



Canoe Forest Products Ltd.
Forest Operations
Species at Risk Guidebook
(Including Protection for Birds, Nests and Eggs)
(Version 1.0)

Table of Contents

Purpose.....	3
Species at Risk	3
Animals.....	4
Plants.....	4
Ecological Communities.....	5
Birds, Nests and Eggs	5
Management Strategies	5
Stop Work	5
Operational Planning	6
Reporting.....	6
Occurrence	6
Contact Information	6
References.....	7
Appendix A.....	8
Animals.....	8
Mountain Caribou.....	9
Western Grebe	10
Great Basin Spadefoot	11
Mormon Fritillary (sp. erinna)	12
Appendix B.....	13
Plants.....	13
Bearded sedge	14
Brown Beak-rush	15
Satinflower.....	16
Yellow widelip orchid.....	17
Appendix C.....	18
Ecological Communities.....	18
Red-osier dogwood /sedges	19
Few-flowered spike-rush / hook-mosses	20
Three-way sedge	21
Appendix D.....	22
Birds with Protected Nests.....	22

(Note: Cover picture is a Western Toad which is not threatened or endangered, however these toads are protected under the British Columbia Wildlife Act)

Purpose

As a part of Canoe Forest Products Limited's (CFP's) Sustainable Forest Management Plan and in order to meet Objectives 4.1 and 4.2 of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, this guidebook is compiled to:

1. Promote the conservation of native biological diversity (including species, wildlife habitats, and ecological community types) and
2. Help protect threatened and endangered species that occur within CFP's operating area.

This guidebook assists: in identifying relevant species at risk (SAR), reporting of new occurrences, ensuring proper management of relevant species at risk, and protecting sites that contain viable occurrences of critically imperiled or imperiled species and communities.

In addition, this guidebook assists to prevent harm to birds, nests and eggs as protected under BC's Wildlife Act.

Species at Risk

In brief, CFP's Species at Risk were determined through the following filter process:

1. A broad list of Species at Risk was generated using the BC's Ministry of Environment's "BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer". Lists for animals, plants, and ecological communities were refined using available local criteria (i.e. biogeoclimatic zones within CFP's operating area). Initial CFP SAR were derived from: Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's (COSEWIC) endangered and threatened species lists; and BC Listed endangered and threatened species lists.
2. For species at risk where known occurrence is mapped and available on BC's Ministry of Environment's "BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer". Lists were filtered down to those within CFP's operating area or within 20 km of CFP's operating area.
3. For species at risk, where known occurrence is masked to protect sensitive sites, the CDC reviewed CFP's operating area. Lists were filtered down to those species at risk with occurrences within CFP's operating area.
4. Where possible lists were further refined by reviewing local factors that would make it very unlikely for CFP's forest operations to have an impact (i.e. the IDF xh1 is very unlikely to be impacted by CFP's forest operations).

The lists created are intended to be reviewed annually and revisions to this guidebook are likely.

Animals

See Appendix A for a more complete description of each Species at Risk. CFP's SAR list of animals has been narrowed down to:

Species	Class	Potential for impact
Caribou	Mammal	Possible within Seymour, Anstey, TFL33, and Three Valley FDU's
Western Grebe	Bird	Limited (occurrence restricted to Shuswap Lake)
Great Basin Spadefoot	Amphibian	Limited (occurrence near Wallenstein Lake)
Mormon Fritillary (sp. erinna)	Insect	Limited (Mountain meadows and fell fields)
Hoffman's Checkerspot	Insect	Very unlikely* (no local occurrence)
Sonora Skipper	Insect	Very unlikely* (no local occurrence)
Viceroy	Insect	Very unlikely* (extirpated and no local occurrence)

*Species where the potential for impact is "very unlikely" will not be considered further.

