

Mammals in British Columbia that are Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern



"The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) exists to provide Canadians and their governments with advice regarding the status of wildlife species that are nationally at risk of extinction or extirpation." - www.cosewic.gc.ca

"The Species at Risk Act (SARA) is a federal law with three main goals: to prevent endangered or threatened species from becoming extinct or extirpated; to help in the recovery of endangered, threatened and extirpated species; and to manage species of special concern to help prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened." – www.pc.gc.ca

"British Columbia has no stand-alone endangered species act. The provincial Wildlife Act protects virtually all vertebrate animals from direct harm, except as allowed by regulation (e.g., hunting or trapping). Legal designation as Endangered or Threatened under the Act increases the penalties for harming a species, and also enables the protection of habitat in a Critical Wildlife Management Area." - www.env.gov.bc.ca

There are four different listing categories under SARA (and COSEWIC). As defined in section 2, the four categories are:

- Extirpated species: are species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild.
- Endangered species: are species that face imminent extirpation or extinction.
- Threatened species: are species that are likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.
- Special concern: are species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

In BC, species and ecological communities are assigned to one of three lists, based on their provincial Conservation Status Rank.

- Red-listed species: are Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened in British Columbia.
- Blue-listed species: are of Special Concern (formerly Vulnerable)
- Yellow-listed species: are considered secure.

Helpful Websites:

- www.cosewic.gc.ca - COSEWIC main page
- registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/ - the "Public Registry" has updates and information about what SARA does
- laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/ - in depth definition of what the laws of SARA entail
- www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html - Ministry of Environment of BC's "Species and Ecosystem Explorer" tool

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English Name	Scientific Name	BC Status	COSEWIC Status	SARA Status	Species Code
Caribou, <i>dawsoni</i> subspecies	<i>Rangifer tarandus dawsoni</i>	Extinct	Extinct		M-RATA-DA
American Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	M-TATA
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	M-BAMU
North Pacific Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena japonica</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	M-EUJA
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	M-BABO
Killer Whale (southern resident population)	<i>Orcinus orca pop. 5</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	M-OROR-05
Vancouver Island Marmot	<i>Marmota vancouverensis</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	M-MAVA
Townsend's Mole	<i>Scapanus townsendii</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	M-SCTO
Pacific Water Shrew	<i>Sorex bendirii</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	M-SOBE
Plains Bison	<i>Bos bison bison</i>	Red	Threatened		M-BOBI-BI
Wood Bison	<i>Bos bison athabascae</i>	Red	Special Concern	Threatened	M-BOBI-AT
Caribou (southern mountain population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus pop. 1</i>	Red	Endangered	Threatened	M-RATA-01
Caribou (boreal population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus pop. 14</i>	Red	Threatened	Threatened	M-RATA-14
Ermine, <i>haidarum</i> subspecies	<i>Mustela erminea haidarum</i>	Red	Threatened	Threatened	M-MUER-HA
Northern Fur Seal	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>	Red	Threatened		M-CAUR
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Red	Threatened	Threatened	M-BAPH
Killer Whale (offshore population)	<i>Orcinus orca pop. 2</i>	Red	Threatened	Special Concern	M-OROR-02
Killer Whale (transient population)	<i>Orcinus orca pop. 3</i>	Red	Threatened	Threatened	M-OROR-03
Killer Whale (northern resident population)	<i>Orcinus orca pop. 6</i>	Red	Threatened	Threatened	M-OROR-06
Pallid Bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Red	Threatened	Threatened	M-ANPA
Wolverine, <i>vancouverensis</i> subspecies	<i>Gulo gulo vancouverensis</i>	Red	Special Concern		M-GUGU-VA
Long-tailed weasel, <i>altifrontalis</i> subspecies	<i>Mustela frenata altifrontalis</i>	Red			M-MUFR-AL
White-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Red			M-LETO
Snowshoe Hare, <i>washingtonii</i> subspecies	<i>Lepus americanus washingtonii</i>	Red			M-LEAM-WA
Townsend's Vole, <i>cowani</i> subspecies	<i>Microtus townsendii cowani</i>	Red			M-MITO-CO
Northern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>	Red	Not At Risk		M-MIAN
Southern Red-backed Vole, <i>occidentalis</i> subspecies	<i>Myodes gapperi occidentalis</i>	Red			M-MYGA-OC
Least Chipmunk, <i>selkirki</i> subspecies	<i>Neotamias minimus selkirki</i>	Red			M-NEMI-SE

