



Species at Risk

State of the Islands Report



Islands Trust

Land Acknowledgment

Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy respectfully acknowledge that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We are committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea. The Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKEĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scəwəθən, səlilwətał, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snawnaw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth, STÁUTW, Stz'uminus, łəʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁEŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwu, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəyəm First Nations.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Islands Trust. The underlying research, data compilation, and species-specific analyses were conducted by Patricia Woodruff, R.P.Bio., during her tenure as the Islands Trust Biologist.

The research and analysis presented in this report were made possible through funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) under the Priority Places Initiative (Contribution Agreement GCXE25C005).

Report design by Erika Rathje

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Executive Summary

The Islands Trust Area encompasses some of British Columbia's most ecologically significant and threatened ecosystems. This report offers Islands Trust Council and the public a clear overview of the status of species at risk throughout the region. It draws on provincial datasets, federal recovery documents, local monitoring, and the work completed under the Integrating Biology into Land Use Decision Making project.

The findings reveal a region under considerable pressure. Numerous species at risk are experiencing

population declines or local extirpations, with several critical habitats lacking land use protections. However, the Islands Trust Area also benefits from extensive protected lands, active conservancies, and increasing integration of biological data into land use planning. This report summarizes the state of species at risk, highlights key trends, and provides island-specific information in a consolidated appendix.

Introduction

Located in Coast Salish territory, Islands Trust is a special purpose government responsible for protecting the unique amenities and environment of more than 450 islands and surrounding waters in the southern Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound. Created by the Province via the *Islands Trust Act*, Islands Trust plans and regulates local land use, coordinates with other levels of government and First Nations on key issues impacting the area, and protects land through the Islands Trust Conservancy.

The island ecosystems include Garry oak meadows and coastal Douglas-fir forests, which support a large number of species such as wildflowers, mosses and lichens, native insects, bats, songbirds, and raptors. Many species and ecological communities within these systems are currently listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern. With the requirement to protect the critical habitat of species at risk combined with the constant pressure of

housing and other development proposals, there is a clear need to enhance the integration of biological information into land use decisions.

This report aims to summarize the status and trends of species at risk across the Islands Trust Area, identify overlaps between critical habitat and existing land use protections, and provide a clear resource to support informed land use decisions.

While this report identifies overarching regional ecological pressures and legislative frameworks, it also includes Appendix A: Species at Risk Status by Islands Trust Area. This appendix provides site-specific inventory data — including historical observation dates and localized Development Permit Area coverage — which should be consulted alongside the regional policy analysis to support informed land-use decision-making at the local trust committee level.





Legislative Background

The conservation of species at risk is governed by a multi-jurisdictional framework that mandates legal and planning obligations based on rigorous scientific assessment.

The foundation of this framework rests on two primary assessment processes. National status is determined by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), an independent advisory body who's formal COSEWIC Assessment and Status Reports provide the essential data regarding population trends, habitat needs, and primary threats to survival. Complementing these national assessments, the B.C. Conservation Data Centre maintains the BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer (BCSEE). This database serves as the provincial authority for current conservation status ranks and legal designations for species and ecological communities across British Columbia.

These assessed designations directly dictate the required level of protection and management.

Species classified as Endangered or Threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) trigger mandatory Recovery Strategies and Action Plans, which define critical habitat and the necessary actions to mitigate population decline. For species designated as Special Concern, the legal requirement shifts to the development of Management Plans, which focus on conservation goals and proactive habitat stewardship to prevent further decline.

While federal SARA prohibitions offer critical protections—particularly for aquatic species, migratory birds, and federal lands—their reach is often constrained on the private lands that characterize much of the Islands Trust Area. To bridge this gap, Islands Trust integrates these federal and provincial objectives into local regulatory tools. By aligning Official Community Plans, Development Permit Areas, and conservation covenants with the goals outlined in official recovery strategies, Islands Trust ensures that local land-use decisions are informed by the best available scientific data.

Methods

The analysis draws on work completed through the Islands Trust Integrating Biology into Land Use Decision Making project (2025–2026). Multiple data sources informed the analysis, including:

- The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) Regional Conservation Plan 2018–2027
- Provincial conservation status and occurrence data from the BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer
- Federal species at risk evaluations from COSEWIC and Schedule 1 SARA listings
- TAPIS 3.0 mapping layers
- Official Community Plans (OCPs) and Development Permit Areas (DPAs) across the Islands Trust Area

Critical habitat mapping was overlaid with DPAs, conservation covenants, provincial and federal parks, and ITC nature reserves to determine protection gaps. Population trends were assessed using provincial datasets and COSEWIC reports, focusing on the past 20 years.

What is a development permit area (DPA)?

A development permit area is an area identified in an official community plan (OCP) where a development permit is needed before certain work can begin — such as building, subdividing, or clearing land.

Local trust committees designate development permit areas in their OCPs under the Local Government Act. In the Islands Trust Area, they focus on protecting the natural environment and protecting development from hazards: shorelines, riparian areas, environmentally sensitive areas, steep slopes, and the wildfire interface.

A development permit does not change what you are allowed to build — that is set by zoning. It sets conditions on how and where development happens, based on guidelines in the OCP. Many development permit areas also include exemptions, so a permit is not always required.

Each island has its own OCP, so requirements differ from island to island.



Key Findings

Overview of Species at Risk

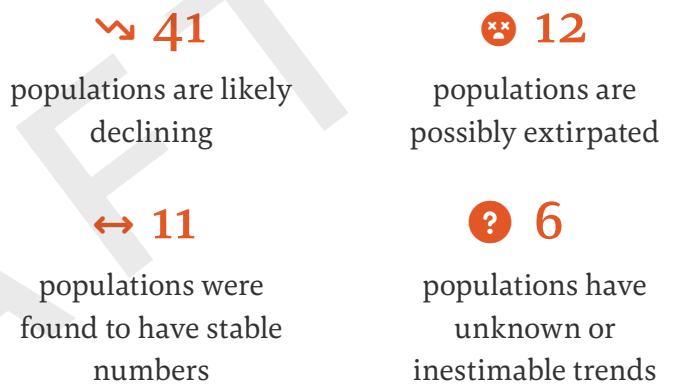
Thirty species listed under Schedule 1 of SARA have mapped critical habitat within the Trust Area, with many additional species provincially red or blue-listed.

Habitat Protection Summary

Nine listed species were found to have no specific habitat protections. Of those, four species were covered under DPAs that did not mention habitat protection for species at risk. The habitats of seventeen species were at least partially within DPAs that included protections for habitat. Fourteen different DPAs on six different islands provide some level of protection to the habitat of listed species.

Population Trends

COSEWIC status assessment reports and the BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer were used to estimate the trends of seventy populations of species at risk.



For a detailed breakdown of these population trends—including localized historical observation data—please refer to [Appendix A](#).

Purple sanicle (*Sanicula bipinnatifida*)





Regional Analysis

Ecological Pressures

Species at risk across the Islands Trust Area face common pressures such as habitat loss and fragmentation, shoreline development, invasive species, recreational impacts, and climate change effects on hydrology and coastal processes. Much of the Islands Trust Area is privately owned, where federal SARA prohibitions generally do not apply, increasing the importance of local land use tools.

Improvements in Land Use Planning

The Integrating Biology into Land Use Decision Making project supported several improvements, including the addition of critical habitat data to the Land Information Screening Tool (LIST) to prevent prioritization of densification in sensitive areas. Other advancements include drafting a Model Natural Environment Development Permit Area for Islands Trust-wide use, updating Official

Community Plan and Development Permit Area language for Denman and Gabriola islands, establishing new Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessment Reports, and enhancing mapping layers for sensitive ecosystems.

Much of the Islands Trust Area is privately owned, where federal SARA prohibitions generally do not apply, increasing the importance of local land use tools. The efficacy of these local tools varies significantly by jurisdiction; for a comparative overview of species-specific protection mechanisms across the Islands Trust Area, see the 'Land Use Protection' column in Appendix A.

Culturally Significant Species

A list of culturally significant species was compiled using Indigenous-developed story maps, peer-reviewed literature, and Islands Trust documents.

Engagement with First Nations continues through the Islands Trust Conservancy, reflecting shared interests and culturally important ecosystems.



Conclusions & Discussion

The Islands Trust Area supports exceptional biodiversity, yet many species at risk are in decline. Declining populations and ongoing habitat loss underscore the urgent need to strengthen local land use protections, particularly on private lands where federal SARA prohibitions have limited reach. The original analysis conducted by the Islands Trust biologist identified key challenges and opportunities for conserving these species, and the integration of critical habitat data into planning tools represents significant progress.

This report advocates a collaborative approach involving First Nations, local governments, and conservation organizations. Adaptive management strategies and increased public awareness remain vital to addressing threats such as invasive species and climate change impacts.

Recommendations

To support species at risk conservation, several actions are recommended:

Expand Development Permit Areas to include additional critical habitats currently lacking protection.

Strengthen enforcement and monitoring of existing Development Permit Areas and conservation covenants.

Enhance partnerships with First Nations to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into conservation planning.

Increase funding and resources for invasive species management programs.

Launch public education campaigns focused on species at risk and habitat stewardship.

Regularly update mapping tools to reflect new data and changing conditions.





References

Woodruff, P. (2026). *Species at Risk Data Compilation for the Islands Trust Area*. Internal technical dataset.

Provincial Database

B.C. Conservation Data Centre. (2026). *BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer*. B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Victoria, B.C.
Available: a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp

Federal Species Status Reports (COSEWIC)

- COSEWIC. (2004). *COSEWIC assessment and status report on the bog bird's-foot trefoil (Lotus pinnatus) in Canada*. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vi + 33 pp.
- COSEWIC. (2006). *COSEWIC assessment and status report on the contorted-pod evening-primrose (Camissonia contorta) in Canada*. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vi + 21 pp.
- COSEWIC. (2008). *COSEWIC assessment and status report on the fragrant popcornflower (Plagiobothrys figuratus) in Canada*. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vi + 22 pp.

Resources for Recovery and Management Documents

Official recovery strategies, action plans, and management plans are mandated under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and provincial conservation frameworks. These documents provide the definitive scientific and legal guidance for the protection of species at risk. For detailed information regarding a specific species' status, recovery objectives, and critical habitat identification, please refer to the following official registries:

- Federal Species at Risk Public Registry: canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html
- B.C. Ministry of Environment Recovery Planning: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk

Appendix A: Species at Risk Status by Islands Trust Area

This section provides island-specific inventory records, protection assessments, and observational timelines to contextualize the regional trends described in the main report.

Note: Masked/Data Secured Species include the Peregrine falcon, which is present in the Islands Trust Area and partially protected by habitat in nature reserves, national, provincial and regional parks, and DPAs.

