

Endangered Species and Spaces

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1.2 Study Area: The Columbia Basin

The Columbia Basin, for the purpose of this study, is that area defined by the Columbia Basin Trust Act of 1995, which created the Columbia Basin Trust (see map on following page). This area is very close in areal extent to the combined Cranbrook, Invermere, Golden, Revelstoke, Arrow and Kootenay Lake Forest Districts of the Nelson Forest Region. Only the Boundary Forest District of the Nelson Region is outside the Columbia Basin. A small portion of the southern end of the McBride Forest District (Canoe River drainage near Valemount) is included within the Columbia Basin. The Okanagan, Similkameen, Kettle and Granby Rivers all eventually drain into the Columbia River, and therefore, technically, are part of the Columbia River Basin. However, they are considered to be outside the basin as defined by the Columbia Basin Trust.

This is relevant because the rare and endangered species discussions that follow are largely based on species accounts, records and tracking lists that are maintained on a forest district basis. While not an exact match geographically, six forest districts of the Nelson Forest Region (minus the Boundary Forest District) are considered to represent the Columbia Basin accurately enough for this level of discussion.

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