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# Develop with Care

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## Sources for Environmental Mapping and Inventory

# C

Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia

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### Appendix C

#### SOURCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MAPPING AND INVENTORY

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## Appendix C: Sources for Environmental Mapping and Inventory

Many sources of environmental mapping and inventory are now available from websites. Some of these are compilations of data from several different sources, with the ability to produce maps showing only the information layers of interest. Some of these sources require that you download a mapping tool such as MapGuide, and some require a password.

Below is a summary of some of the electronically available information. Note that this list is likely incomplete, as new information frequently becomes available. As well, much important information is NOT yet available in digital format. When seeking out information on a given area, remember to search for written reports, local mapping initiatives, and other data sources. Local government, provincial and federal government agencies, and conservation groups may have knowledge of additional information sources. Local community groups (such as naturalists) are often a valuable source of local knowledge.

### C.1. PROVINCE-WIDE MAPPING AND INVENTORY

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands maintains and manages several land use and resource inventory information systems. These systems constitute a record of land, mineral, vegetative and other natural resources of the Province, as well as the rights, tenures and activities of those that use these resources. This information is being compiled in an integrated **Land and Resource Data Warehouse**.

- ♦ For more information, see [http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/imb/2serv/dr\\_pub\\_prod/data-warehouse.html](http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/imb/2serv/dr_pub_prod/data-warehouse.html).
- ♦ To make a map using the data warehouse, see <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/g/makeamap.html>.

**Eco-Cat** (the Ecosystem Report Catalogue) (<http://srmapps.gov.bc.ca/apps/acat/>) is a website where you can access data and inventory from many different sources, including project reports and associated files. Searches can be done using keywords, for example regions or vegetation type. This site was previously known as Aqua-Cat, but has been updated to reflect terrestrial information.

**The Conservation Data Centre** (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/index.html>) provides an Endangered Species and Ecosystems website (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/index.html>) with links to provincial data sources.

- ♦ Get detailed information on rare and endangered species and ecosystems in British Columbia through the **BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer** (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html>). Information includes status, distribution, life histories, conservation needs, recovery plans and more. You can also generate lists of rare British Columbia plant and animal species and ecosystems and link to related documents.
- ♦ Use the **NatureServe Explorer** (<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>) to find national and global information about species in Canada and the United States.



- ♦ Use **Mapped Known Locations** (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/ims.htm>) to find complete records for known locations of red- and blue-listed species and ecosystems.

**GIS data** can be obtained through

- ♦ Land Information Data Discovery <http://srmapps.gov.bc.ca/metastar/home.do>;
- ♦ Ministry of Agriculture and Lands spatial Data <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/gis/GISdata.html>.

Many environmental atlases are available on-line through the **Community Mapping Network** (<http://www.shim.bc.ca/atlases/shim/shim.htm>). These require that you download MapGuide. Atlases include:

- ♦ B.C. Grasslands Atlas [http://www.shim.bc.ca/grassland/grassland\\_public.htm](http://www.shim.bc.ca/grassland/grassland_public.htm)
- ♦ B.C. Wetlands Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/wetland/main.htm>
- ♦ B.C. Wildlife Atlas [http://www.shim.bc.ca/wildlife/wildlife\\_public.htm](http://www.shim.bc.ca/wildlife/wildlife_public.htm)

For information on **nest site** data and annual monitoring reports for bird species identified in Section 34 of the *Wildlife Act*, including great blue heron, bald eagle, and golden eagle, contact regional Ministry of Environment personnel, if the information is not available through online sources (see below).

**Conservation covenants:** B.C. Lands in Trust Registry  
<http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry>

**Fisheries Inventory Reports** [http://www.bcfisheries.gov.bc.ca/fishinv/manuals\\_toolkits.html](http://www.bcfisheries.gov.bc.ca/fishinv/manuals_toolkits.html)  
provides a listing of available fish and fish habitat inventory reports.