DEFINITIONS

CDC	Conservation Data Centres
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
DPA	Development Permit Area
OCP	Official Community Plan
SARA	<i>Species At Risk Act</i>
Extirpated	A species which is locally extinct in this area but still exists elsewhere

LISTING

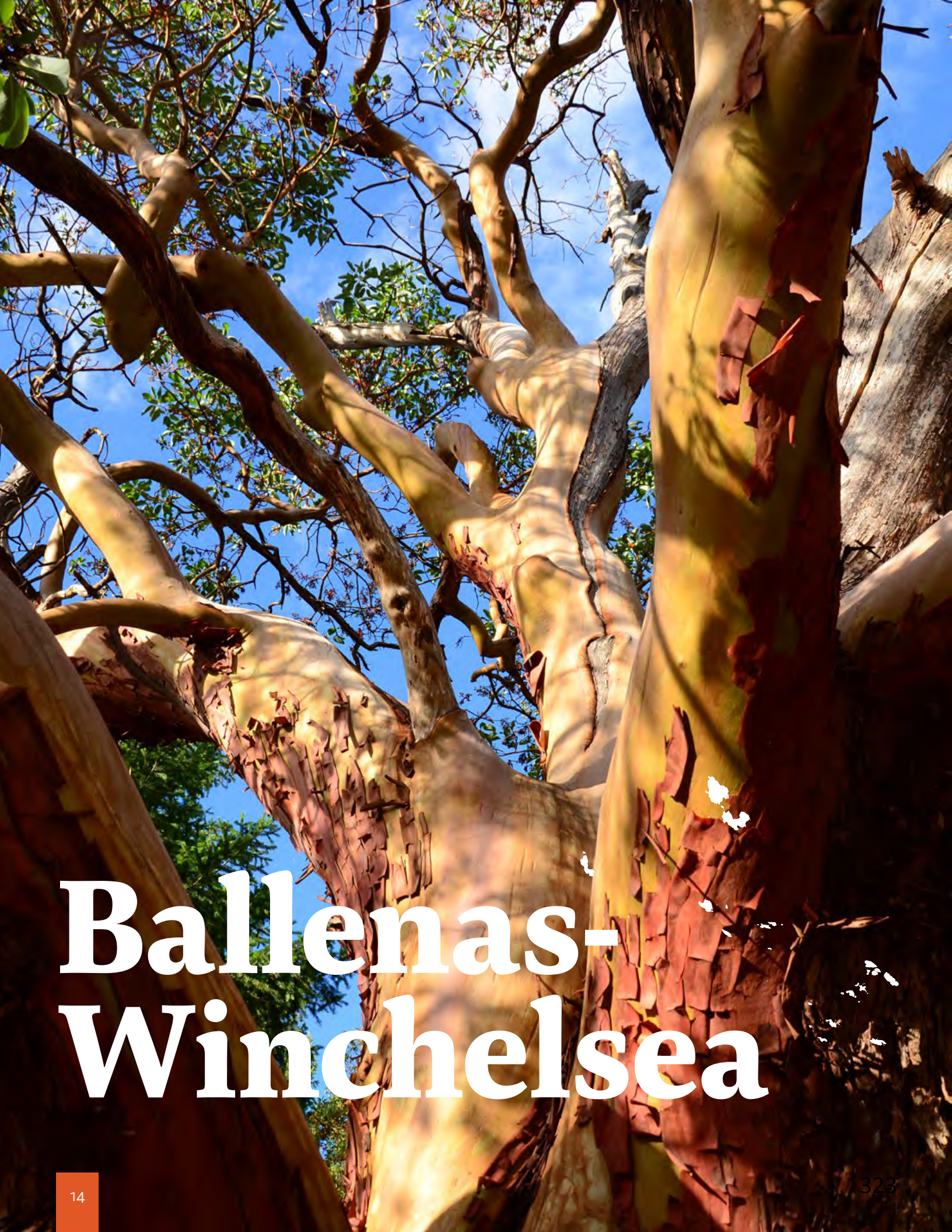
Explain difference between SARA and CDC (province vs federal)

LEGEND: CRITICAL HABITAT

	Mapped
	Not mapped
	Not mapped on this island
n/a	Not available

LEGEND: BC TREND

	Increasing
	Declining
	Stable
	Unknown
	Not available
	Extinct



Ballenas- Winchelsea

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
water-plantain buttercup (<i>Ranunculus alismifolius</i> var. <i>alismifolius</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	None known	?	2017: plants appear more abundant than 2016
coastal wood fern (<i>Dryopteris arguta</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	None known	?	Observed (2020 Amelia and Gerard Islands; 2018 South Island; 1998 Mis-taken Island)
Steller Sea Lion (<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	None known	↗	Last recorded observation 1982 (Ada Island)
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	↔	Last recorded 1981
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium am-plectens</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	⦿	Last recorded observations 1995 (Ada Islands) and 1996 (Ballenas Islands)
Ecological communities					
Garry oak – arbutus (<i>Quercus garryana</i> – <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Covenant, South Winchelsea	⦿	

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Official Community Plan (OCP) for the Ballenas-Winchelsea Local Trust Area establishes a comprehensive environmental protection framework through several key policy statements. These include the preservation of ecologically sensitive areas (Policy 3.7.1) and the establishment of a protected area network (Policy 3.7.4) designed to preserve representative ecosystems and maintain ecological integrity (Policy 3.11.2). Furthermore, the OCP directs the identification and protection of sensitive marine areas (Policy 3.8.1), mandates the protection of foreshore and intertidal processes (Policy 3.8.10), and requires the consideration of cumulative development impacts on sensitive ecosystems (Policy 3.11.4).

Regulatory protection is supported by a shoreline Development Permit Area (DPA), which specifies that the habitat of sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered native plant species must remain undisturbed. Despite these policies, mapped critical habitat for the water-plantain buttercup currently lacks specific land-use protections, and several other species at risk similarly lack identified habitat safeguards. While there is at least one conservation covenant established in this Islands Trust Area, monitoring data for the water-plantain buttercup—such as the 2017 observation noting an increased abundance relative to the previous year—suggests that these populations are known to fluctuate over time.



Bowen Island



Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: old growth management area, ecological reserve,	↘	n/a
Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a		↔	n/a
Northern Red-legged Frog (<i>Rana aurora</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a		↘	n/a
Common Wood-nymph, <i>incana</i> subspecies (<i>Cercyonis pegala incana</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: regional park, community park	↘	Last recorded observation 1933

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) holds significant interests on Bowen Island, encompassing a wide array of ecosystems and species, including western redcedar/sword fern, western redcedar/three-leaved foamflower, northern red-legged frog, slender sedge-white beak-rush, labrador tea/western bog-laurel/peat-mosses, and douglas fir/western hemlock/salal associations. Other protected features include the common cattail, common nighthawk, olive-sided flycatcher, band-tailed pigeon, great blue heron, coastal cutthroat trout, and various complex forest ecosystems such as western redcedar/sitka spruce/skunk cabbage, western hemlock/western redcedar/deer fern, and Douglas-fir/sword fern communities.

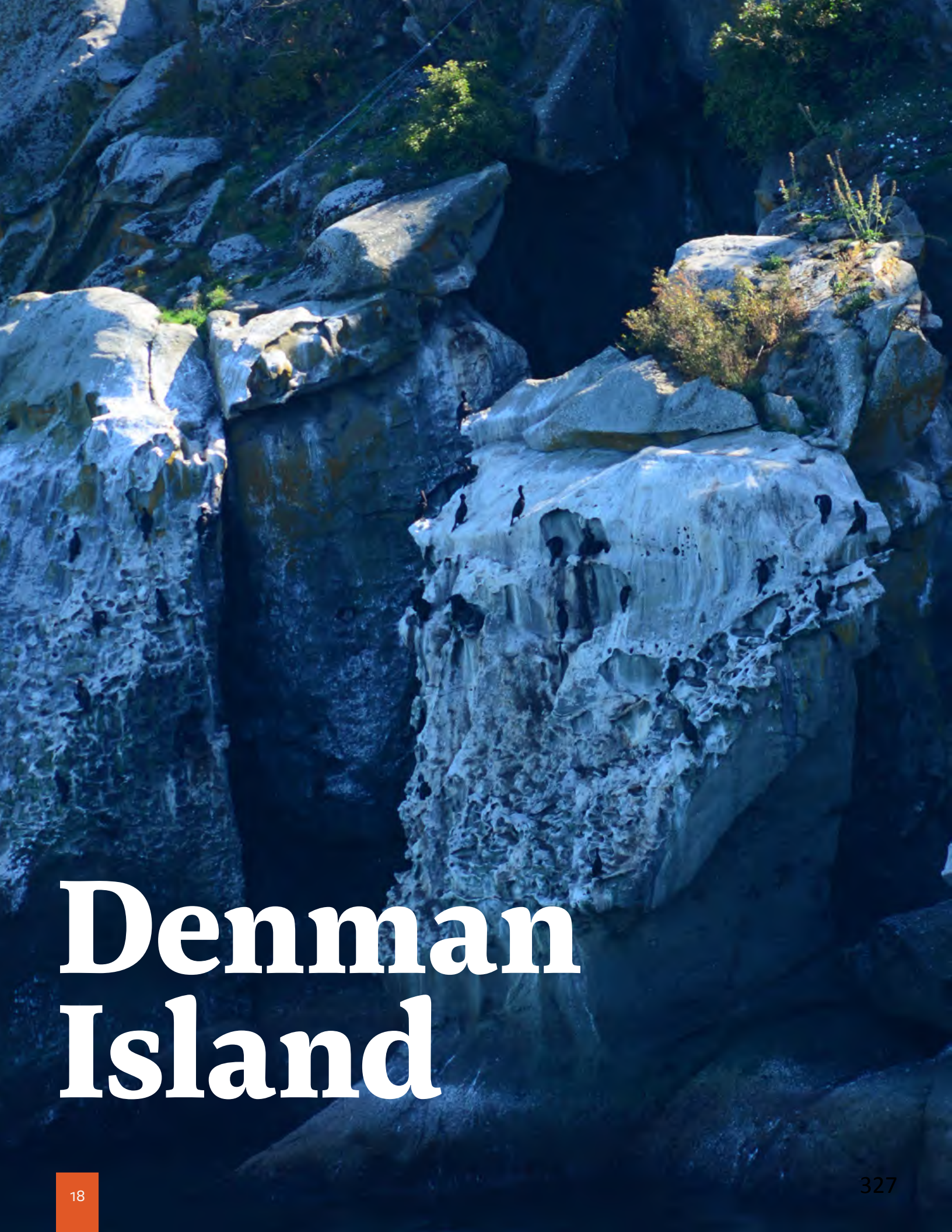
Bowen Island's Official Community Plan (OCP) prioritizes the maintenance and preservation of biodiversity, including wildlife habitat, native vegetation, and species and ecosystems at risk, through a "no net impact" strategy for new development (Section 2.2). This objective is implemented through three key Development Permit Areas (DPAs):

- Environmentally Sensitive DPA (11.4.1): Protects freshwater, marine, and terrestrial species,

habitats, and ecosystems from harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction.

- Steep Slopes DPA (11.4.2): Maintains the functionality of unique plant and animal habitats found on steep slopes and hillsides.
- Watershed, Aquifer, and Stream Protection DPA (11.4.3): Ensures riparian area protection and ecosystem health for all fish-bearing streams and their tributaries, including unmapped streams.

