

**Environmental Best Management Practices
for Urban and Rural Land Development**

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**Appendix B
SOURCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
MAPPING AND INVENTORY**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Ecosystem Standards and Planning
Biodiversity Branch

APPENDIX B: Sources for Environmental Mapping and Inventory

Many sources of environmental mapping and inventory are now available electronically. 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 reports, local mapping initiatives and other data sources. Local government, provincial and federal government agencies, and community conservation groups may be able to help identify additional information sources.

PROVINCE-WIDE MAPPING AND INVENTORY

Land Information B.C. provides an Endangered Species and Ecosystems website (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/index.html>) with links to provincial data sources:

- Get detailed information on rare and endangered species and ecosystems in BC through the **BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer** (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html>). Information includes status, distribution, life histories, conservation needs, recovery plans and more.
- Generate lists of BC plant and animal species and ecosystems and link to related documents. **BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer** (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html>). BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer;
- Use the **NatureServe Explorer** (<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>) to find national and global information about species in BC and beyond.
- Use **Mapped Known Locations** (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/ims.htm>) to find complete records for known locations of Red- and Blue-listed species and ecosystems.

Many environmental atlases are available on-line through the Community Mapping Network (<http://www.shim.bc.ca/>), including:

- B.C. Grasslands Atlas: http://www.shim.bc.ca/grassland/grassland_public.htm
- B.C. Watershed Statistics Atlas: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/BCWsheds/main.htm>
- B.C. Wetlands Atlas: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/wetland/main.htm>
- Wildlife Atlas: http://www.shim.bc.ca/wildlife/wildlife_entry.htm
- Wildlife Tree Stewardship Atlas: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/wits2/loginscreen.cfm>

Sensitive Ecosystems Inventories (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/sci/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).

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 and Golden Eagle, contact regional Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection personnel.

Fish and Fish Habitat Inventory Reports (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/fish/ric/>): listing of available fish and fish habitat inventory reports.

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

Fisheries Inventory Summary System (FISS):

<http://www.bcfisheries.gov.bc.ca/fishinv/fiss.html>

Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping data:

<http://www.shim.bc.ca/shim/shimloginscreen2.htm>

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

Terrain stability mapping:

(<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/terrain/inventory/stability/index.html>)

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

The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management 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

REGIONAL MAPPING AND INVENTORY

Many regional of the environmental atlases are available on-line through the Community Mapping Network (<http://www.shim.bc.ca/>), including:

- Boundary Bay Atlas: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/bb/main.htm>
- Capital Regional District Natural Areas Atlas:
<http://www.crd.bc.ca/es/natatlas/atlas.htm>
- 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/environmentalplanning/index.html>
- Fraser Valley Regional District Habitat Atlas: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/fvrd/main.htm>
- 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>
- Pacific Coastal Resources Atlas: http://www.shim.bc.ca/Coastal/Coastal_entry.htm
- Sea To Sky Atlas: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/sea2sky/main.htm>
- Shorekeepers Atlas: <http://www.keepersweb.org/Shorekeepers/index.htm>
- South Coast Cutthroat Atlas: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/cutthroat/main.htm>

- Sunshine Coast Habitat Atlas: <http://habitat.scrd.bc.ca/>
- The Spirit of Georgia Strait Alliance: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/gsa/bridge.htm>
- Upper Skeena Atlas: <http://www.shim.bc.ca/skeena/main.htm>

Habitat Atlas for Wildlife at Risk, Thompson-Okanagan Region:

http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sir/fwh/wld/atlas/ecosystems/ecosystems_index.html

Also check regional Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection websites (<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/main/prgs/regions.htm>) for local information.