially replicated

**Over 230 species are at risk
on the South Coast alone!**

How do we protect species at risk?



Autumn Meadowhawk

Across Canada the **SPECIES AT RISK ACT** (SARA) aims to prevent the loss of wildlife species and to secure the necessary actions for the recovery of species. The act suggests cooperative stewardship initiatives as the first step towards species recovery. It also contains legislated rules and regulations for when cooperation does not achieve all recovery objectives.

Under SARA there are direct prohibitions against killing or harming species at risk. These prohibitions apply to listed migratory birds and aquatic species anywhere they occur, and all other listed organisms found on federal lands.

The “safety net” provisions of SARA indirectly protect listed species in other areas such as private, municipal, and provincial lands, by ensuring the provinces and territories independently provide effective protection.

In addition to SARA, an **ACCORD FOR THE PROTECTION OF SPECIES AT RISK** (the Accord) has also been endorsed. The Accord was developed by wildlife ministers from all the Provincial, Territorial, and Federal governments. British Columbia intends to fulfill its responsibilities under both the Accord and SARA through the use of existing legislation and programs, such as the amended **WILDLIFE ACT** and the **FOREST AND RANGE PRACTICES ACT**.

Given the large number of species at risk occurring on the South Coast, it is critical that conservation actions are coordinated in a multi-species approach.

THE SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SCCP) was formed, in the spirit of shared stewardship, by concerned parties and stakeholders to aid in the implementation of this multi-species approach. The primary objective of this program is to maintain and restore species and ecosystems at risk at a landscape level.



Great Blue Heron

Visit www.sccp.ca for more details!

A few of our species at risk and some



1. Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)
-loss of old field and wetland habitat

2. Pacific Water Shrew (*Sorex bendirii*)
-development near streams and wetlands

3. Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*)
-destruction of wetland habitat

4. Indra Swallowtail (*Papilio indra*)
-loss of larval food plant habitat due to invasive weeds

5. Townsend's Mole (*Scapanus townsendii*)
-unknowingly controlled as a pest

6. Salish Sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*)
-stream habitat degradation

of the threats they face...



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7. Streambank Lupine (*Lupinus rivularis*)-loss of flood plain habitat

8. Oregon Forestsnail (*Allogona townsendiana*) -loss of low elevation forest habitat

9. Coastal Giant Salamander (*Dicamptodon tenebrosus*) -destruction of stream habitat

10. Nooksack Dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*) -loss of stream habitat and reduction of stream flow

11. Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*) -disturbance close to nesting sites

12. Phantom Orchid (*Cephalanthera austiniiae*) -urbanization resulting in habitat loss and degradation

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How can we help?



The philosophy of **SHARED STEWARDSHIP** is essential to the maintenance and restoration of our province's natural biodiversity. This is especially important because many of our species at risk occur on private land.

This shared stewardship approach involves all of us taking responsibility and individual voluntary action for protecting and restoring species, ecosystems and habitats for future generations to enjoy. This can be accomplished by:

- Landowners and the general public engaging in well informed stewardship activities on their land
- Land-use professionals utilizing guidelines and bylaws generated by the various levels of government when advising on land use issues
- Community stewardship groups conserving land, rehabilitating and enhancing habitat, and increasing public awareness through education
- Municipal and Regional governments creating bylaws and recommendations for development at the site specific level
- Federal and Provincial governments creating laws and guidelines to protect the species and their habitat

PROTECTING SPECIES AT RISK AND HABITAT HELPS MAINTAIN OUR BIODIVERSITY. A 2007 poll (see figure 1) of South Coast residents clearly demonstrates majority support for conserving and preserving wildlife and habitat even if it means slowing/ scaling down economic development.

The **SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM WEB SITE** (www.sccp.ca) is a comprehensive resource with current information on all listed local species at risk including legislation, management guidelines, interactive maps, and stewardship opportunities.

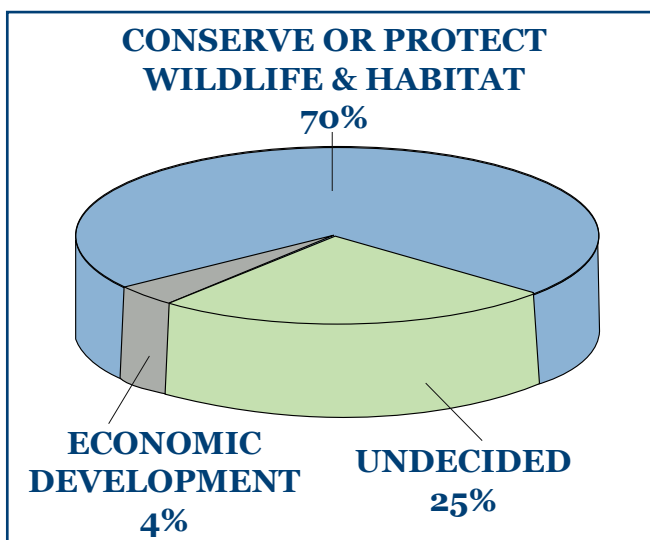



Figure 1. Results of Synovate 2007 poll.

Be informed and take action!

B.C. species at risk rankings

RED-LISTED:	Any B.C. species being considered for designation as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened under the Wildlife Act
BLUE-LISTED:	Any B.C. species not immediately threatened, but of special concern due to their sensitivity to human activities or natural events
EXTINCT:	A species that no longer exists
EXTIRPATED:	A species that no longer exists in its native B.C. habitat, but may occur elsewhere
ENDANGERED:	A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation
THREATENED:	A species that is likely to become endangered if limiting factors such as diminishing population sizes, isolated geographic distribution, and habitat threats are not reversed

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