While partial protections exist for both mapped critical habitat and identified habitats for other species at risk, monitoring reveals mixed trends. For the Great Blue Heron, datasets provide conflicting outlooks, with some showing decline while others indicate a relatively stable population (BC CDC 2022). Conversely, local monitoring has confirmed declines and disappearances of Northern Red-legged Frog populations (BC CDC 2021)



Denman Island

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
Edith's Checkerspot butterfly, <i>taylori</i> subspecies (<i>Euphydryas editha taylori</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: provincial park, ITC/ conservation covenants, DPAs, provincial protected area	↘	2018: larvae released, 1 adult observed (down from 32 in 2017 and 176 in 2016)
Little Brown Myotis (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: provincial park, ITC/ conservation covenants, DPAs	↔	n/a
Northern Myotis (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: provincial park, ITC/ conservation covenants, DPAs	↔	n/a
Sand-verbena Moth (<i>Copablepharon fuscum</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Provincial Park	↘	2003: 3 moths observed on Sandy Island
Dun Skipper (<i>Euphyes vestris</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: ITC/ conservation covenants, DPAs	↘	2007: observed
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✗	Partially protected: provincial park, DPAs	↘	1991: observed
Island Tiger Moth (<i>Apantesis complicata</i>)	Threatened (COSEWIC)	✗	Provincial park	?	Observed 2000 (Sandy Island)
coastal wood fern (<i>Dryopteris arguta</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, DPA, conservation covenant	?	Observed 2021 (Boyle Point Provincial Park) and 2018 (Metcalf Bay and ferry landing)
Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	None known	↔	Last observed 2001
Northern Red-legged Frog (<i>Rana aurora</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation covenant, DPA	↘	Observed 2004
Wandering Salamander (<i>Aneides vagrans</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, DPA	?	Observed 1989-1996 (Denman Island Park) and 2022 (Boyle Point Provincial Park)

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
Common Wood-nymph, <i>incana</i> subspecies (<i>Cercyonis pegala incana</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, nature reserve	↘	Last recorded observation 2007
Cutthroat Trout, <i>clarkii</i> subspecies (<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA	○	n/a
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	↗	Last recorded observation 1989 (no nests observed 2002)
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium amplexans</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, Provincial protected area, Provincial park	○	Last recorded observation 1996
yellow sand-verbena (<i>Abronia latifolia</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Provincial park	↘	Observed 2016 (Sandy Island)

Ecological communities

Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, conservation covenants, DPA, provincial protected areas, recreation park, ITC nature reserve	↘	n/a
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, DPA, nature reserve	↘	n/a
grand fir / three-leaved foamflower (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Nature reserve	↘	n/a
Northern wormwood – red fescue / grey rock-moss (<i>Artemisia campestris</i> – <i>Festuca rubra</i> / <i>Racomitrium canescens</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Provincial park	○	n/a
red alder / skunk cabbage (<i>Alnus rubra</i> / <i>Lysichiton americanus</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Nature reserve	○	n/a

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
western redcedar / vanilla-leaf (<i>Thuja plicata</i> / <i>Achlys triphylla</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: ITC Nature reserve	↘	n/a

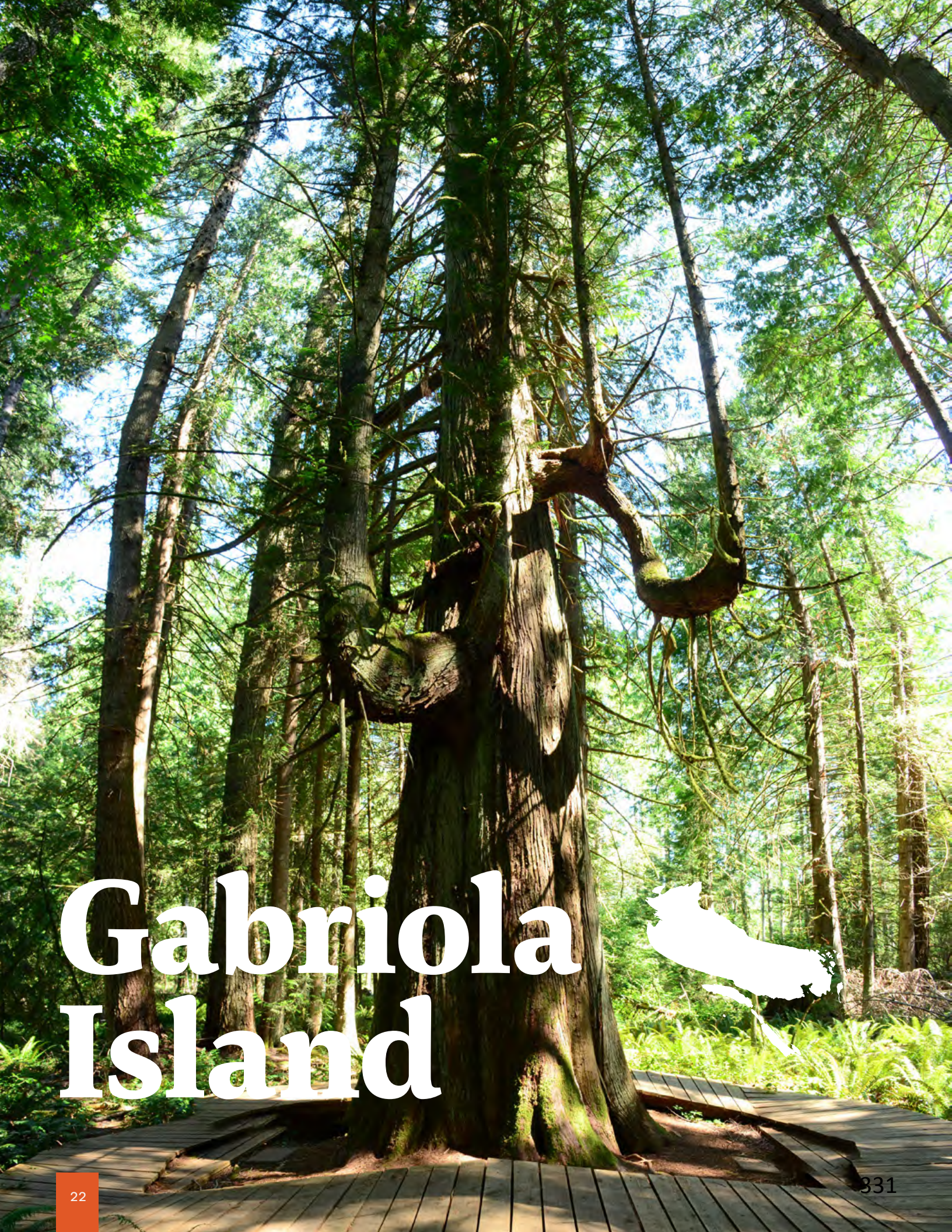
LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) maintains significant conservation holdings on Denman Island, which serve as foundational protection for numerous species and ecosystems, including the Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly, Little brown myotis, Northern myotis, and the sand-verbena moth. Other protected features within these areas include the Dun Skipper, Western screech-owl, Island tiger moth, coastal wood fern, Great blue heron, and the Northern red-legged frog.

Denman Island’s Official Community Plan (OCP) provides an extensive regulatory framework for environmental stewardship, with policies dedicated to the protection of uplands, steep slopes, bluffs, wetlands, nest trees, and marine foreshores. These policies are enforced through two primary mechanisms:

- Riparian and Non-Riparian Development Permit Areas (DPAs): Regulate development to minimize impact on sensitive ecosystems and watercourses.
- Steep Slopes DPAs: Manage land use in high-risk terrain to prevent habitat degradation.

While most critical habitat is at least partially protected — and the entire island is designated as critical habitat for two SARA-listed bat species — monitoring data highlights significant conservation challenges. Population trends for the Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly have been concerning; following a 2018 larval release, only one adult was observed, marking a sharp decline from the 176 adults recorded in 2016. Other species exhibit similar vulnerabilities, with local observations for the sand-verbena moth (2003), Dun Skipper (2007), Western screech-owl (1991), Great blue heron (2001), and Northern red-legged frog (2004) underscoring the ongoing need for rigorous habitat monitoring and enforcement of existing DPAs.



Gabriola Island



Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
bog bird's-foot trefoil (<i>Hosackia pinnata</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	None known	↘	Observed 2020
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: nature reserve/ covenant, DPA	↘	n/a
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✗	Nature reserve	↘	2021: roosting adults and juveniles observed (Link Island)
Macoun's meadow-foam (<i>Limnanthes macounii</i>)	Threatened (SARA) / Special Concern (COSEWIC)	✓	Provincial park	↘	Observed 2018
Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a		↔	
Moss' Elfin, mossi sub-species (<i>Callophrys mossii mossii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: ITC nature reserve, provincial park, community park, regional park, conservation covenants (NAPTEP), DPAs	↘	Observed 2023
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	↔	
Propertius Duskywing (<i>Erynnis propertius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA	↘	Last recorded observation 1987 (Hoggan Lake)
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	↗	Birds observed but no nests 2002 (Five Fingers Island; no nests observed Hudson Rocks 2000)
Ecological communities					
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: ITC nature reserve, provincial park, community parks, DPAs	↘	n/a

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	↘	n/a
trembling aspen / Pacific crab apple / slough sedge (<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Malus fusca</i> / <i>Carex obnupta</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park	?	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) holds various conservation interests on Gabriola Island that contribute to the protection of several species at risk, including the Bog bird's foot trefoil, Marbled murrelet, Western screech-owl, Macoun's meadow-foam, Great blue heron, Moss'elfin, and the Propertius duskywing.

Gabriola's Official Community Plan (OCP) regulates sensitive ecosystems through a dedicated suite of Development Permit Areas (DPAs), including specific provisions for Riparian Areas, Flat Top Islands, and broader Environmental Protection. These regulatory tools are designed to manage development impacts on sensitive habitats across the island.

While partial protection is in place for most of the identified species, the current planning framework faces specific challenges. Notably, mapped critical habitat for the endangered Bog bird's foot trefoil lacks any identified land-use protections, despite the species being observed as recently as 2020. Other species exhibit localized vulnerabilities, with the Propertius duskywing last recorded in 1987 at Hoggan Lake, while the Moss'elfin was observed in 2023, reflecting the ongoing need to integrate critical habitat data into existing DPA frameworks to better support declining populations.



Galiano Island



Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
batwing vinyl lichen (<i>Scytinium platynum</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	DPA	⊙	n/a
Howell's triteleia (<i>Triteleia grandiflora</i> var. <i>howellii</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✕	Partially protected: DPA	?	Observed 2018 (Swiss Point)
Killer Whale (North-east Pacific Southern Resident Population) (<i>Orcinus orca</i> pop. 6)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Federal critical habitat	↘	Declining
Lindley's microseris (<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: Regional park, community park, DPA	?	No plants seen 2019, last recorded observation 2018 (Matthews Point)
white meconella (<i>Meconella oregana</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: nature reserve, DPA	↘	Observed 2014 (one plant, Mount Sutil); reseeded efforts 2013, no plants found 2004
butterfly bearing lomatium (<i>Lomatium papilioniferum</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: Provincial park, DPA	⊙	Observed 2022 (Trincomali Channel)
purple sanicle (<i>Sanicula bipinnatifida</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Provincial park	↔	Last recorded observation 1993 (Dionisio Point Provincial Park)
slender popcornflower (<i>Plagiobothrys tenellus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: Nature reserve, provincial park, DPA	↘	Last recorded observation 1998 Bodega Ridge (no plants found 2014, 2011, 2004) and 1980 Mount Sutil (no plants found 2011, 2004)
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✕	Partially protected: provincial park, DPA, community forest	↘	1993: observed
Common Sharp-tailed Snake (Pacific coast population) (<i>Contia tenuis</i> pop. 1)	Threatened (COSEWIC)	✕	Partially protected: DPA, Coastal Douglas-fir land use order	↘*	Last recorded observation 1981

* COSEWIC assessment report

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Northern Red-legged Frog (<i>Rana aurora</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, Nature reserve, community forest, conservation covenant, provincial park, coastal Douglas-fir land use order	↘	Last observed 2008 (north end) and 1998
twisted oak moss (<i>Syntrichia laevipila</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: Regional park, DPA, nature reserve	↔	Observed 2021 (Mount Sutil) and 2008 (Matthews Point Regional Park Reserve)
Vancouver Island beggarticks (<i>Bidens amplissima</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: Coastal Douglas-fir land use order, ecological reserve, DPA	↘	Observed 2012 (Spot Light Cove)
branched clover (<i>Trifolium dichotomum</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, nature reserve, provincial park	?	Observed 2022 (Collinson Point Park) and 1981 (Mount Sutil)
Moss' Elfin, mossi subspecies (<i>Callophrys mossii mossii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: regional park, community park	↘	Last recorded observation 1981
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Provincial park, DPAs	↔	Last recorded 2010
Propertius Duskywing (<i>Erynnis propertius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, regional park, community park, DPA	↘	Observed 2010 (Collinson Point) and 1995 (Bodega Hill)
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Ecological reserve	↗	Last recorded nest observation 1987, no nests observed 2000 (Ballingall Islets)
Erect Pigmyweed (<i>Crassula connata</i> var. <i>connata</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, recreation park, provincial park	⦿	n/a (Bellhouse Provincial Park)
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium amplexans</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, provincial park, nature reserve	⦿	Last recorded observation 1993 (Dionisio Point) and 1996 (Mount Sutil)

