

MATURE DECIDUOUS FOREST

This area contains two distinct habitats. Birch and aspen trees are found on the higher ground. Listen for the songs of treetop dwellers, such as Red-eyed Vireo, Purple Finch, and Western Wood-Pewee. You may also hear the tapping of Red-breasted Sapsuckers or Pileated Woodpeckers as they search for food.

Moisture-tolerant willows thrive in the swampy bottomland. In spring and summer, several species of birds forage in this area. Tiny black and orange American Redstarts can be seen flitting through the trees. A Northern Waterthrush may be seen bobbing its tail as it feeds along the water's edge. Long-toed Salamanders may also be found in this moist habitat. Black Bears visit this area in the spring to root out skunk cabbage.

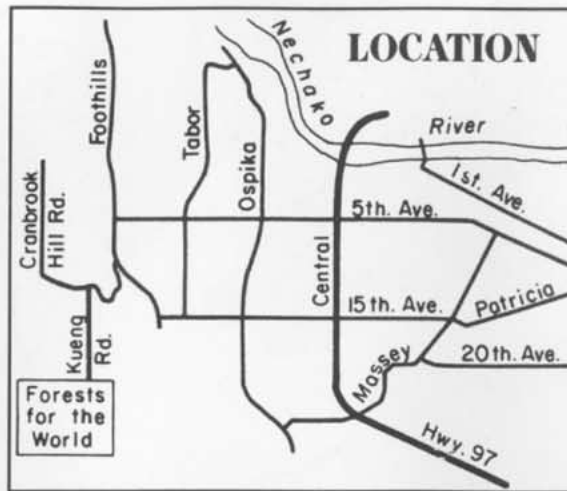
In winter, small flocks of Black-capped Chickadees seek shelter from the icy wind as they glean insect eggs from the tree bark.

MATURE CONIFER FOREST

This habitat is characterized by large, old coniferous trees and rotting logs. Birds found here include Winter Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Boreal Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Northern Goshawk. Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Three-toed Woodpeckers search for insects hidden in the bark of tree trunks.

Common mammals include the Red Squirrel and Red-backed Vole, which scurry about on the forest floor.

In the winter, watch for Gray Jays and White-winged Crossbills high in the trees. Moose and Pine Marten tracks may be found in the snow and chewed ends of shrubs show where Moose have been feeding.



WILDLIFE VIEWING ETHICS

Wildlife viewing demands courtesy and common sense. To keep our wildlife healthy and wild, please follow these rules:

- ✓ Keep to designated trails to reduce your impact on nature.
- ✓ Keep your distance to reduce stress on wildlife.
- ✓ Do not feed wildlife. Their natural feeding patterns may be disrupted.
- ✓ Do not litter. Take your garbage with you.
- ✓ Take home only pictures and memories and leave only footprints.
- ✓ Keep pets on a leash, or, for the wildlife's sake, leave them at home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

B.C. Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch
1011 4th Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2L 3H9

Prince George Naturalists Club
Box 1092, Prince George, B.C. V2L 4V2

Forests for the World Commission
City of Prince George • 604-561-7711



Printed in Canada
on recycled paper



BC
Environment

WILDLIFE VIEWING AT FORESTS FOR THE WORLD



In co-operation
with the
Prince George
Naturalists Club

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
WILDLIFE
WATCH



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to FORESTS FOR THE WORLD. This 139-hectare demonstration forest has become one of Prince George's most visited sites. Twelve kilometres of trails make it ideal for cross-country skiers, hikers, naturalists and families to learn about our environment while enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the forest.

These trails provide easy access to a variety of wildlife habitats, which, at different stages of development, attract particular wildlife species. This brochure will help you identify habitat types and improve your chances of viewing wildlife. The animals are most active during early morning and late evening. Take time to walk around and enjoy your visit to FORESTS FOR THE WORLD.

AQUATIC HABITAT

—SHANE LAKE

This nutrient-rich lake supports an abundant growth of plants. In turn, this vegetation provides food and cover for a variety of wildlife. From the boardwalk you may see Spotted Frogs, Dragonfly nymphs, Water Boatmen, Water Striders, and leeches, which are all fed upon by Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, and Barrow's Goldeneyes.

Across the lake are large round Beaver lodges built of sticks and mud. Tree Swallows skim the lake for insects throughout the day, while bats do the same during the evening. Moose can sometimes be seen munching on willows and pond weeds.

In winter, when the frozen lake is covered by fresh snow, look for tracks of Moose, Snowshoe Hare, Coyote, and Ermine.

NEW FOREST

—PLANTATIONS

Plantations are the first stage of development in the managed forest. Replanted areas are

characterized by grassy openings and rows of young pine and spruce trees. Brush piles and remnant large trees are widely scattered.

Watch for American Robins and Northern Flickers feeding on worms and insects on the ground in open spots. White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos feed in more brushy areas. Yellow-pine Chipmunks can be seen scurrying around brush piles, and Common Garter Snakes may be basking in the sun in dry open areas.

