



SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Protecting and Restoring at Risk Species and Ecological Communities on BC's South Coast

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Mountain Beaver

Aplodontia rufa (olympica)

Not really a Beaver at all, the species is considered to be the most primitive rodent in existence. Originally two subspecies (*A.r.rufa* and *A.r.rainieri*) were thought to inhabit the southern Cascade Mountains and parts of the Fraser Lowlands in British Columbia, but recent genetic work suggests they should be considered one subspecies *A.r.olympica*.



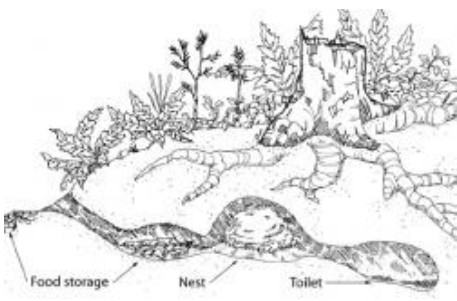
Immature Mountain Beaver Gary M. Fellers USGS



Mountain Beaver Oregon Live



Mountain Beaver Burrows Dennis Deck USFWS



Mountain Beaver burrow system
Jennifer Davis



Mountain Beaver burrow entrance R.
Durand



Mountain Beaver Dr. L. Glenn Ingles
CalAS



Mountain Beaver (Fraser Valley)
Pontus Lindgren

Characteristics

Also referred to as “Aplodontia,” “Boomer,” “Ground Bear,” or “Giant Mole”. Mountain Beaver are primarily a fossorial (sub-surface oriented) rodent living in burrows in and near moist riparian forest communities. Most burrow colonies are in areas with proximity to a water source, well-developed, firm soils, and abundant vegetation. Little is understood about BC’s populations which are limited in distribution and subject to a number of threats from human activities including forest clearing, development, genetic isolation and domestic pet predation.

Status

Global Status:	G5
Provincial Status:	S4
SARA Status:	Special Concern
BC List Status:	Blue (Considered to be of Special Concern)

Resources

For further information see

[Develop With Care 2014 Factsheet #18 Mountain Beaver](#)

Scroll down to lower section of the DWC site to download the factsheet.

[Molecular phylogeny of an ancient rodent family \(Aplodontiidae\)](#)

Although we revised geographic boundaries for some groups (*A. r. rufa*, *A. r. olympica*, and *A. r. pacified*), only the conservation status and management of *A. r. olympica* (previously 2 subspecies) in Canada may be affected. Our findings support the continued conservation efforts for the isolated and endangered lineages present in coastal California.

[Canada’s docile ‘living fossil’ can’t handle the heat](#)

[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

[British Columbia’s Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern](#)

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

[Develop With Care Guidelines \(see Lower Mainland Region section\)](#)

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

[Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC](#)

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

Source URL: <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/mountain-beaver>

Links

[1] <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare/index.html>

[2] <https://doi.org/10.1644/12-MAMM-A-016.1>

[3] <http://o.canada.com/news/canadas-docile-living-fossil-beaver-cant-handle-the-heat>

[4] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[5] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[6] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>