

## Endangered Species and Spaces

Home
Up
Table of Contents
Introduction
Classification Systems
Birds
Amphibians and Reptiles
Freshwater Fishes
Invertebrates
Vascular Plants
Non-Vascular Plants
Plant Communities
Exotic Species
Protected Areas
Summary-Conclusions
Appendix

Mammals

[Back](#)

[Next](#)

### 3.9 Least Chipmunk *selkirki* subspecies: *Tamias minimus selkirki* (Cowan)

**Order: Rodentia**  
**Family: Sciuridae**

#### Status

Global Rank: G5T1T3  
Provincial Rank: S1S3  
COSEWIC:



Provincial Listing: **Red list**

#### Distinguishing Features

As with *T.m. oreocetes*, this is one of the smallest Canadian chipmunks. It has a brown forehead with three dark brown stripes on the cheeks, the middle one running through the eye. Between these are two white stripes running from nose to ear. Five black stripes edged in brown traverse the back. The underparts are white from chin to tail, the flanks are buffy. Average weight of both sexes is about 40 grams.

#### Distribution

Columbia Basin: Found only in three known locations in the Purcell Mountains.

British Columbia: Presumed to be restricted to alpine and sub-alpine habitats in the Purcell Mountains.

Global: Restricted to the Purcell Mountains in southeastern British Columbia.

#### Habitat

The Least Chipmunk is generally an inhabitant of the open country of subalpine parkland and alpine tundra.

#### Threats

There are probably fewer than 1000 individuals in the three known occurrences. Because there is little human activity in the alpine and subalpine habitats that could affect this subspecies, the populations probably are stable. Because this subspecies inhabits alpine and sub-alpine habitats, it is not vulnerable to most human activities. Mining and ski developments could potentially affect some populations (Cannings et al. 1999).

#### Biology

Food consists primarily of berries and seeds, but invertebrates are also eaten. Least Chipmunks hibernate from September to late April or May. One litter of two to six (average is five) young is born each year, usually in May (Cannings et al. 1999).

MammalsBackNext

[ [Home](#) ] [ [Up](#) ] [ [Grizzly Bear](#) ] [ [Wolverine](#) ] [ [Fisher](#) ] [ [Badger](#) ] [ [Mtn. Caribou](#) ] [ [Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep](#) ]  
[ [California Bighorn Sheep](#) ] [ [Least Chipmunk oreocetes](#) ] [ [Least Chipmunk selkirki](#) ] [ [Red-tailed Chipmunk ruficaudus](#) ]  
[ [Re Tailed Chipmunk simulans](#) ] [ [Southern Red-backed Vole galei](#) ] [ [Northern Pocket Gopher segeregatus](#) ]  
[ [Northern Long-eared Myotis](#) ] [ [Townsend's Birg-eared Bat](#) ] [ [Mammals References](#) ]