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Ecological communities					
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park, nature reserve, community forest, provincial park, conservation covenant, DPA, ecological reserve, Coastal Douglas-fir land use order	↘	n/a
Garry oak / California brome (<i>Quercus garryana</i> / <i>Bromus carinatus</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park, nature reserve, provincial park, DPA	○	n/a
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, provincial park, coastal Douglas-fir land use order, community park, DPA	↘	n/a
lodgepole pine / peat-mosses CDFmm (<i>Pinus contorta</i> / <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. CDFmm)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Ecological reserve, DPA	○	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

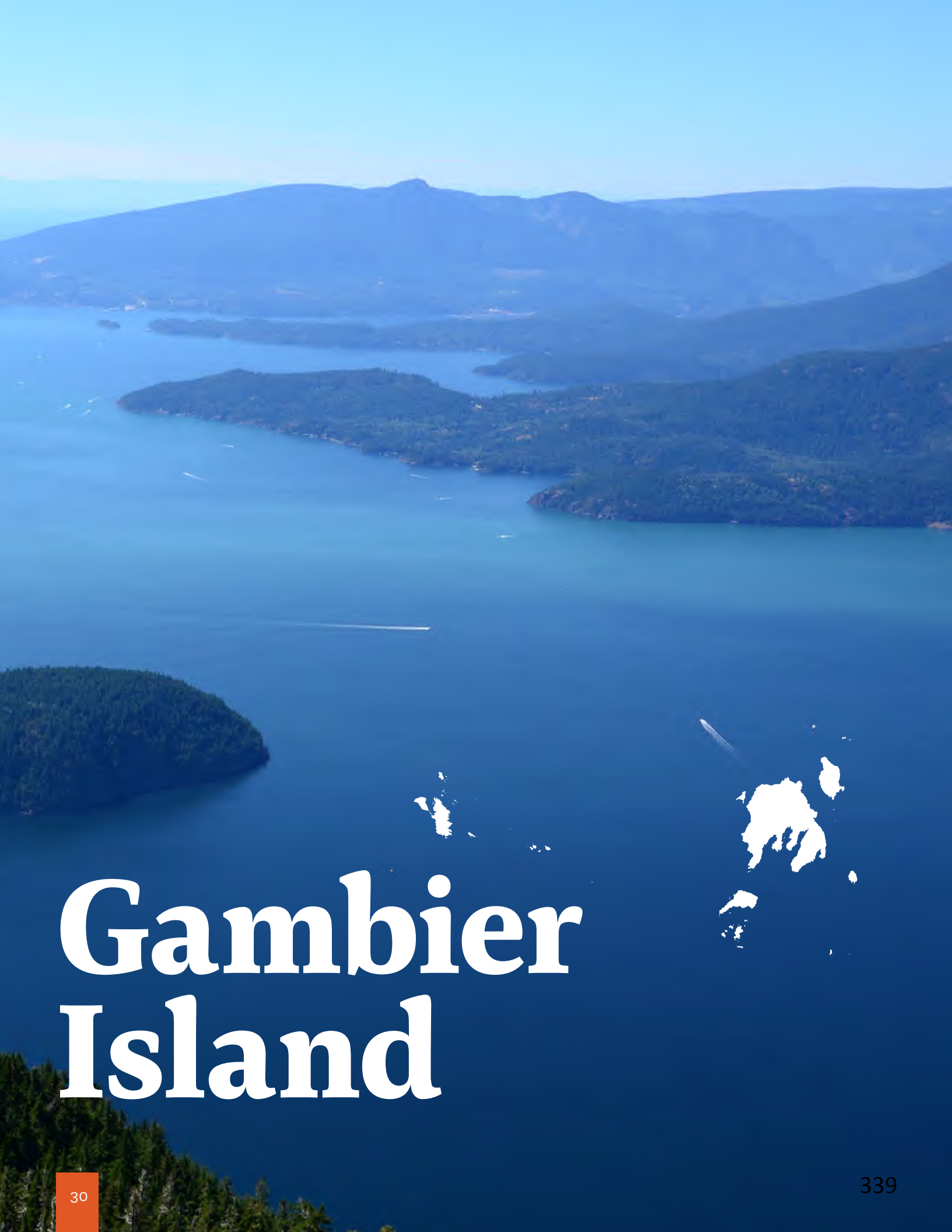
The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) maintains significant conservation holdings on Galiano Island, providing foundational protection for species and communities such as the Batwing vinyl lichen, Howell's triteleia, Southern resident killer whale, Lindley's microseris, White meconella, and the Sharp-tailed snake.

The Galiano Island Official Community Plan (OCP) integrates environmental stewardship through policies targeting watershed areas, wetlands, and marine ecosystems. These objectives are enforced through a robust set of Development Permit Areas (DPAs), which include:

- Riparian Areas and Shoreline DPAs: Regulate activities near sensitive water bodies to protect ecological integrity.

- Tree Cutting DPA: Mandates protective buffers and prohibits the removal of Garry oak trees, a key habitat component.
- Sensitive Ecosystems DPA: Provides a regulatory mechanism to oversee land use in areas designated for their ecological value.

Current protections for these species appear generally effective, as most critical habitats are reported to be at least partially or mostly protected. However, monitoring data illustrates the precarious status of some populations, such as the Lindley's microseris, which was last recorded in 2018 with no plants observed in 2019. Other species, such as the White meconella, have been documented in limited numbers, including a single plant observation at Mount Sutil in 2014, while the Sharp-tailed snake has not been officially recorded on the island since 1981.



Gambier Island

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
Roell's brotherella (<i>Brotherella roelli</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✖	Partially protected: Old Growth Management Area	?	Last recorded observation 1969 (Anvil Island)
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Threatened (SARA); Red listed in BC	✓	Partially protected: Old Growth Management Area, DPA	↘	n/a
Northern Red-legged Frog (<i>Rana aurora</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	DPA	↘	Observed 2005
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: rockfish conservation area	↗	Nests observed 2000 (Christie Islet and Pam Rock)
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium amplexans</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a		n/a	
Ecological communities					
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a		↘	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

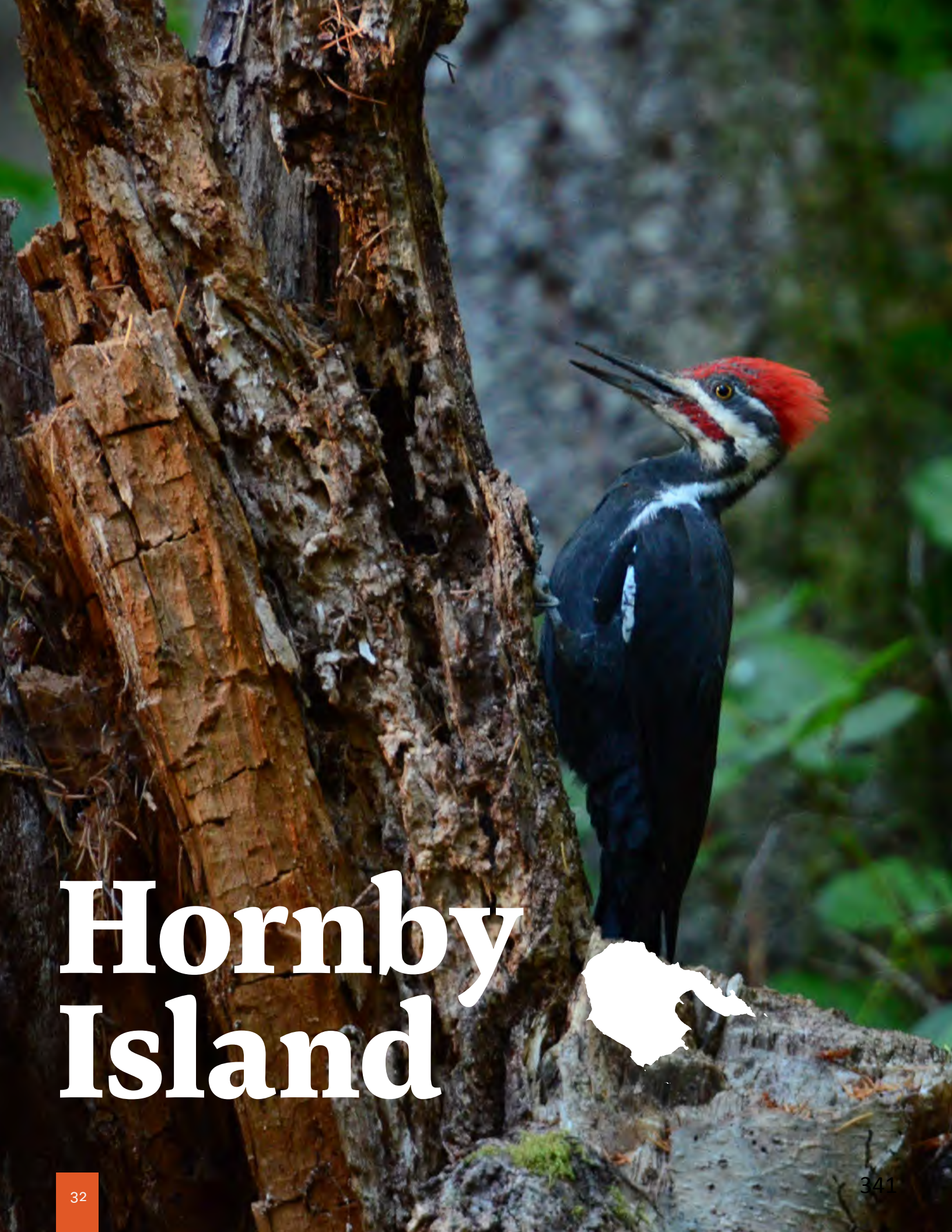
The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) holds various interests on Gambier Island that support the protection of species at risk, including Roell's brotherella moss, the Marbled murrelet, and the Northern red-legged frog.

Gambier's Official Community Plan (OCP) emphasizes the preservation of ecologically significant features, specifically calling for the protection of estuaries, forests, wetlands, and riparian areas. To implement these policies, the local trust committee utilizes a series of Development Permit Areas (DPAs) designed to mitigate development impacts, including:

- Watershed Areas DPA: Provides regulatory oversight for water-sensitive zones.
- Shoreline Protection DPA: Manages activities along the marine fringe to prevent habitat degradation.

- Riparian Areas DPA: Ensures protection for sensitive watercourses and surrounding habitat.

These regulatory tools offer at least partial protection for species at risk habitats within the Local Trust Area. However, monitoring data highlights the long-term conservation challenges for some populations, such as Roell's brotherella moss, which was last recorded on Anvil Island in 1969. Other species, such as the Northern red-legged frog, were documented in 2005, reinforcing the importance of maintaining robust riparian and shoreline protections as habitat continues to face development pressure.