Listen quietly for the rustling sound of Meadow Voles running through the grass, and watch for predators such as the Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Ermine. Hummingbirds and Cedar Waxwings can be seen around plantation edges. Black Bears may occasionally venture from the forest to feed on grasses and berries.

In the winter, Common Redpolls feed on any available seeds in the clearings.

YOUNG CONIFER FOREST

This area was logged in 1962 and left to grow back naturally. In recent years, the area has been thinned of deciduous trees to reduce competition for the conifers. The thinning process has left the area quite open, providing very little cover for small mammals. However, in spring and summer, birds such as MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, and Townsend's Solitaire search this habitat for insects. Another insect eater you may find is the Western Toad.

Can you see a tree with a lot of bark missing from the trunk? Porcupines love to eat the bark of young pines, sometimes killing the tree.

Throughout the year, Moose, Red Fox, and Coyote may pass through this area.

YOUNG DECIDUOUS FOREST

The dense thickets of willow, alder, and aspen began growing shortly after logging. This habitat

provides excellent year-round cover for Snowshoe Hare and Ruffed Grouse.

The sweet, flute-like notes of the Hermit Thrush can often be heard during May and June. With a little searching, this songster can usually be spotted near the top of a tree. Warbling Vireos frequently build their nests in the willows and can be heard singing incessantly during the summer. Wood Frogs search the forest floor for insects and other invertebrates.

The bright yellow Tiger Swallowtail butterfly quenches its thirst in mudpuddles along the trail. Near these puddles you may also see Mule Deer and Ermine tracks. During the winter, look for the tracks of Moose, Snowshoe Hare, Ermine, Lynx, and Ruffed Grouse in fresh snow.

MATURE MIXEDWOOD FOREST

The mixed forest of coniferous and deciduous trees provides a source of food and shelter for wildlife. By spring, the early-budding poplars attract hungry Pine Siskins and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Flocks of migrating thrushes forage in the underbrush. Robins and Swainson's Thrushes stay to nest in summer. Other nesting species include the Solitary Vireo and Western Tanager.

By late summer you might spy a Ruffed Grouse family scratching for seeds and insects in the leaf litter. In fall, shrews and Deer Mice can be heard scurrying through the fallen leaves. These small mammals are preyed upon by Northern Saw-whet Owls.

As winter approaches, Pine Grosbeaks feed on any remaining berries. In the shallow snow under the trees, Mule Deer escape the bitter winds. Listen for the "ank, ank" of the Red-breasted Nuthatch and the rapping of the Hairy Woodpecker.

WILDLIFE HABITATS AT FORESTS FOR THE WORLD



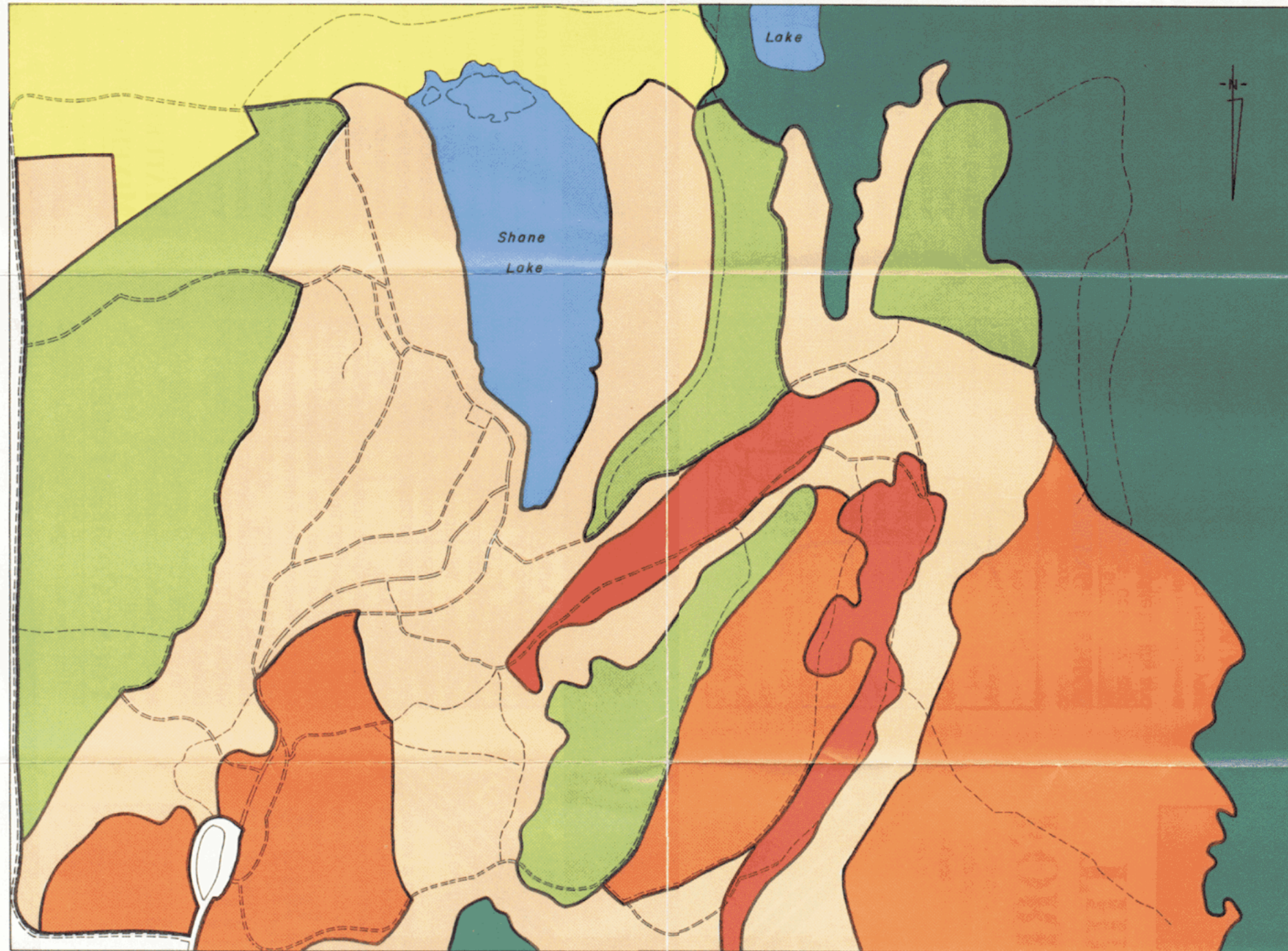
The Spotted Frog is found near wet areas, such as Shane Lake, from early spring to fall.



