



## SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://sccp.ca>)

### 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*.



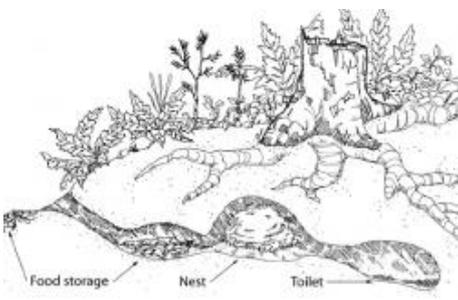
Immature Mountain Beaver Gary M.  
Fellers USGS



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**

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

## **Resources**

### **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.

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**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/>