Hornby Island

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
coast microseris (<i>Microseris bigelovii</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✖	Provincial park	↘	Observed 2020 (Helliwell Provincial Park)
Edith's Checkerspot butterfly, <i>taylori</i> subspecies (<i>Euphydryas editha taylori</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	⬇	Partially protected: Provincial park, covenant	↘	Last recorded observation 1995 (none found in surveys in 2003, 2007, 2015)
fragrant popcorn-flower (<i>Plagiobothrys figuratus</i> var. <i>figuratus</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	None known	↘	Last recorded observation 2005 (single plant; 1985 3-4 plants). No plants found 2012, 2006-2008, 2002
Little Brown Myotis (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: provincial and regional parks, covenants, DPA	↔	n/a
Northern Myotis (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: provincial and regional parks, covenants, DPA	↔	n/a
rigid apple moss (<i>Bartramia aprica</i>)	Endangered (SARA) / Threatened (COSEWIC)	⬇	Provincial park, conservation covenant	↘	Observed 2023 (Helliwell provincial Park)
Dun Skipper (<i>Euphydryas vestris</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: Provincial park, DPAs	↘	2004: observed
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: DPA	↘	n/a
purple sanicle (<i>Sanicula bipinnatifida</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	⬇		↔	
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✖	Partially protected: DPA	↘	1992: observed
Macoun's meadow-foam (<i>Limnanthes macounii</i>)	Threatened (SARA) / Special Concern (COSEWIC)	✓	None known	↘	Observed 2022

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
banded cord-moss (<i>Entosthodon fascicularis</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Provincial park	?	n/a (Helliwell Provincial park)
coastal wood fern (<i>Dryopteris arguta</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, government covenant	?	Observed 2021 (Tribune Bay), 2018 (Mount Geoffrey), and 2020 (Downes Point)
Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: community park, DPA	↔	Last observed 2003
Wandering Salamander (<i>Aneides vagrans</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Provincial park	?	Observed 2019 (Mt Geoffrey) and 2023 (Helliwell Provincial Park)
white-top aster (<i>Sericocarpus rigidus</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	None known	↘	Observed 2007 (Downes Point)
Common Wood-nymph, <i>incana</i> subspecies (<i>Cercyonis pegala incana</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, regional park, government covenant	↘	Observed 2010
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial and regional parks	↔	Last recorded 2010
Propertius Dusky-wing (<i>Erynnis propertius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, conservation covenant	↘	Last recorded observation 1995 (Norman Point and Tribune Bay)
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium amplexans</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Provincial park	⦿	2007: observed
Townsend's Big-eared Bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a		?	
Ecological communities					
Douglas-fir / Alaska oniongrass (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Melica subulata</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Provincial park, community park, regional park, conservation covenant, government covenant	↘	n/a

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, covenant, DPA	↘	n/a
Garry oak / California brome (<i>Quercus garryana</i> / <i>Bromus carinatus</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, regional park, government covenant	○	n/a
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, regional park, DPA	↘	n/a
trembling aspen / Pacific crab apple / slough sedge (<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Malus fusca</i> / <i>Carex obnupta</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, DPA	?	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) holds significant conservation interests on Hornby Island, which serve as foundational protection for several species at risk, including the Western screech-owl, Northern red-legged frog, common nighthawk, coastal wood fern, and the sharp-tailed snake.

Hornby Island's Official Community Plan (OCP) integrates environmental stewardship through dedicated policies for the protection of watercourses, wetlands, and sensitive marine ecosystems. These conservation objectives are supported by a suite of Development Permit Areas (DPAs) aimed at mitigating development-related impacts on sensitive terrain, including:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas DPA: Provides regulatory oversight to protect fragile ecosystems from land-use disturbances.
- Riparian Areas and Shoreline DPAs: Regulates

activities near sensitive water bodies and coastal interfaces to maintain ecological integrity.

- Steep Slopes DPA: Manages development in high-risk areas to prevent habitat fragmentation and erosion.

While these regulatory tools provide at least partial protection for identified critical habitat, biological monitoring reveals significant gaps in recent documentation. The Northern red-legged frog was last recorded in 2005, and observations for the Western screech-owl date back to 1989. Other species show similar historical records, with the sharp-tailed snake last documented in 1982 and the common nighthawk recorded in 1993, highlighting the need for continued habitat preservation and updated inventory data to ensure the efficacy of existing DPA protections.



Lasqueti Island

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
Hadley Lake Benthic Stick-leback (<i>Gasterosteus</i> sp.13)	Extinct (COSEWIC)	n/a	None known	☠	Extinct
Little Brown Myotis (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: marine park	↔	n/a
Northern Myotis (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: marine park	↔	n/a
rigid apple moss (<i>Bartramia aprica</i>)	Endangered (SARA)/ Threatened (COSEWIC)	✓	Partially protected: Ecological reserve	↘	Observed 2023 (Jenkins Cove)
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: nature reserve	↘	n/a
giant chain fern (<i>Woodwardia fimbriata</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, ecological reserve, conservation covenant, provincial park	↘	Observed 2017 (Prowse Point) 1997 (Power Cage Cove) no date (Jedediah Island, Lasqueti Island Ecological Reserve, Spring Bay, Young Point)

Ecological communities

Douglas-fir – arbutus (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> – <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, ecological reserve	↘	n/a
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, conservation covenant	↘	n/a
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, ecological reserve, conservation covenant, provincial park	↘	n/a
grand fir / three-leaved foamflower (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Nature reserve, ecological reserve, conservation covenant	↘	n/a

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
lodgepole pine / peat-mosses CDFmm (<i>Pinus contorta</i> / <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. CDFmm)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	○	n/a
Labrador-tea / western bog-laurel / peat-mosses (Rhododendron groenlandicum / Kalmia microphylla / Sphagnum spp.)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	○	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

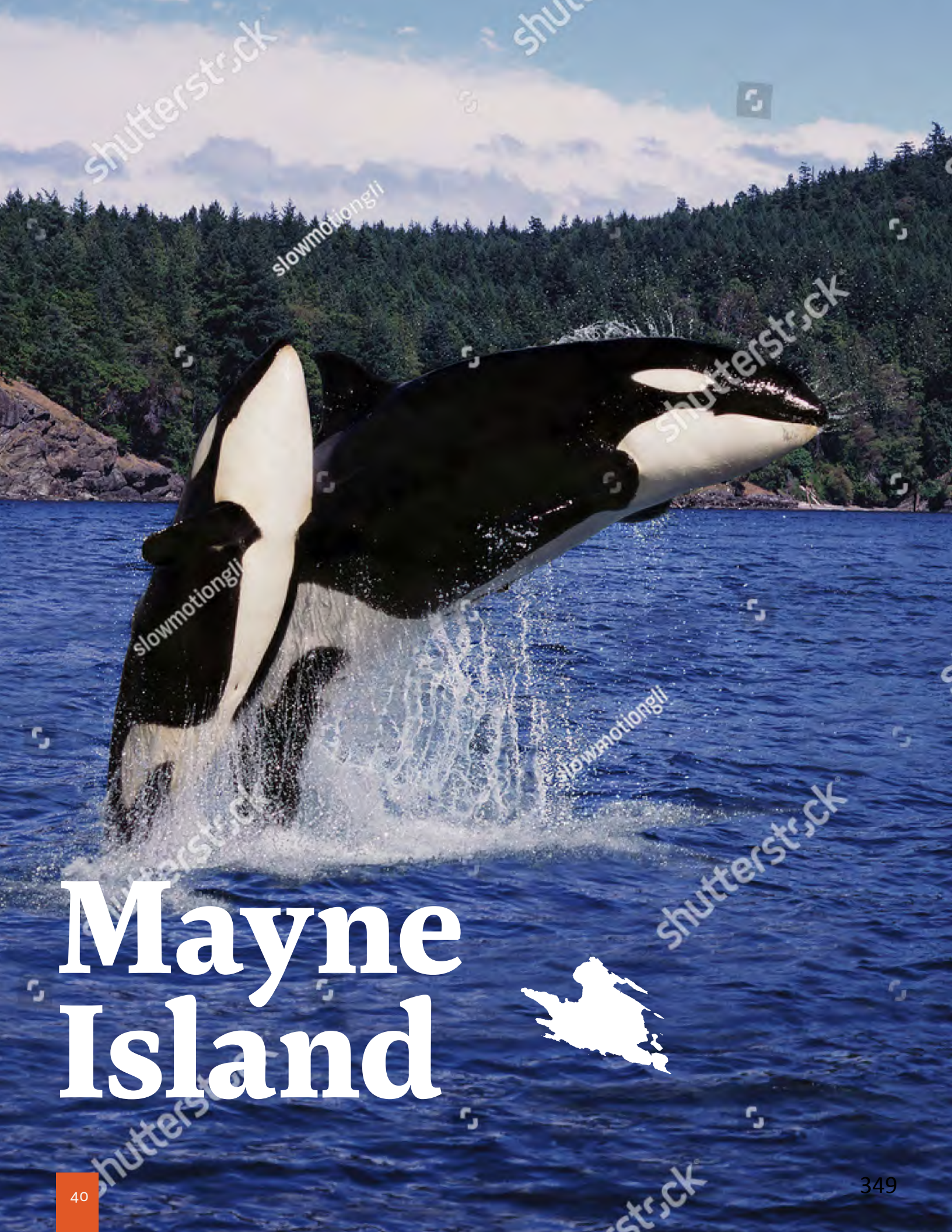
The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) holds various interests on Lasqueti Island that contribute to the protection of several species at risk, including the Northern red-legged frog, common nighthawk, and the coastal wood fern.

Lasqueti's Official Community Plan (OCP) addresses environmental protection through a framework that prioritizes the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and the maintenance of native ecosystems.

Current monitoring indicates that significant gaps remain in documented population data. The Northern red-legged frog was last recorded in 2004, while the common nighthawk was documented in 1993.

These historical records, combined with the lack of updated survey data, underscore the necessity for continued vigilance and the potential need for enhanced habitat identification to support the long-term persistence of these species within the local trust area.





Mayne Island



Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific Southern Resident Population) (<i>Orcinus orca</i> pop. 6)	Endangered		Federal critical habitat		
slender popcornflower (<i>Plagiobothrys tenellus</i>)	Threatened		None known		Last recorded observation 1996 Heck Hill (no plants observed 2010)
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>)	Threatened		Partially protected: regional park, recreational park, DPA		2011: observed
twisted oak moss (<i>Syntrichia laevipila</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve		Observed 2021 (Edith Point)
branched clover (<i>Trifolium dichotomum</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park		Observed 2003 (Georgeson island) and 1980 (Horton Bay)
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: regional park		Last recorded defending 2005, present 2010
Propertius Duskywing (<i>Erynnis propertius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: regional park		Last recorded observation 1995 (Mount Parke)
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a			
Erect Pigmyweed (<i>Crassula connata</i> var. <i>connata</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	None known		
Purple Martin (<i>Progne subis</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a			
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium amplexans</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park		Last recorded observation 1996
Texas toadflax (<i>Nuttallanthus texanus</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a			

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Ecological communities					
Douglas-fir / Alaska oniongrass (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Melica subulata</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park, community park, regional park, nature reserve	↘	n/a
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park, regional park, nature reserve, federal park, recreation park, DPA	↘	n/a
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park, recreation park, nature reserve, federal park, DPA	↘	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) maintains conservation interests on Mayne Island that protect key habitat for species at risk, including the Northern red-legged frog, common nighthawk, and the coastal wood fern.

Mayne Island's Official Community Plan (OCP) formalizes environmental stewardship through a framework designed to protect ecologically sensitive areas and maintain the integrity of natural landscapes. This is implemented through several key regulatory instruments, including:

- Environmental Protection DPA: Established to prevent the harmful alteration of sensitive ecosystems, including those identified as critical habitat for species at risk.
- Riparian and Shoreline DPAs: Regulate land use near watercourses and the marine foreshore to safeguard essential aquatic and coastal habitats from development impacts.

While these tools provide partial protection for identified critical habitat, biological monitoring highlights the need for ongoing vigilance. Observations for the Northern red-legged frog were

last documented in 2005, while the common nighthawk was last recorded in 1993. These historical data points reflect the ongoing challenge of maintaining current information for species at risk and underscore the importance of utilizing the existing DPA framework to protect habitat viability in the absence of recent population records.