Plants

See Appendix B for a more complete description of each Species at Risk. CFP's SAR list of plants has been narrowed down to:

Species	Class	Potential for impact
Bearded sedge	Monocots	Limited (shorelines and wet meadows)
Brown beak-rush	Monocots	Limited (fens and shorelines)
Satinflower	Monocots	Possible (moist rocky bluffs)
Yellow widelip orchid	Monocots	Limited (moist thickets and fens)
Hairy water-clover	Fern	*Very unlikely (inundated lake margins)
Mexican mosquito fern	Fern	*Very unlikely (sloughs and pools)
Rocky Mountain clubrush	Monocots	*Very unlikely (shallow water)
Smooth goldenrod	Dicots	*Very unlikely (no local occurrence)

*Species where the potential for impact is "very unlikely" will not be considered further.

Ecological Communities

See Appendix C for a more complete description of each Species at Risk. CFP's SAR list of ecological communities has been narrowed down to:

Species	Ecosystem Group	Potential for impact
Red-osier dogwood / sedges	Riparian, Shrub, Wetland	Limited (IDFmw2 flats and depressions; swamps and bogs)
Few-flowered spike-rush / hook mosses	Wetland, Herbaceous	Limited (MSdm2 Fen, sloping peatlands)
Three-way sedge	Wetland Herbaceous	Limited (ICH wk1 fens, marshes, and lake margins)
Nuttall's alkaligrass – foxtail barley	Herbaceous, Wetland, Grassland	*Very unlikely (MSdm2 small alkali pot holes)

*Communities where the potential for impact is “very unlikely” will not be considered further.

Birds, Nests and Eggs

As per the WILDLIFE ACT Section 34:

A person commits an offence if the person, except as provided by regulation, possesses, takes, injures, molests or destroys (a) a bird or its egg, (b) the nest of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron or burrowing owl, or (c) the nest of a bird not referred to in paragraph (b) when the nest is occupied by a bird or its egg.

See Appendix D for images of birds with protected nests (Sec. 34(b)).

Management Strategies

Stop Work

If a species at risk or bird's nest within this guidebook is observed within an area that is being impacted by CFP's forest operations, **stop work** within the area of concern and report to your CFP supervisor immediately. Work will only resume within the area of concern when your CFP supervisor has indicated it is okay to do so.

CFP staff will check to see if the species or bird's nest is adequately addressed within our Forest Stewardship Plan, Site Plans, and operational plans.

If the SAR occurrence is new, and the site is associated with critically imperiled, imperiled species or ecological community, CFP will contact the Ministry of Environment for direction on how to proceed.

Operational Planning

Consideration for CFP's Species at Risk will occur during operational planning and development of Cutting Permits and associated Road Permits. Where practical, bird nests will also be observed in the field and considered within planning and development.

Reporting

If species at risk identified within this guidebook are observed, then occurrences are to be documented using the attached form and forwarded to CFP's staff as soon as practicable. CFP will forward the occurrence to BC's Conservation Data Center (CDC).

Occurrence

The expectation is that CFP forest operations staff and contractors will review this document and become familiar with CFP's Species at Risk.

If during normal work duties a SAR is observed the following forms will be filled out to the best of a person's ability. It is not expected to search for SAR outside of normal work duties.

For animals use the BC Conservation Data form (Field Survey Form (Animals)) found at the back of Appendix A.

For plants use the BC Conservation Data form (Field Survey Form (Plants)) found at the back of Appendix B.

For ecological communities use the BC Conservation Data form (Conservation Evaluation Form) found at the back of Appendix C.

Contact Information

This guidebook was prepared by Greg Hislop, RPF. If there are questions related to Species at Risk please contact Greg at (250) 833-1237 or ghislop@canoefp.com.

References

The information within this guidebook is collected from a variety of resources linked through the following websites. The sole intent of this document is to educate and assist in protecting species at risk, birds, bird eggs and bird nests.

BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer, Ministry of Environment, Government of British Columbia <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/>

BC Conservation Data Centre, Ministry of Environment, Government of British Columbia <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/index.html>

Species at Risk Public Registry, Government of Canada
http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm

Animal Diversity Web, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology
<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>

Appendix A

Animals

Mountain Caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
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Description of Animal
Larger than mule deer but smaller than elk. Cows and bulls grow antlers. Mainly medium brown body hair with a white rump patch. Wide spread crescent-shaped hooves. Short ears, tail, and snout.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
Camp Four Creek, McNomme Creek, Blais Creek, Mount Grace, Queest Mountain, Upper Sim Creek Three Valley

Habitat
Late-winter activity is mainly within open stands dominated by Subalpine Fir (Balsam) and having abundant arboreal lichen (within the upper ESSF, including its parkland subzones). Spring habitat is patches of ground where aspect, exposure, elevation or meltwater cause snow to melt sufficiently to allow foraging on ground-based foods. Summer habitats are in or adjacent to old forests dominated by Subalpine Fir or Engelmann Spruce, although there is periodic use of the Alpine. In rugged terrain and very deep snow, early-winter habitats are generally old stands of Western Hemlock and Western Redcedar. Elsewhere, early-winter habitat includes old Engelmann Spruce and Subalpine Fir in the lower to middle ESSF.

Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>
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Description of Animal
Highly specialized for swimming and diving. Seldom seen out of water except when on nests. Long curved neck with strongly contrasting black and white plumage. Bright red eyes.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
Shuswap Lake, Salmon Arm Bay

Habitat
Nests usually in, or very close to, water deep enough to allow bird to swim submerged. Nests typically are anchored to, or build up over, living vegetation. Larger lakes with suitable lakeshore.

Great Basin Spadefoot	<i>Spea intermontana</i>
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Description of Animal
A small toad that is grey-green with numerous dark brown or reddish tubercles and spots and a grayish-white belly. Its limbs are relatively short. Its snout is blunt.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
Fly Hills, Wallensteen Lake

Habitat
Grasslands and open woodlands in the southern interior of British Columbia. Grasslands in the arid southern interior of British Columbia are endangered and cover less than 1% of BC. Wetlands and temporary pools that they require for breeding are naturally rare. Suitable terrestrial habitats for foraging, hibernation, and aestivation (summer sleep) must be available year-round. Loose, deep, and friable (crumbly) soils that allow for burrowing are thought to be important. As well, these habitats must be connected to allow for seasonal movements.

Mormon Fritillary (sp. erinna)	<i>Speyeria mormonia erinna</i>
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Description of Animal
A small butterfly. Spots usually silvered. Wing span 3.8 to 6.1 cm.

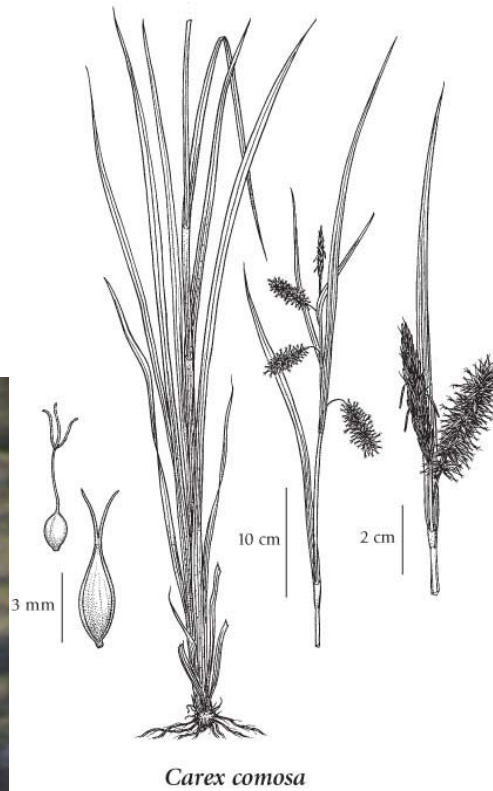
Local Range or Known Occurrence
Unknown (i.e. there is no information on where occurrence may be).

Habitat
Mountain meadows and fell-fields (open areas where freeze-thaw cycles tend to push plants out of the soil. In addition, the high porosity of the soil makes a fell-field a difficult place for plants to grow.)