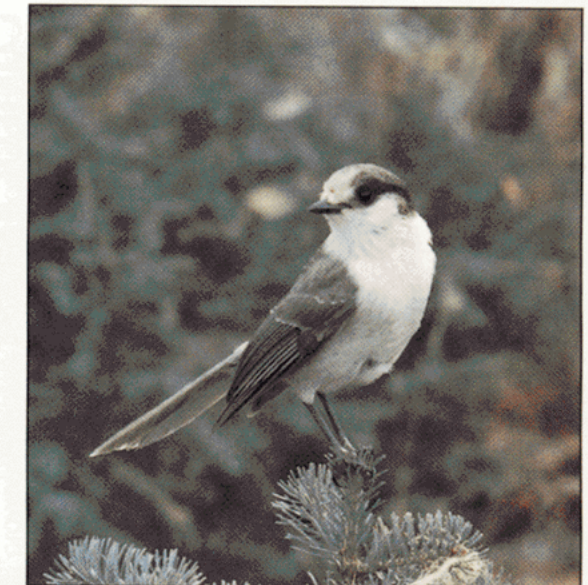
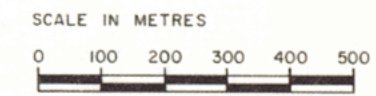
The Red-backed Vole is a common but seldom seen resident of the forest floor.



The Black Bear is an uncommon spring and summer visitor throughout Forests for the World.



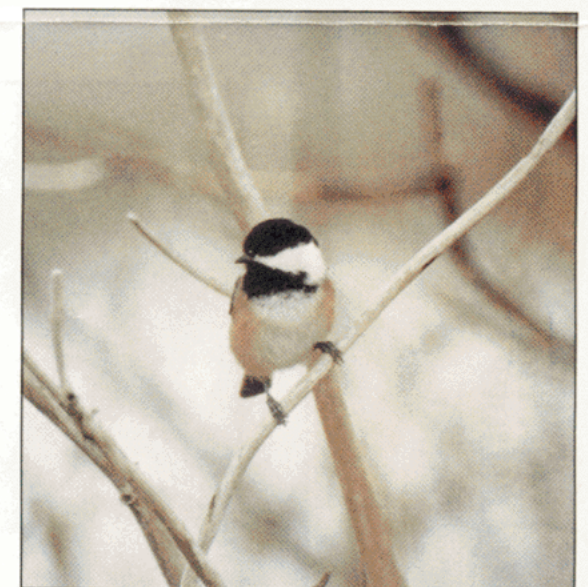
LEGEND		
AQUATIC HABITAT / SHANE LAKE		
NEW FOREST PLANTATION		
YOUNG CONIFER FOREST		
YOUNG DECIDUOUS FOREST		
MATURE MIXED-WOOD FOREST		
MATURE DECIDUOUS FOREST		
MATURE CONIFER FOREST		
		HIKING TRAIL - - - -
		IMPROVED TRAIL = = = =
		WHEEL CHAIR TRAIL = = = =



Gray Jays can be found in coniferous forests throughout the year.



Moose may be seen year-round in all the habitats of Forests for the World.



Black-capped Chickadees are a resident of Forests for the World, and are often found in deciduous forests.