North Pender Island

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
batwing vinyl lichen (<i>Scytinium platynum</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	⚠	??	⦿	n/a
coastal Scouler's catchfly, <i>scouleri</i> subspecies (<i>Silene scouleri</i> ssp. <i>Scouleri</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	⚠	NAPTEP covenant	⦿	Observed 2019 (Little D'arcy Island)
contorted-pod evening-primrose (<i>Camissonia contorta</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Federal marine park, federal park	?	Observed 2022 (North Spit James Island), 2021 (Sidney Island), 2015 (Melanie Spit James Island); Powder Jetty James Island likely extirpated (discovered 2004, golf course development removed habitat, no plants observed 2006)
dense spike-primrose (<i>Epilobium densiflorum</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✖	None known	↘*	No plants seen 2003–2004, last recorded observation 1981 (Welcome Cove area now mowed)
Edwards' beach moth (<i>Anarta edwardsii</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: DPA, conservation covenant	↘	
Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific Southern Resident Population) (<i>Orcinus orca</i> pop. 6)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Federal critical habitat	↘	↘
Lindley's microseris (<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: DPA, nature reserve	?	No plants seen 2004, last recorded observation 1996 (Oaks Bluff)
Sand-verbena Moth (<i>Copablepharon fuscum</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Conservation covenant, DPA	↘	Larvae and moths observed 2019, photographed in 2023
Coast manroot (<i>Marah oregana</i>)	Endangered (COSEWIC)	✖	Partially protected: DPA	↘	Observed 2004 (Beddis Rock)

*Possibly extirpated (no plants found since 1981)

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
rigid apple moss (<i>Bartramia aprica</i>)	Endangered (SARA)/ Threatened (COSEWIC)	⚠	Community park, conservation covenant	↘	Observed 2018 (Oaks Bluff)
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: national park reserve	↘	
purple sanicle (<i>Sanicula bipinnatifida</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	⚠	Conservation covenant	↔	Observed 2013 (Little D'arcy Island)
Silky beach pea (<i>Lathyrus littoralis</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	⚠	Federal park	?	Observed 2023, increases in density observed 2021
slender popcorn-flower (<i>Plagiobothrys tenellus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	⚠	Partially protected: community park, DPA	↘	Last recorded observation 1983 Oaks Bluff (no plants found 2012, 2004)
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✖	None known	↘	
Common Sharp-tailed Snake (Pacific coast population) (<i>Contia tenuis</i> pop. 1)	Threatened (COSEWIC)	✓	Partially protected: NAPTEP/conservation covenant, DPA, community park	↘ **	Last recorded observations 2013 (Galleon Way) and 1991 (Port Washington)
foothill sedge (<i>Carex tumulicola</i>)	Endangered (SARA) / Special Concern (COSEWIC)	✓	Federal marine park, federal park	↘ **	Observed 2019 (no longer being tracked by BC CDC)
Georgia Basin Bog Spider (<i>Gnaphosa snohomish</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	National park reserve	?	Observed 1989 (Portland Island)
Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Federal park	↔	Last observed 2008 Hope Bay); Sidney Island colony abandoned (1997)

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Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Northern Red-legged Frog (<i>Rana aurora</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park, DPA	↘	Observed 2004
Wandering Salamander (<i>Aneides vagrans</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	National park reserve	?	Observed 1996 (Portland island)
branched clover (<i>Trifolium dichotomum</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: NAPTEP/conservation covenants, DPA, nature reserve	?	Last recorded observation 1996 (Medicine Beach and Razor Point)
Moss' Elfin, mossi subspecies (<i>Callophrys mossii mossii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	National park reserve	↘	Last recorded observation 1995 (south end Brackman Island)
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA	↔	Last recorded active 2010
Propertius Dusky-wing (<i>Erynnis propertius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA	↘	Last recorded observation 1995 (Oaks Bluff)
American glehnia (<i>Glehnia leiocarpa</i>)	Blue-listed	n/a	Federal park, federal marine park	⦿	Plants observed 2020, seeds scattered and plants transplanted 2021 (Sidney Spit, Sidney island)
beach bindweed (<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>)	Blue-listed	n/a	Federal park, federal marine park	⦿	Observed 2019 (Sidney Island)
black knotweed (<i>Polygonum paronychia</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation covenant	⦿	Observed 2023 (southwest of James Island) 2004 (North Spit James island) and no plants found 2006 (southeast of James Island) due to landscaping with heavy equipment
Brant (<i>Branta bernicla</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a		↘	
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	↗	Last observed 2000 (Mandarte Island)

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Erect Pigmyweed (<i>Crassula connata</i> var. <i>connata</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, community park, nature reserve, LTC covenant, conservation covenant	○	n/a (Oaks Bluff, Rum Island and Sidney Island)
Henderson's checker-mallow (<i>Sidalcea hendersonii</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, conservation covenant, DPA	↘	Observed 2017 (Medicine Beach)
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium amplexans</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park, DPA	○	2006: observed
Tufted Puffin (<i>Fratertula cirrhata</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	↔	Possibly extirpated (not observed since 1991 and 1996)
yellow sand-verbena (<i>Abronia latifolia</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation covenant, federal park, federal marine park	↘	Observed James Island 2004 (west spit), 2006 (a few patches remain after landscaping related to golf-course development East Beach) and 2022 North Spit. Observed Sidney Island (2014)
white-lip rein orchid (<i>Platanthera ephemerantha</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	National park reserve	○	Observed 2007 (Portland island)

Ecological communities

American glass-wort – sea-milk-wort (<i>Salicornia pacifica</i> – <i>Lysimachia maritima</i>)	Red-listed	n/a	Federal park, federal marine park	↘	n/a
Douglas-fir / Alaska oniongrass (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Melica subulata</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation covenant, DPA, federal park, nature reserve, community park, recreation park, conservation covenant, LTC covenant	↘	n/a

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park	↘	n/a
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park, conservation covenant, DPA, community park, recreation park, nature reserve, LTC covenant	↘	n/a
seashore saltgrass Estuarine Marsh – Pacific swampfire (<i>Distichlis spicata</i> – <i>Sarcocornia pacifica</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, conservation covenant, DPA, federal park, federal marine park	↘	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) holds various conservation interests on North Pender Island, which provide protection for several species at risk, including the Northern red-legged frog, common nighthawk, and the coastal wood fern.

North Pender's Official Community Plan (OCP) integrates environmental objectives through a framework dedicated to the protection of sensitive ecosystems and the preservation of natural biodiversity. The primary regulatory tools for implementation include:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) DPA: Designed to identify and protect areas of high biological diversity and sensitive habitat from land-use disturbances.
- Riparian and Shoreline DPAs: Ensure that development activities near watercourses and coastal interfaces maintain the ecological integrity of these vital transition zones.

Existing protections offer at least partial coverage for identified critical habitats; however, biological data suggests significant monitoring gaps. The Northern red-legged frog was last documented in 2005, and the common nighthawk was last recorded in 1993. These historical data points emphasize the importance of leveraging current DPA protections to maintain habitat connectivity, even as recent population confirmations remain limited across the island.



Salt Spring Island



Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
batwing vinyl lichen (<i>Scytinium platynum</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Provincial park, DPA	⊙	n/a
coastal Scouler's catchfly, <i>scouleri</i> subspecies (<i>Silene scouleri</i> ssp. <i>Scouleri</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: conservation covenant, coastal Douglas-fir Land Use order, DPA	⊙	Observed 2018 (Mount Tuam)
Little Brown Myotis (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	⬇	Partially protected: provincial park, ecological reserve, ITC/conservation covenant, DPAs	↔	n/a
Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific Southern Resident Population) (<i>Orcinus orca</i> pop. 6)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Federal critical habitat	↘	Declining
phantom orchid (<i>Cephalanthera austini</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: DPA	Likely declining	Observed 2014 (Mount Tuam) and 2013 (Musgrave Landing)
small-flowered tonella (<i>Tonella tenella</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Provincial park	?	Observed 2015 (Mount Erskine Provincial Park)
white meconella (<i>Meconella oregana</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: DPA, Coastal Douglas-fir Land Use order	↘	No plants found 2012, 2011; last recorded observation 2010 (Mount Tuam)
yellow montane violet (<i>Viola praemorsa</i> var. <i>praemorsa</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: provincial park, ecological reserve, conservation covenant, DPA, coastal Douglas-fir land use order	↘	Observed 2018 (Mount Tuam) and 2017 (Mount Maxwell)
Coast manroot (<i>Marah oregana</i>)	Endangered (COSEWIC)	✖	Partially protected: DPAs, conservation covenant	↘	Observed 2018 (Fulford Harbour)

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Hoary Bat (<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>)	Endangered (COSEWIC)		Partially protected: provincial park, ecological reserve, ITC/conservation covenant, DPAs		n/a
rigid apple moss (<i>Bartramia aprica</i>)	Endangered (SARA) / Threatened (COSEWIC)		Partially protected: DPA, nature reserve, coastal Douglas-fir land use order, ecological reserve		Observed 2018 (Mount maxwell)
Barn owl, western population (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	Threatened (SARA)		Partially protected: provincial park, DPAs		n/a
Dun Skipper (<i>Euphyes vestris</i>)	Threatened (SARA)		Partially protected: provincial park, DPA		2007-2009: observed
butterfly bearing lomatium (<i>Lomatium papilioniferum</i>)	Threatened (SARA)		DPA, ecological reserve, provincial park		Observed 2018 (Mount Maxwell) and 2010 (Maxwell Point)
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)		Partially protected: National park, DPA		n/a
Common Sharp-tailed Snake (Pacific coast population) (<i>Contia tenuis</i> pop. 1)	Threatened (COSEWIC)		Partially protected: DPA, coastal Douglas-fir land use order, ecological reserve, conservation covenant, community park, recreation park		Observed 2023 (Monteith Drive Park, Mount Tuam) 2016 (Reginald Hill) 2014-2015 (Isabella Point) 1998 (Ganges)
slender popcorn-flower (<i>Plagiobothrys tenellus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)		Partially protected: coastal Douglas-fir land use order, conservation covenant, DPA	Possibly extirpated (no plants found since 1980)	Last recorded observation 1980 Mount Tuam (not seen over many years of surveys, ending in 2020)
Western Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>)	Threatened (SARA)		Partially protected: DPA		Observed 2019 (Ganges Creek, no longer being tracked)

* COSEWIC assessment

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Painted Turtle – Pacific Coast Population (<i>Chrysemys picta</i> pop. 1)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: community park, Coastal Douglas-fir land use order, DPAs	?	Observed 2016 (Cusheon lake) and 2017 (Bullocks Lake)
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies (<i>Me-gascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✖	Partially protected: provincial park, ecological reserve, conservation covenant, DPA, community park, nature reserve	↘	2021: pairs detected
Macoun's meadow-foam (<i>Limnanthes macounii</i>)	Threatened (SARA) / Special Concern (COSEWIC)	✓	Partially protected: provincial park	↘	Observed 2022 (Beaver Point, Ruckle Provincial Park); Extirpated Eleanor Point (2003)
banded cord-moss (<i>Entosthodon fascicularis</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, conservation covenant, ecological reserve	?	Observed 2014 (Mount Tuam) 2006 (Parminster Point Mount maxwell) 2005 (Isabella Point Vesuvius landing)
Great blue heron (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, community park, DPA	↔	Ganges rookery active 2014; no nests found Southey Point (1997) and McFadden Creek (2006)
Northern Red-legged Frog (<i>Rana aurora</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation covenant, DPA, nature reserve, provincial park, Coastal Douglas-fir land use order, regional park	↘	Observed 2004 (Vesuvius Bay), 2011 (South Central), and 1996 (south end)
peacock vinyl (<i>Scytinium polycarpum</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a		? *	n/a

* COSEWIC assessment

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Threaded Vertigo (<i>Vertigo rowellii</i> sp. 1)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, community park, watershed protection, nature reserve, coastal Douglas-fir land use order	?	Observed 2015 (McFadden Creek Nature Sanctuary), 2014 (Mount Erskine), 2013 (Musgrave Landing), 2012 (Duck Creek), 2011 (St. Mary lake Watershed Nature Reserve, Cusheon lake, Mount Tuam), 2010 (Mouat Park, Reginald Hill), and Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve (no date)
twisted oak moss (<i>Syntrichia laevipila</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Provincial park, DPA, ecological reserve	↔	Observed 2018 (Mount Maxwell Ecological Reserve) and 2007 (Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park)
Wandering Salamander (<i>Aneides vagrans</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, watershed protection, community park	?	Last recorded observation 1985
branched clover (<i>Trifolium dichotomum</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA	?	Last recorded observation 1996 (Vesuvius Bay)
Common Wood-nymph, <i>incana</i> subspecies (<i>Cercyonis pegala incana</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, conservation covenant, watershed protection, ecological reserve, DPA	↘	Observed 2005 (Fernwood), 2013-2015 (Ganges) and 2017 (Mount Tuam)
fern-leaved desert-parsley (<i>Lomatium dissectum</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Ecological reserve	⦿	Observed 2016 (Mount Maxwell)
Howell's violet (<i>Viola howellii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, conservation covenant	⦿	Observed North End Road (no date)