Appendix B

Plants

Bearded sedge	<i>Carex comosa</i>
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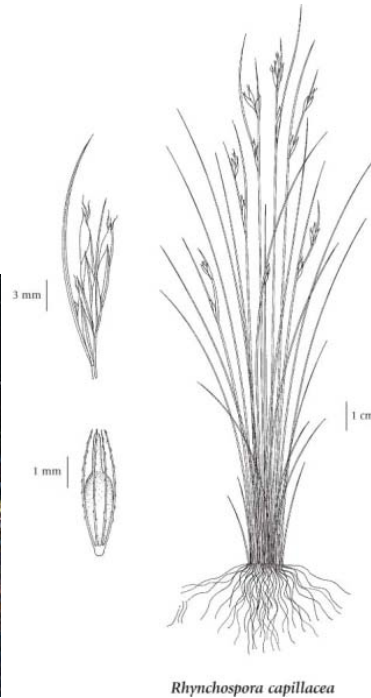


Description of Plant
Perennial, densely tufted herb from short, stout rhizomes; stems 50-100 cm tall, shorter than the leaves.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
Eagle Bay

Habitat
Shorelines and wet meadows.

Brown Beak-rush	<i>Rhynchospora capillacea</i>
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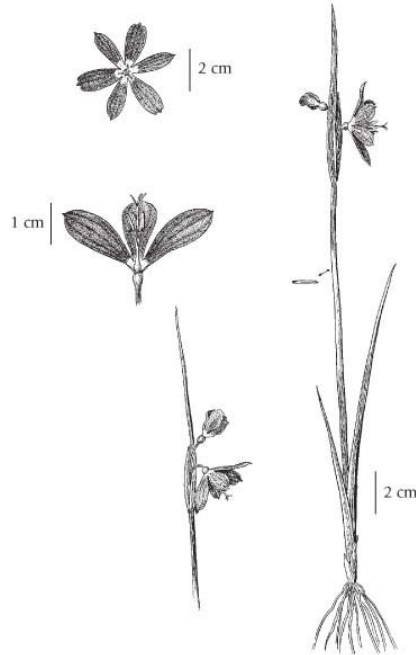


Description of Plant
Perennial, tufted herb, sometimes forming mats; stems more or less solid, triangular in cross-section, 10-40 cm tall.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
Mara meadows

Habitat
Calcareous fens and shorelines in the montane zone.

Satinflower	<i>Olsynium douglasii</i> var. <i>inflatum</i>
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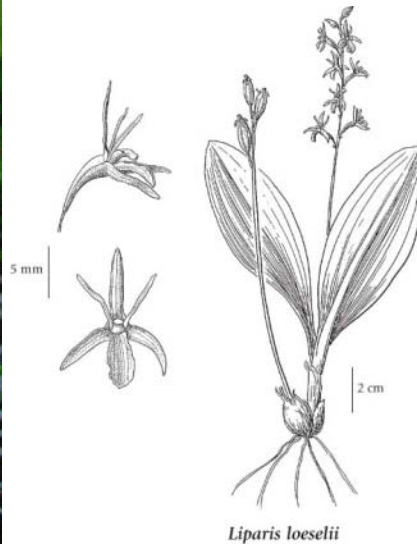
Olsynium douglasii var. *douglasii*

Description of Plant
Perennial tufted herb from a fibrous root; stems somewhat compressed, simple, 10-30 cm tall.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
Little Shuswap Lake

Habitat
Found on open sandy hillside.

Yellow widelip orchid	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>
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Description of Plant
Perennial herb from bulblike bases (corms); stems 7-20 cm tall, with 2 basal leaves, smooth.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
Mara Meadows, White Lake, Wright Lake

Habitat
Moist thickets and fens in the montane zone.

