

Endangered Species and Spaces

Appendix - B.C. Cons. Data Centre Prov. List Status and CDC Ranks

All rare entities tracked by the B.C. Conservation Data Centre have been assigned provincial and global rarity ranks (see separate Ranking sheet for an explanation of the CDC ranking system). Most entities also have a designation on the Ministry of Environment's Red or Blue list. Definitions of the Ministry's Red and Blue lists, and the relationship between list status and the CDC provincial rarity rank ("S" rank) are explained below.

I. PROVINCIAL LIST STATUS

RED LIST:

Includes any indigenous species or subspecies (taxa) considered to be Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened in British Columbia. Extirpated taxa no longer exist in the wild in British Columbia, but do occur elsewhere. Endangered taxa are facing imminent extirpation or extinction. Threatened taxa are likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed. Red-listed taxa include those that have been, or are being, evaluated for these designations.

BLUE LIST:

Includes any indigenous species or subspecies (taxa) considered to be Vulnerable in British Columbia. Vulnerable taxa are of special concern because of characteristics that make them particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events. Blue-listed taxa are at risk, but are not Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened.

YELLOW LIST:

Any indigenous species or subspecies (taxa) which is not at risk in British Columbia. The CDC tracks some Yellow listed taxa that are vulnerable during times of seasonal concentration (e.g. breeding colonies).

EXCLUDED TAXA:

Marine reptiles and marine mammals are not within the Ministry of Environment's mandate, but CDC does track rare taxa in these groups. They are assigned global and provincial rarity ranks, and their List status appears in CDC reports as 'N/A' (not applicable).

II. DERIVATION OF LIST STATUS FROM CDC "S" RANK (PROVINCIAL RANK)*

	RED LIST	BLUE LIST
ANIMALS	S1 S1S2 S2 S2?	S2S3 S3 S3? S3S4
PLANTS	S1 S2	S1? S2S3
PLANT COMMUNITIES	S1 S1S2 S2 S2?	S2S3 S3 S3?

*See following 'Ranking' sheet for explanation of the CDC ranking system.

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Each "element" (for example, a species) on the Conservation Data Centre's list is ranked using the system developed over the past 25 years by The Nature Conservancy (U.S.). This system is now in use in six Canadian provinces, all U.S. states and a number of Latin American countries. Most government agencies within these jurisdictions have also adopted this ranking system.

Each element is ranked at two levels: global (G) and provincial, or "subnational" (S). The global rank is based on the status of the element throughout its entire range whereas the provincial rank is based solely on its status within British Columbia. The global rank is established by a biologist assigned to that element by The Nature Conservancy; the provincial rank cannot exceed the global rank.

The status of an element is indicated on a scale of one to five; the score is based primarily on the number of extant occurrences of the element, but other factors such as abundance, range, protection, and threats are also considered if the information is available. Generally speaking, the Conservation Data Centre will track only those species with ranks of 1-3. In addition to the ranks 1-5, there are several letter ranks; all are defined below.

1 = Critically imperilled because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer extant occurrences or very few remaining individuals) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation or extinction

2 = Imperilled because of rarity (typically 6-20 extant occurrences or few remaining individuals) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation or extinction

3 = Rare or uncommon (typically 21-100 occurrences); may be susceptible to large-scale disturbances; e.g. may have lost extensive peripheral populations

4 = Frequent to common (greater than 100 occurrences); apparently secure but may have a restricted distribution; or there may be perceived future threats

5 = Common to very common; demonstrably secure and essentially ineradicable under present conditions

H = Historical occurrence; usually not verified in the last 40 years, but with the expectation that it someday may be rediscovered

X = Apparently extinct or extirpated, without the expectation that it will be rediscovered

U = Status uncertain, often because of low search effort or cryptic nature of the element; uncertainty spans a range of 4 or 5 ranks

R = Reported from the province, but without persuasive documentation for either accepting or rejecting the report

RF = Reported in error, but this error has persisted in the literature

? = Limited information is available or the number of extant occurrences is estimated

A = An element (usually an animal) that is considered accidental or casual in province; a species that does not appear on an annual basis

E = An exotic or introduced species to the province

Z = Occurs in the province but as a diffuse, usually moving population; difficult or impossible to map static occurrences

In addition to the above ranks, there are four letter qualifiers sometimes used in conjunction with them:

T = Designates a rank associated with a subspecies

B = Breeding; the associated rank refers to breeding occurrences of mobile animals

N = Non-breeding; the associated rank refers to non-breeding occurrences of mobile animals

Q = Taxonomic validity of the element is not clear or in question

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