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Moss' Elfin, mossi subspecies (<i>Callophrys mossii mossii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, Ecological reserve	↘	Observed 2023 (Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve) and 2005 (south east location)
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Provincial park	↔	Last recorded active 2010
Propertius Duskywing (<i>Erynnis propertius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Conservation covenant, Coastal douglas-fir land use order, ecological reserve, provincial park, DPA	↘	Observed 2006 (Fulford Harbour), 2004 (Lake Maxwell) and 1995 (Mount Tuam)
wine-cup clarkia (<i>Clarkia purpurea</i> spp. <i>quadrivulnera</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Provincial park, ecological reserve, DPA, coastal Douglas-fir land use order	?	Observed 2020 (Parminster Point) 2016 (Mount maxwell) 2013 (Mount Tuam)
Zerene fritillary (<i>Speyeria zerene bremnerii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a		↔	
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a		↗	Last observed 2000 (Shoal Islands)
Erect Pigmyweed (<i>Crassula connata</i> var. <i>connata</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA	⦿	
giant chain fern (<i>Woodwardia fimbriata</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: coastal Douglas-fir land use order, DPA	↘	Observed 2014 (Musgrave Point)
leafless winter-green (<i>Pyrola aphylla</i>)	Yellow-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, conservation covenant, nature reserve, provincial park, coastal douglas-fir land use order, watershed protection, ecological reserve	⦿	Observed 2014 (Mount Tuam, Musgrave Landing) 2015 (Mount Erskine, St. Mary's Lake) 2016 (Mount maxwell)

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Northern pygmy-owl (<i>Glaucidium gnoma swarthi</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Coastal Douglas-fir land use order	↘	Observed 2012 (Bruce Peak)
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium amplexans</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, Community park, ecological reserve, provincial park	⦿	Observed 2016 (Parminster Point and Baynes Peak), 2015 (Reginald Hill) and 2003 (Isabella Island)
Surf Scoter (<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA	?	Last recorded observation 1978 (Ganges Harbour)
Townsend's Big-eared Bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, ecological reserve, ITC/conservation covenant, DPAs	?	n/a
white-lip rein orchid (<i>Platanthera ephemerantha</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, Coastal Douglas-fir land use order	⦿	Observed 2015 (Mussgrave Point)
Yuma Myotis (<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, ecological reserve, ITC/conservation covenant, DPAs	↔	n/a
Oregon ash (<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>)	Unranked (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, community park, conservation covenant	?	Last recorded observation 1996 (Kingfisher Cove)

Ecological communities

Arbutus / hairy manzanita (<i>Arbutus menziesii</i> / <i>Arctostaphylos columbiana</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Coastal Douglas-fir land use order, regional park, ecological reserve, conservation covenant, DPA	?	n/a
Douglas-fir / Alaska oniongrass (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Melica subulata</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, ecological reserve, conservation covenant, nature reserve, Coastal Douglas-fir land use order, provincial park, regional park	↘	n/a

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Douglas-fir – arbutus (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> – <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: provincial park, DPA, watershed protection, ecological reserve, conservation covenant	↘	n/a
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation covenant, ecological reserve, provincial park, coastal douglas-fir land use order, regional park, community park, DPA, LTC covenant, watershed protection	↘	n/a
Garry oak / California brome (<i>Quercus garryana</i> / <i>Bromus carinatus</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, watershed protection, community park, conservation covenant, nature reserve, coastal douglas-fir land use order, provincial park, community park	↘	n/a
Garry oak / oceanspray (<i>Quercus garryana</i> / <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Nature reserve, DPA	⦿	n/a
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, ecological reserve, provincial park, community park, conservation covenant, nature reserve, watershed protection, regional park, coastal douglas-fir land use order	↘	n/a
Red alder / slough sedge [black cottonwood] (<i>Alnus rubra</i> / <i>Carex obnupta</i> [<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>])	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Nature reserve, DPA	↘	n/a

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
seashore saltgrass Estuarine Marsh – Pacific swampfire (<i>Distichlis spicata</i> – <i>Sarcocornia pacifica</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	↘	n/a
slender sedge – white beak-rush (<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> – <i>Rhynchospora alba</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Coastal douglas-fir land use order, regional park, watershed protection, nature reserve, provin- cial protected area	?	n/a
trembling aspen / Pacific crab apple / slough sedge (<i>Populus tremuloi- des</i> / <i>Malus fusca</i> / <i>Carex obnupta</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: nature reserve, DPA	?	n/a
western redcedar / black twinberry (<i>Thuja plicata</i> / <i>Lonicera involucra- ta</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, Watershed pro- tection, conservation covenant, coastal douglas-fir land use order, provincial pro- tected area, provincial park, regional park	↘	n/a
western redcedar / salmonberry (<i>Thuja plicata</i> / <i>Rubus spectabilis</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, conservation covenant, watershed protection, provincial park, nature reserve, coastal douglas-fir land use order, regional park	↘	n/a
western redcedar / vanilla-leaf (<i>Thuja plicata</i> / <i>Achlys triphylla</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: ecological reserve, DPA, conservation covenant	↘	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) maintains significant conservation holdings on Salt Spring Island, providing foundational protection for an extensive array of species at risk, including the Western screech-owl, Northern red-legged frog, common nighthawk, coastal wood fern, sharp-tailed snake, and the Garry oak/California brome ecosystem.

Salt Spring Island's Official Community Plan (OCP) integrates environmental stewardship through a robust regulatory framework. The local trust committee utilizes several Development Permit Areas (DPAs) to manage development and safeguard ecological values:

- Fish-bearing Stream DPA: Regulates development to maintain the integrity of riparian and aquatic habitats.
- Shoreline DPA: Manages land use along the marine foreshore to protect intertidal and coastal ecosystems.
- Sensitive Ecosystems DPA: Provides comprehensive oversight for areas designated as ecologically significant or sensitive to disturbance.

While existing regulatory tools offer at least partial protection for identified critical habitat, biological monitoring indicates varying levels of documentation for species at risk. Observations for the Northern red-legged frog were last recorded in 2005, and the common nighthawk was documented in 1993. The sharp-tailed snake has not been officially recorded on the island since 1982, and Western screech-owl records date back to 1989. These historical data points highlight the ongoing challenge of maintaining current information and the continued importance of applying stringent DPA standards to protect potential habitat for these vulnerable species.



Saturna Island

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
California buttercup (<i>Ranunculus californicus</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✖	Partially protected: federal park, DPA, community park	?	Observed 2005 (Trueworthy Bight)
Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific Southern Resident Population) (<i>Orcinus orca</i> pop. 6)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Federal critical habitat	↘	Declining
Lindley's microseris (<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: DPA	?	Observed 2004
white meconella (<i>Meconella oregana</i>)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: DPA, federal park	↘	Last recorded observation 1987; no plants found 2005, 2004, 1997 (Mount Warburton Pike)
purple sanicle (<i>Sanicula bipinnatifida</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: DPA	↔	Observed 2020 (Brown Ridge); last recorded observation for East Point 1984 (no plants found 1995)
slender popcornflower (<i>Plagiobothrys tenellus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: federal park, DPA, nature reserve	↘	Observed 2021 (Mount Warburton Pike)
banded cord-moss (<i>Entosthodon fascicularis</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park, DPA	?	Last recorded observation 1997 (Mount Warburton Pike)
Georgia Basin Bog Spider (<i>Gnaphosa snohomish</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	National park reserve	?	Observed 1989 (Cabbage Island, Tumbo Island)
Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies (<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park	↔	Last recorded observation 2010
Northern Red-legged Frog (<i>Rana aurora</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park, watershed protection	↘	Observed 2004 (Lyll Creek)
Steller Sea Lion (<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	National park reserve	↗	Last recorded observation 2002

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
Threaded Vertigo (<i>Vertigo rowellii</i> sp. 1)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Federal park	?	Observed 2009 (Winter cove)
branched clover (<i>Trifolium dichotomum</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park, DPA	?	Observed (single plant) 2021 (Mount Warburton Pike)
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation lands, DPA	↔	Last recorded active 2010
wine-cup clarkia (<i>Clarkia purpurea</i> spp. <i>quadrivulnera</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park, DPA	?	Observed 2006 (Mount Warburton Pike)
Cutthroat trout, <i>clarkii</i> subspecies (<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Likely partially protected in national park reserve	⦿	
Erect Pigmyweed (<i>Crassula connata</i> var. <i>connata</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park	⦿	Observed 2017 (East Point Regional Park) and Tumbo Island (no date)
slimleaf onion (<i>Allium amplexans</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Federal park, watershed protection, nature reserve	⦿	Last recorded observation 1980 (Samuel Island) and 1996 (Boot Cove)
Two-edged water starwort (<i>Callitriche heterophylla</i> var. <i>heterophylla</i>)	Yellow-listed (CDC)	n/a	Federal park	⦿	
Ecological communities					
Douglas-fir / Alaska oniongrass (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Melica subulata</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: Federal park, Nature Reserve, DPA	↘	n/a
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: National park reserve, DPA, conservation lands	↘	n/a

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site trend
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: DPA, Conservation covenant, federal park, community park, watershed protection, nature reserve	↘	n/a
seashore saltgrass Estuarine Marsh – Pacific swampfire (<i>Distichlis spicata</i> – <i>Sarcocornia pacifica</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park	↘	n/a
western redcedar – Douglas-fir / Oregon beaked-moss (<i>Thuja plicata</i> – <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Kindbergia oregana</i>)		Partially protected: National park reserve, DPA, conservation lands	Partially protected: federal park, DPA	↘	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) holds various conservation interests on Saturna Island that contribute to the protection of several species at risk, including the Northern red-legged frog, common nighthawk, and the coastal wood fern.

Saturna Island's Official Community Plan (OCP) formalizes environmental stewardship through a framework designed to protect ecologically sensitive areas and maintain the integrity of natural landscapes. This is implemented through a robust set of Development Permit Areas (DPAs), including:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas DPA: Established to prevent the harmful alteration or destruction of areas with high biological diversity and sensitive native plant and animal habitats.

- Riparian and Shoreline DPAs: Regulate land use near watercourses and along the marine foreshore to protect riparian buffers and the functionality of coastal ecosystems.

While these regulatory tools provide at least partial protection for identified critical habitat, biological monitoring highlights the need for ongoing vigilance. Observations for the Northern red-legged frog were last documented in 2005, while the common nighthawk was last recorded in 1993. These historical records underscore the importance of maintaining up-to-date inventory data and ensuring the consistent application of DPA standards to protect habitat viability for these vulnerable species.

South Pender Island



Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
Killer Whale (North-east Pacific Southern Resident Population) (<i>Orcinus orca</i> pop. 6)	Endangered (SARA)	✓	Federal critical habitat	↘	Declining
coast manroot (<i>Marah oregana</i>)	Endangered (COSEWIC)	⬇	None known	↘*	Last recorded observation 1964 (Gowlland Point; potential observation 2004 but single plant trampled)
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	Partially protected: national park reserve	↘	
slender popcornflower (<i>Plagiobothrys tenellus</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	✓	National park reserve	Possibly extirpated (no plants found since 1980)	Last recorded observation 1980 Mount Norman (no plants observed 2012)
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>)	Threatened (SARA)	⬇	Partially protected: federal park	↘	2021: nesting pair observed
Common Sharp-tailed Snake (Pacific coast population) (<i>Contia tenuis</i> pop. 1)	Threatened (COSEWIC)	⬇	Partially protected: federal park, regional park	↘**	Observed 2022 (Greenburn Lake)
Moss' Elfin, mossi subspecies (<i>Callophrys mossii mossii</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park	↘	Observed 2007 (Southern Gulf Islands National Park Reserve)
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: national park reserve	↔	Last recorded active 2010
Two-edged water starwort (<i>Callitriche heterophylla</i> var. <i>heterophylla</i>)	Yellow-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known	⦿	

* Possibly extirpated (no plants seen since 1964)

** COSEWIC assessment report

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
Ecological communities					
American glasswort – sea-milkwort (<i>Salicornia pacifica</i> – <i>Lysimachia maritima</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park	?	n/a
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: federal park, community park, DPA	↘	n/a
grand fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: community park, federal park, regional park	↘	n/a
seashore saltgrass Estuarine Marsh – Pacific swampfire (<i>Distichlis spicata</i> – <i>Sarcocornia pacifica</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: regional park	↘	n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) holds various conservation interests on South Pender Island that provide critical protection for species at risk, including the Northern red-legged frog, common nighthawk, and the coastal wood fern.

