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Snowshoe Hare, *washingtonii* ssp.

Lepus americanus washingtonii

A member of the family Leporidae (rabbits and hares). Little is known about this subspecies biology and much is inferred from the species in other areas of BC. Genetic research indicates that *L. a. washingtonii* appears to form part of a Pacific Northwest group distinct from other hare populations.



Juvenile Burnaby Lake S&J Linn



Adult Burnaby Lake 2009 S&J Linn



Adult Burnaby Lake 2008 S&J Linn



Adult Burnaby Lake 2006 S&J Linn



"Leverets" (young hares) 2008
Elizabeth Melnick

Characteristics

Unlike other populations in BC and North America, the *washingtonii* subspecies does not undergo a characteristic seasonal colour morph to white in the winter. The head, back and upper parts of the legs are covered in short, brown to cinnamon pelage (fur) with somewhat coarser, white tipped outer hairs on the back and sides. The tips of the toes, chest, belly, chin and insides of the legs have varying patches of white. The outer margins of the ears are lined with black and white. The hind feet (from which the species derives its name) are distinctively large and have thick fur on the undersides instead of bare toe pads. Hind foot length averages >11cm from heel to toe-tip. Leverets (young hares) resemble dwarf versions of adults.

Status

Global Status: G5T3T5

Provincial Status: S1

BC List Status: Red (Candidates for- Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened status)

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

Source URL: <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/snowshoe-hare-washingtonii-ssp>

Links

[1] <http://sccp.ca/printpdf/64>

[2] http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/ecology%20of%20sh%20southern%20boreal%20forsts_Karen_Hodges_-_lynx_southern981.pdf

[3] http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/staus%20of%20wildlife%20in%20Burns%20Bog%20summer-fall%201999_gebauer.pdf

[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.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html

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