Appendix C

Ecological Communities

Red-osier dogwood /sedges	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> / <i>Carex</i> spp.
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Red-osier dogwood



Sedges

Description of Ecological Community
IDF mw2 wet flats and depressions. Water table within 50 cm of the soil surface. Spruce and Cedar swamps and bogs. Usually less than 10% canopy cover.
Plants include: Western Red Cedar, Hybrid white spruce, black twinberry, red osier dogwood, Sitka alder, and sedges.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
Little Shuswap, Squilax, Lee Creek, Turtle Valley

Few-flowered spike-rush / hook-mosses	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i> / <i>Drepanocladus</i> spp.
----------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------



Community



Few-flowered spike-rush

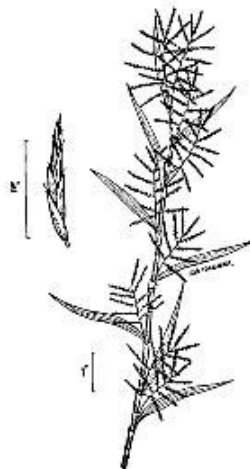


narrow leaved cotton grass

Description of Ecological Community
The Few-flowered spike-rush – Hook-moss Fen Site Association occurs on small sloping peatlands at high elevations (mostly above 1200 m) throughout the Sub-Boreal, Central, and Southern Interior. It is rare throughout most of its range, occurring only in slope positions with continual slow surface seepage.
Few-flowered spike-rush and narrow leaved cotton grass dominate.

Local Range or Known Occurrence
MS dm2 only occurs on or near Fly Hills, Squilax Mountain, and China Valley

Three-way sedge	<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>
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Three-way sedge

Description of Ecological Community
<p>Rare in wet regions of the Southern Interior Mountains at elevations below 600 m. The Wm51 occurs along the protected margins of shallow lakes or sluggish streams on mucky substrates. Prefers permanently flooded conditions on degrading peat or soft muck (mix of fine mineral material and organics).</p> <p>Three-way sedge is always dominant.</p>
Local Range or Known Occurrence
<p>ICHwk1</p>

Appendix D

Birds with Protected Nests



Bald eagle



Osprey



Burrowing Owl



Peregrine falcon



Gryfalcon



Heron



**B.C. Conservation Data Centre
FIELD OBSERVATION FORM (ANIMALS)**

Complete only for Red or Blue listed species. Complete as many fields as able, particularly ones denoting exact location.

SPECIES: _____

Name of recorder/reporter: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____ **e-mail:** _____

EO: Create	_____
Update	_____
EO #:	_____
DONE:	_____

Location: (We use the information you provide to map locations, and to relocate sites on the ground. Please be as precise as possible. Provide written directions below and sketch a map. A photocopy of a 1:50,000 topographic map or other showing the location would be appreciated).

UTM grid reference: (from blue grid on 1:50,000 NTS map)

NTS MAPSHEET NO.: _____

Please note which North American Datum (NAD) was used (found below the contour interval scale on NTS map): 27 or 83

ZONE: (e.g. 10U) _____ **NORTHING:** _____ **EASTING:** _____ **NAD:** _____

Did you use a GPS unit to determine this UTM point? Y / N **Precision of point:(+/- metres)** _____

Date			Numbers			Comments			Observer
year	month	day	Adult			Immature			
			m	f	u	m	f	u	

Evidence of breeding: none mating observed nest found young being fed out of nest
 singing/displaying male(s) egg-laying observed larva/pupa found
 other: _____

Comments: _____

Habitat: (include dominant plants if possible; a general description of area): _____

Elevation: _____ metres feet (circle one) **Slope %:** _____ **Aspect:** _____

Comments/Remarks: _____

Area for sketch:

Size (square meters, kilometres or hectares): *(area covered by the population at this location).*_____

Landscape context: *(Is the area fragmented? Generally describe the surrounding area and adjacent land uses including species composition and any other biological or abiotic factors that may affect the population):*

Condition: *(Condition is a measure of the quality of biotic and abiotic factors, within the occurrence, and how they may affect the continued existence of the occurrence. Some factors to consider are: habitat degradation, disturbance and presence of exotic species)*

Notes: *(Land ownership, development plans, management activities or recommendations, if any other comments):*

Known threats: _____

Ownership/Jurisdiction: _____

A private land owner **may request** that the exact location **not** be released to the public. The CDC will only release the location in response to an FOI request.