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Red-tailed Chipmunk, <i>ruficaudus</i> subspecies	<i>Neotamias ruficaudus ruficaudus</i>	Red			M-NERU-RU
Northern Pocket Gopher, <i>segregatus</i> subspecies	<i>Thomomys talpoides segregatus</i>	Red			M-THTA-SE
Merriam's Shrew	<i>Sorex merriami</i>	Red			M-SOME
American Water Shrew, <i>brooksi</i> subspecies	<i>Sorex palustris brooksi</i>	Red			M-SOPA-BR
Preble's Shrew	<i>Sorex preblei</i>	Red			M-SOPR
Olympic Shrew	<i>Sorex rohweri</i>	Red			M-SORO
Tundra Shrew	<i>Sorex tundrensis</i>	Red			M-SOTU
Caribou (northern mountain population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> pop. 15	Blue	Engangered/ Special Concern	Threatened/ Special Concern	M-RATA-15
Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-ENLU
Wolverine, <i>luscus</i> subspecies	<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	Blue	Special Concern		M-GUGU-LU
Keen's Myotis	<i>Myotis keenii</i>	Blue	Data Deficient	Special Concern	M-MYKE
Steller Sea Lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-EUJU
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Blue	Special Concern		M-URAR
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Threatened	M-MENO
Grey Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-ESRO
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-PHPH
Spotted Bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-EUMA
Nuttall's Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-SYNU
Mountain Beaver, <i>rainieri</i> subspecies	<i>Aplodontia rufa rainieri</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-APRU-RA
Mountain Beaver, <i>rufa</i> subspecies	<i>Aplodontia rufa rufa</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-APRU-RU
Western Harvest Mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-REME
Columbia Plateau Pocket Mouse	<i>Perognathus parvus</i>	Blue			M-PEPA
Fringed Myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Blue	Data Deficient	Special Concern	M-MYTH
Mountain goat	<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>	Blue			M-ORAM
Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	Blue			M-OVCA
Dall's Sheep	<i>Ovis dalli dalli</i>	Blue			M-OVDA-DA
Roosevelt Elk	<i>Cervus canadensis roosevelti</i>	Blue			M-CECA-RO

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Fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	Blue			M-MAPE
Ermine, <i>anguinae</i> subspecies	<i>Mustela erminea anguinae</i>	Blue			M-MUER-AN
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Blue	Not At Risk		M-PHMA
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Blue			M-COTO
Western Small-footed Myotis	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Blue			M-MYCI
Northern Myotis	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Blue	Endangered	Endangered	M-MYSE
Collared Pika	<i>Ochotona collaris</i>	Blue	Special Concern		M-OCCO
Least Chipmunk, <i>oreocetes</i> subspecies	<i>Neotamias minimus oreocetes</i>	Blue			M-NEMI-OR
Red-tailed Chipmunk, <i>simulans</i> subspecies	<i>Neotamias ruficaudus simulans</i>	Blue			M-NERU-SI
Meadow Jumping Mouse, <i>alascensis</i> subspecies	<i>Zapus hudsonius alascensis</i>	Blue			M-ZAHU-AL
Southern Red-backed Vole, <i>galei</i> subspecies	<i>Myodes gapperi galei</i>	Blue			M-MYGA-GA
Northern Bog Lemming, <i>artemisiae</i> subspecies	<i>Synaptomys borealis artemisiae</i>	Blue			M-SYBO-AR
American Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Blue			M-SOPA
Trowbridge's Shrew	<i>Sorex trowbridgii</i>	Blue			M-SOTR
Mountain Beaver	<i>Aplodontia rufa</i>	Yellow	Special Concern	Special Concern	M-APRU
Little Brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Yellow	Endangered	Endangered	M-MYLU