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Ecosystems Branch

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Legislation

Information about British Columbia Statutes, Acts and Regulations can be found at the [Queen's Printer](#) (Ministry of Management Services) website, or printed copies may be purchased through Crown Publications. [Crown Publications](#) is the authorized distributor of B.C. acts, regulations and related legislative publications, such as the Revised Statutes and the Consolidated Regulations.

[Wildlife Act of British Columbia](#)

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.

[Forest and Range Practices Act](#)

Under the Forest and Range Practices Act of British Columbia, species at risk can be designated as Identified Wildlife by the Deputy Minister of Environment, if the species requires special management to address the impacts of forest and range activities. The terms "wildlife" and "species at risk" have been defined in the Act so that endangered, threatened, or vulnerable species of vertebrates and invertebrates, endangered or threatened plants and plant communities, and regionally important vertebrates may be designated as Identified Wildlife.

[Identified Wildlife Management Strategy \(IWMS\)](#)

The Identified Wildlife Management Strategy is a component of the Forest and Range Practices Act of British Columbia. Its goals are to minimize the effects of forest and range practices on Identified Wildlife, and to maintain their limiting habitats throughout their current ranges and, where appropriate, their historic ranges. Identified Wildlife are managed through the establishment of wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) and implementation of general wildlife measures (GWMs), or through other management practices specified in strategic or landscape level plans.

[Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#)

CITES sets controls on the international trade and movement of animal and plant species that have been, or may be, threatened due to excessive commercial exploitation. Within Canada, the implementation and administration of CITES are shared among federal and provincial agencies to make the best use of existing organizational structures and to reduce costs. As the representative of Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service is responsible for managing CITES species in Canada.

[Species at Risk Act \(SARA\)](#)

SARA is federal legislation that aims to protect species at risk from becoming extinct or lost from the wild. It covers all wildlife species listed as being at risk nationally (and their critical habitats).