Does the landowner want the exact location withheld from the public? YES ___ NO ___

Was the landowner contacted about the release of the exact location? YES ___ NO ___

LANDOWNER'S NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please return forms to: CDC, Ministry of Environment, Ecosystems Branch, P.O. Box 9358 Station Provincial Government, Victoria BC V8W 9M2 (fax: 250-387-2733) cdcdata@gov.bc.ca THANK YOU!



**B.C. Conservation Data Centre
FIELD SURVEY FORM (PLANTS)**

Note: Complete only for Red- or Blue-Listed species. Please fill out as many fields as you can, but precise locality and population data are especially important pieces of information.

Project name: _____
New/Update
Update EO # _____

Species: _____

Name of surveyor/Address/ phone #/Email: _____

Survey Date: (Month/Day/year): _____ 1st visit or repeat visit to this site: _____

Revisit needed? ___yes ___no Why?: _____

Specimen Collection # & Herbarium: (Please make a collection; in most cases, a collection is necessary to verify identification) _____ Was a photo taken? _____

Location/Directions: (Please be as precise as possible; include photocopies of 1:20,000 trim or 1:50,000 topographic maps (if possible, but any maps are welcome))

Position:

UTM grid reference: (from blue grid on 1:50,000 NTS map): _____ MAP SHEET# _____

(North American Datum (NAD) designation is found below the contour interval scale on NTS map, 27 or 83; a GPS unit can be set to either NAD designation; We use NAD 83 data).

ZONE _____ EASTING _____ NORTHING _____ NAD _____

LATITUDE _____ LONGITUDE _____

Did you use a GPS unit to determine this value? Y / N Precision of point (+/- metres) _____

Habitat: (Please include dominant plants and identify plant communities, a general description of area including land forms/use)

Topographic features: Elevation: _____ metres feet (circle one) Slope: _____ Aspect: _____

(Please note if elevation was derived from GPS unit)

Light:

- ___ open
- ___ partial
- ___ filtered
- ___ shade

Slope Position:

- ___ crest
- ___ upper slope
- ___ mid slope
- ___ lower slope
- ___ bottom

Moisture:

- ___ inundated
- ___ saturated (wet-mesic)
- ___ moist (mesic)
- ___ dry-mesic
- ___ dry (xeric)

Population Data:

Number of individuals: (estimate or exact count, if feasible; if plants are spreading vegetatively, indicate number of aerial stems): _____

Number of sub-populations & separation distances (if applicable): _____

Area and units covered by population: _____ Length: _____ Width: _____
(Please also indicate direction for length & width and reference to any landscape features, shape of areas & how areas relates to any UTM's provided, ie the centrum): _____

Confidence Extent: ___ Full extent of population known ___ Full extent not known ___ Uncertain full extent known

Phenology: (Indicate the number observed in each category (or check if numbers are unknown):
___ in leaf ___ in bud ___ in flower ___ immature fruit ___ mature fruit ___ seed dispersing
___ dormant ___ seedlings

Area for sketch:

Rank Considerations:

Condition: *An integrated measure of the quality of biotic and abiotic factors, structures and processes within the habitat the population occupies, and how they reflect on how well this species is doing at this site.*

Please consider:

- 1) reproduction and health
- 2) ecological processes
- 3) species composition and biological structure
- 4) habitat degradation, presence of exotic species and disturbance
- 5) physical/chemical factors that affect the element's ability to persist at the site.

