

SPECIES AT RISK GUIDANCE FOR LAND OWNERS

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Only if protection and recovery efforts have not been effective, will Environment Canada consider using legislative powers to protect species at risk and their *critical habitat*.

To find out if critical habitat occurs on your property or lands that you manage contact:

- ECCC/CWS (sararegistry@ec.gc.ca)
- SCCP (info@sccp.ca)
- Available critical habitat maps online for species that might be found in your area (<http://donnees.ec.gc.ca/data/species-developplans/critical-habitat-for-species-at-risk-british-columbia/?lang=en>)

illustrations
Carrielynn Victor



To find out what species might be found in your area, check out:

- www.sccp.ca/species-and-habitat
- www.speciesatriskbc.ca

To help you protect *critical habitat*, support can be found through Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP), land trusts and stewardship groups.



To learn more about tools for land protection, such as conservation covenants, contact a local land trust (www.ltabc.ca) or your municipality for riparian habitat.

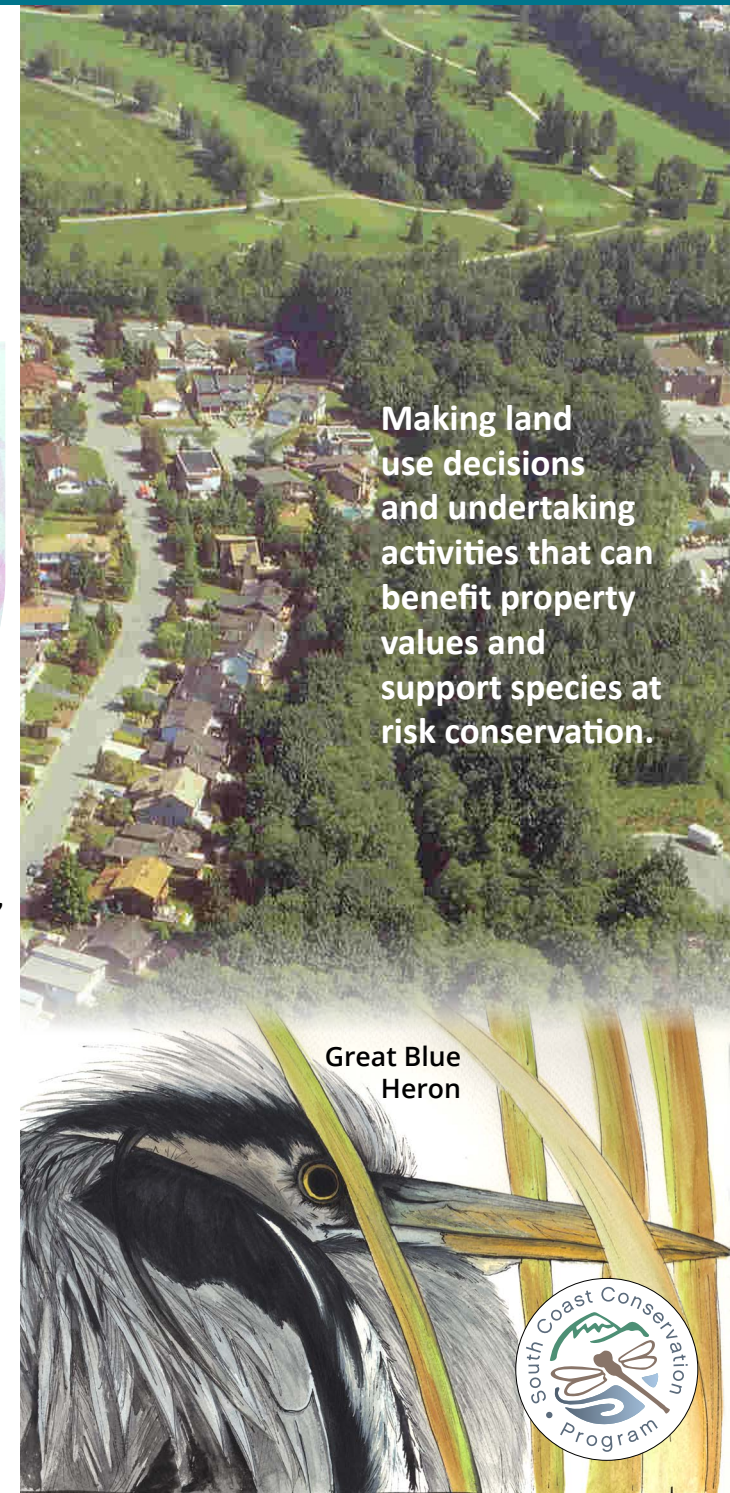
If you protect *critical habitat* through a covenant or land donation, there are significant tax benefits available through the Federal Ecological Gifts Program.

ec.gc.ca/pde-egp/default.asp?lang=En&n=FCD2A728-1

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Making land use decisions and undertaking activities that can benefit property values and support species at risk conservation.



THE SPECIES AT RISK ACT AND PRIVATE LAND

Privately owned lands provide important habitat for almost half of federal species at risk in British Columbia.

The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) is federal legislation designed to prevent plant and animal species from disappearing and provide for their recovery. It applies to all lands and waters in Canada.

Critical habitat is the habitat Endangered and Threatened species under SARA need to survive. It can be a nest, den or other habitat features. Further information on critical habitat can be found at www.sararegistry.ca

Destruction of critical habitat is when these important habitat features are negatively impacted in part or as a whole by single or multiple activities, such that the *critical habitat* can no longer serve its function for the species.

If *critical habitat* is identified on your land:

- It is your responsibility to ensure that any projects you undertake on your land protect critical habitat. Protection of *critical habitat* means preventing activities that could destroy it.
- Stewardship on private land is encouraged to help species recover and survive.
- Local stewardship groups, government biologists and environmental professionals may be able to provide advice on how to avoid destruction of *critical habitat* if you are thinking of changing how you use your land.



Pacific Water Shrew



Coastal Giant Salamander



Oregon Forestsnail

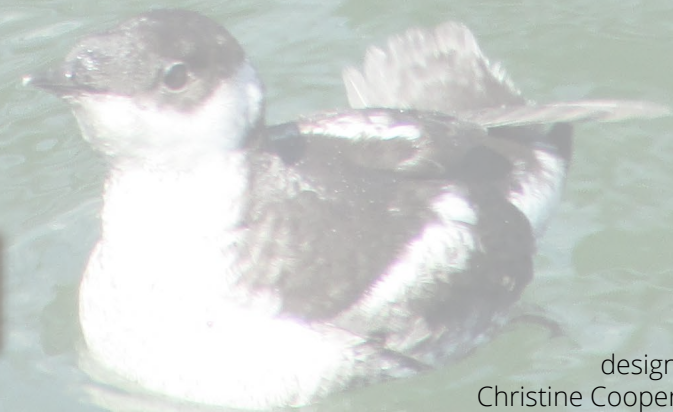
If *critical habitat* is unlikely to be negatively impacted on your land, more formal protection measures may not be required.

How SARA applies depends on land tenure. On non-federal land, the federal government looks first to the laws of the provinces and territories to protect *critical habitat*.



SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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



design
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