**Eelgrass Bed Mapping Atlas** <http://www.shim.bc.ca/eelgrass/main.htm>

**Fish Wizard** <http://www.fishwizard.com/>

**Fisheries Inventory Summary System (FISS)**  
<http://www.bcfisheries.gov.bc.ca/fishinv/fiss.html>

**Floodplain mapping** <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/aib/fpm/>

**Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping data**  
<http://www.shim.bc.ca/shim/shimloginscreen2.htm>

### Species at risk

- ♦ Royal B.C. Museum information on plant and animal species at risk in B.C.  
[http://www.rbcm.gov.bc.ca/end\\_species/index\\_es.html](http://www.rbcm.gov.bc.ca/end_species/index_es.html).
- ♦ **COSEWIC** (Committee on the Status of endangered Wildlife in Canada) information on the status of plants and animals in Canada <http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca>.



**Terrain stability mapping** <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/terrain/inventory/stability/index.html>

## C.2. REGIONAL MAPPING AND INVENTORY

Regional **Ministry of Environment** websites

(<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/main/prgs/regions.htm>) provide additional local information.

Regional and district **Ministry of Forests** offices provide information on rare plant communities in their area: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/regdis.htm>

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Lands** (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/>) provides information on:

- ♦ regional land use plans <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/lrmp/index.htm>
- ♦ coastal and marine plans <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/coastal/index.htm>
- ♦ sustainable resource management plans <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/srmp/index.htm>

Many regional environmental atlases are available on-line, including:

- ♦ Boundary Bay Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/bb/main.htm>
- ♦ B.C. Watershed Statistics Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/BCWsheds/main.htm> (coverage only for south western British Columbia and the Queen Charlotte Islands)
- ♦ Alberni Clayoquot Regional District 'Alberni Valley Stream Atlas'. For information, contact the regional district planning department (phone 250-720-2700 or e-mail [mailbox@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:mailbox@acrd.bc.ca))
- ♦ Capital Regional District Natural Areas Atlas <http://www.crd.bc.ca/es/natatlas/atlas.htm>
- ♦ Capital Regional District Harbours Atlas <http://harboursatlas.ca/>
- ♦ Central Coast Watershed Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/centralcoast/main.htm>
- ♦ Comox Valley Project Watershed Society <http://www.shim.bc.ca/projectwatershed/main.htm>
- ♦ Comox Strathcona Sensitive Habitat Atlas <http://www.rdc.bc.ca/>
- ♦ Fraser River Estuary Management Program Habitat Classifications mapping <http://www.shim.bc.ca/atlas/FREMP/main.cfm>
- ♦ Fraser Valley Regional District Habitat Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/fvrd/main.htm>
- ♦ Habitat Atlas for Wildlife at Risk, Thompson-Okanagan Region [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sir/fwh/wld/atlas/ecosystems/ecosystems\\_index.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sir/fwh/wld/atlas/ecosystems/ecosystems_index.html)
- ♦ Inner Coast Natural Resource Centre (ICNRC) <http://www.icnrc.org/>
- ♦ ICNRC Stream Observation Mapping Tool <http://www.shim.bc.ca/icnrc/main.htm>
- ♦ Invasive Species in Langley B.C. <http://www.shim.bc.ca/invasivespecies/main.cfm>



- ♦ North Okanagan Resource/Habitat Atlas <http://shim.bc.ca/atlas/nord/index.cfm>
- ♦ Pacific Coastal Resources Atlas [http://www.shim.bc.ca/Coastal/Coastal\\_entry.htm](http://www.shim.bc.ca/Coastal/Coastal_entry.htm)
- ♦ Sea To Sky Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/sea2sky/main.htm>
- ♦ Sensitive Ecosystems Inventories (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sei/index.html>) are currently available for East Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands; Sunshine Coast; Bowen and Gambier Islands; Central Okanagan; and Bella Vista Goose Lake (North Okanagan)
- ♦ Shorekeepers database <http://www.keepersweb.org/Shorekeepers/Database/index.htm>
- ♦ South Coast Cutthroat Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/cutthroat/main.htm>
- ♦ South Okanagan Lower Similkameen Habitat Atlas for Wildlife at Risk <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/okr/esd/atlas/index.html>
- ♦ Sunshine Coast Habitat Atlas <http://habitat.scrd.bc.ca/>
- ♦ Upper Skeena Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/skeena/main.htm>
- ♦ Wildlife Tree Stewardship Atlas [http://www.shim.bc.ca/wits2/main\\_public.html](http://www.shim.bc.ca/wits2/main_public.html) (coverage of south western British Columbia)