Landscape context: *Factors, structures and processes at work over the landscape surrounding the population.*

Please consider:

- 1) the degree of fragmentation and connectivity of suitable habitat for this species
- 2) species composition
- 3) biological structure
- 4) ecological processes
- 5) abiotic factors

Notes: *(Land ownership, development plans, management activities, if any, or other comments):*

_____A

private land owner **may request** that the exact location **not** be released to the public. The CDC will only release the location in response to an FOI request. Does the landowner want the exact location withheld from the public? YES ___ NO ___

Was the landowner contacted about the release of the exact location? YES ___ NO ___

LANDOWNER'S NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please return to: CDC, Ministry of Environment, Ecosystems Branch, P.O. Box 9358 Station Provincial Government, Victoria BC V8W 9M2 (fax: 250-387-2733) cdcdata@gov.bc.ca THANK YOU!

CONSERVATION EVALUATION FORM			
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION		DATE:	
PROJECT ID:		PLOT #:	
POLY #:	SEI CLASS:SUBCLASS:		
ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY			
CONSERVATION INFORMATION			
OWNER/JURISDICTION:			
DISTURBANCE:		KNOWN THREATS:	
ADJACENT LAND USE:		OTHER FACTORS:	
ALIEN SPP.:			
SUCCESS. STATUS:		EST. SIZE COMM:	(ha)
FRAGMENTATION OF ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY			
<input type="checkbox"/> < 5% FRAGMENTED <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - 25 % FRAGMENTED <input type="checkbox"/> > 25% FRAGMENTED			
EVALUATION SUMMARY			
LANDSCAPE CONTEXT:	EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR <input type="checkbox"/>		
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY:	EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR <input type="checkbox"/>		
CONDITION:	EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> POOR <input type="checkbox"/>		
NOTES (AT-RISK SPECIES, WILDLIFE OBSV., ACCURACY INFO, ETC)			
OBSERVER	NAME:		
ADDRESS:			
EMAIL:		PHONE/FAX:	
SUBMIT DATA			
<p>CDC, Ministry of Environment, Ecosystems Branch, P.O. Box 9358 Station Provincial Government, Victoria BC V8W 9M2 (fax: 250-387-2733) THANK YOU!</p> <p>Include: FS882 or GIF or VENUS file <input type="checkbox"/> air photos with polygon marked <input type="checkbox"/> map product(s) <input type="checkbox"/> ground photos <input type="checkbox"/></p>			

COMPLETING THE CONSERVATION EVALUATION FORM
This form is intended for ecologists familiar with the RISC ¹ Standards For Describing Terrestrial Ecosystems In The Field (DTEIF ²). Submit a ground inspection (GIF) or ecosystem field (FS882) form with copies of air photos and/or maps. This information is necessary to identify and assess the conservation status of at-risk ecological communities.
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:
Enter the date and GIF or FS882 plot number. If this form is completed as part of an inventory project provide the project name, related polygon number and sensitive ecosystem category, if applicable.
ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY
Enter the name of the ecological community as on the CDC tracking list
CONSERVATION INFORMATION
OWNER/JURISDICTION: Enter the land owner or land management jurisdiction (i.e. Provincial park, TFL #, regional government)
ADJACENT LAND USE: Provide details of land use adjacent to the community (i.e. housing, logging, recreation, etc)
DISTURBANCE: Enter DTEIF site disturbance codes and comments.
KNOWN THREATS: Record any known threats to the ecological community such as fire suppression, invasiveness of alien species, etc.
OTHER FACTORS: Record any other information known about the site
ALIEN SPP.: Note the type and abundance of alien species associated with the ecological community or in the vicinity.
SUCCESS. STATUS: Enter DTEIF successional status codes
EST.SIZE COMM: Enter the estimated size of the community in hectares.
FRAGMENTATION: Indicate the degree of fragmentation within the community
EVALUATION SUMMARY:
Complete this section only if familiar with these terms as defined by CDC. Refer to CDC website - element occurrence ranking factors
NOTES
Record any other information or comments.
OBSERVER
Enter your name and contact information. A CDC ecologist may contact you if additional information or clarity is required.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource Information Standards Committee 2. Field Manual For Describing Terrestrial Ecosystems, Land Management Handbook 25. 1998. Prov. Of BC., Victoria, BC.