South Pender Island's Official Community Plan (OCP) integrates environmental objectives through a framework dedicated to the protection of sensitive ecosystems and the preservation of natural biodiversity. The primary regulatory tools for implementation include:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) DPA: Designed to identify and protect areas of high biological diversity and sensitive habitat from land-use disturbances.
- Riparian and Shoreline DPAs: Ensure that development activities near watercourses and coastal interfaces maintain the ecological integrity of these vital transition zones.

Existing protections offer at least partial coverage for identified critical habitats; however, biological data suggests significant monitoring gaps. The Northern red-legged frog was last documented in 2005, and the common nighthawk was last recorded in 1993. These historical data points emphasize the importance of leveraging current DPA protections to maintain habitat connectivity, even as recent population confirmations remain limited across the island.





Thetis Island

Species	Listing (Organization)	Critical Habitat	Land Use Protection	BC Trend	Site Trend
Edwards' beach moth (<i>Anarta edwardsii</i>)	Endangered (SARA)		None known		Last recorded observation 1971
Lindley's microseris (<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>)	Endangered (SARA)		Partially protected: community park		Observed 2014 (southwest side Ruxton Island)
Island Tiger Moth (<i>Apantesis complicata</i>)	Threatened (COSEWIC)		Partially protected: conservation covenant, nature reserve		Last recorded observation 1975
Wandering Salamander (<i>Aneides vagrans</i>)	Special Concern (SARA)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation covenant, nature reserve		Last recorded observations 1989-1996
Common Wood-nymph, <i>incana</i> subspecies (<i>Cercyonis pegala incana</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known		Observed 2010
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum/ tundrius</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known		Last recorded active 2004, 2010, 2012
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	Ecological reserve		Last observed 2000 (Rose Islets)
Erect Pigmyweed (<i>Crassula connata</i> var. <i>connata</i>)	Blue-listed (CDC)	n/a	None known		Last recorded observation 1998 (Tree Island and north end Valdes Island)
Townsend's Big-eared Bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)	Blue-Listed (CDC)	n/a	Nature reserve		Last observed 1997
Ecological communities					
Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>)	Red-listed (CDC)	n/a	Partially protected: conservation covenant, nature reserve		n/a

LOCAL CONTEXT:

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) maintains significant conservation interests on Thetis Island, which serve as foundational protection for various species at risk, including the Northern red-legged frog, common nighthawk, and the coastal wood fern.

Thetis Island's Official Community Plan (OCP) integrates environmental stewardship through dedicated policies for the protection of watercourses, wetlands, and sensitive marine ecosystems. These conservation objectives are supported by a suite of Development Permit Areas (DPAs) aimed at mitigating development-related impacts on sensitive terrain, including:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas DPA: Provides regulatory oversight to protect fragile ecosystems from land-use disturbances.
- Riparian and Shoreline DPAs: Regulate activities near sensitive water bodies and coastal interfaces to maintain ecological integrity.
- Steep Slopes DPA: Manages development in high-risk terrain to prevent habitat fragmentation and erosion.

While these regulatory tools provide at least partial protection for identified critical habitat, biological monitoring reveals significant gaps in recent documentation. The Northern red-legged frog was last recorded in 2005, and the common nighthawk was last documented in 1993. These historical records highlight the need for continued habitat preservation and updated inventory data to ensure the efficacy of existing DPA protections in supporting these species.





Terms of Reference¹

Professional Environmental Assessment Reports for Planning Services

The purpose of this document is to describe the requirements for Professional Environmental Assessment reports that may be required as part of the development approval process pursuant to s.29 of the *Islands Trust Act* and s.487 of the *Local Government Act*. The Terms of Reference (TOR) is intended to outline the scope of work required by Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEPs) or Registered Professional Biologists. For each application, the officer or employee of Islands Trust authorized by the relevant Development Approval Information bylaw determines the requirements for a Environmental Assessment (EA) report.

Environmental Assessment reports identify significant environmental values to ensure they are protected to the extent possible prior to any proposed site disturbance. The assessment must reference applicable Development Permit Area Guidelines.

Professional Standards:

1. Reports are to be prepared, signed and sealed by a Registered Professional Biologist or QEP. The assessment report must identify the applicant who requested the report.
2. All documents submitted must include a title, the author of the document, and the date, including any subsequent revision dates.
3. The report must be consistent with the relevant development approval information bylaw, provincial and federal legislation, and best practices. Specifically:
 - a. Any work within 30m of a stream (as defined in the regulation) requires a Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR) report approved by the Province, and,
 - b. Any work in and about a stream requires either notification or authorization under the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA).
4. The report must describe the site conditions prior to the proposed disturbance, including any previous site disturbance, and the anticipated site conditions post development.
5. The report must take into consideration off-site developments (both existing and those permitted by current regulation) and the impact these developments may have on the subject property.

¹ Based on Terms of Reference Professional Reports for Planning Services 2014 Regional District of Central Okanagan; Standardized Terms of Reference for Professional Reports and Technical Studies 2015 City of West Kelowna; Develop with Care 2014 Province of British Columbia; Islands Trust Area Development Approval Information Bylaws

6. Methods must be repeatable and results based on agency and/or scientific standards appropriate to the landscape being assessed. The level of effort in terms of personnel and time spent on site evaluations must be clearly stated including the time of year and length of site evaluations. Seasonal site conditions likely to be absent during the period of evaluation need to be documented and assessed by alternative methods.
7. Site visits are to be conducted during the appropriate time of year to determine species presence/absence and when the ecological features of interest are best observed. Site inspections should be completed during different seasons, especially during the “wet season” to assess surface flows and presence of seasonal or ephemeral features and the growing season to identify wildflower species and insect presence.
8. All images and data sources are to be referenced with a clear indication of the date to demonstrate that the most up-to-date information available was used to complete the assessment.
9. All new and/or updated information on sensitive ecosystems and species and ecosystems at risk will be provided to the appropriate groups and agencies, such as the BC Conservation Data Centre.

Deliverables

1. A summary of pre-existing information on the site collected by government agencies or in the published literature will be gathered, assessed and presented, including current site conditions such as biological integrity.
2. Gaps in the existing information will be clearly identified and the best ways to fill these information gaps will be stated. Additional fieldwork may be required to fill the information gaps and reach the desired level of information to conduct the assessment. Information gaps may be filled from local knowledge sought from other interested parties including current and past owners, neighbours, local Conservancies (or other environmental or naturalist groups), First Nations, and other local groups.
3. Where (data is?) incomplete or surmised, the level of confidence or reliability in the environmental knowledge will be assessed and documented. Knowledge gaps required for an assessment that could not be filled will be assessed and the impact of a lack of such knowledge will be documented.
4. A summary of all field assessments completed to meet the policy and regulatory requirements and to identify impacts on the environment is to be provided.

5. A site plan professionally prepared at an appropriate scale, based on a legal survey, is to be included, which delineates (if applicable):
 - the proposed development, including the full construction envelope, and associated features;
 - the development permit area boundary, site access and staging areas;
 - current and proposed buildings and any other structures;
 - signage and all supporting infrastructure;
 - roads, driveways, vehicular and bicycle parking areas and loading areas;
 - pedestrian pathways or sidewalks;
 - proposed site grading and post development contours;
 - topographic features (showing natural slope contours at appropriate intervals); and,
 - significant features (including raptor nest trees) identified in the site inventory and conservation evaluation.
6. Site profiles and cross sections demonstrating terrain conditions prior to disturbance and intended conditions post development shall be included where development would occur on slopes exceeding 20% grade.
7. For applications for sites with Riparian Areas, the assessment must include locations of the top of bank, high water mark, Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA) widths, the width of any zones of sensitivity and measures to maintain the integrity of the SPEAs.
8. For applications for sites within Shoreline and Marine areas, the assessment must include the natural boundary of the sea, the landward development permit area boundary (if applicable), and any existing and proposed clearances of piers from the natural boundary and dock clearances from the foreshore.
9. For applications for sites with Lakes, Streams and Wetlands, the assessment must include location of any existing and proposed sewage installation or groundwater wells, location of the top of bank, and location of natural boundary of the lake(s), stream(s) and wetlands.
10. For sites that have streams present, the report must include:
 - a description and evaluation of the riparian values (including species of fish that frequent the waterbody);
 - riparian features and habitat present;
 - biological function of the riparian zone;
 - stream magnitude; and,
 - values of connected downstream habitat.
11. Where wetlands, riparian areas, and woodlands exist within the development area, measures to ensure that proper hydrological function is maintained must be

included. Information on how the site will maintain normal wetland and water processes post development must be demonstrated.

12. A site inventory, commenting on the ecosystem classification, and based on current best practices, such as the Resources Information Standards Committee Standards for Describing Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Field, providing information on:
 - the existing, pre-development plant communities;
 - aquatic, marine and terrestrial habitats;
 - sensitive ecosystems;
 - nesting trees;
 - the presence of rare species and rare plant communities;
 - natural areas known to be important in the life cycle of one or more indigenous species;
 - current on-site and adjacent land uses;
 - slope stability;
 - erosional processes;
 - hydrology;
 - topography;
 - any aquatic sediment transport (including in the marine environment); and,
 - flood potential.
13. Contiguity to other environmentally sensitive areas, edge effects, and relation/dependence of ecosystems beyond the boundaries of the site must be included.
14. Site suitability for rare species, any critical or specialized habitat features, species diversity, habitat complexity, habitat potential and/or rarity in the local or regional context must be included.
15. If species at risk are known or suspected to potentially use the site, a species-specific inventory conducted in the appropriate season by an appropriately qualified professional will be required.
16. The ability to tolerate anthropogenic disturbances, resilience to imposed stresses on an ecosystem, potential for rehabilitation or recovery after disturbance, long-term impacts on habitat values and ecosystem functionality and the severity or extent of the proposed disturbance must be provided.
17. Ecosystems should be described in terms of successional stage, areal extent and degree of disturbance (from erosion, trails, roads and invasive plant species).
18. The identification of significant natural features and any existing buffers around sensitive areas are required.

19. A statement regarding the rarity and uniqueness of the particular habitat as it relates to the remaining habitat within the Islands Trust area and the coastal region, including historical loss, must be provided.
20. A Cumulative Effects Analysis will consider surrounding lands and their uses and impacts. While site level environmental impacts may appear to be small, cumulative effects of the same nature on adjacent land, or all similarly-zoned land, or all land with similar future generalized use, may be large or even extreme.
21. The report must include a monitoring plan to observe and evaluate the environmental works identified in the assessment. Measurable parameters that will establish whether the development has caused impacts or that mitigation was actually achieved and successful are to be provided.
22. Recommended measures to avoid, limit, mitigate and manage the impacts of the proposed development on environmentally valuable features must be included, such as buffers and protective fencing. Confirmation that the provincial Environmental Mitigation Procedures have been followed is required.
23. The report must describe mitigation measures and their anticipated effectiveness in maintaining the health, form and function of environmentally valuable features. Where applicable, these measures should include:
 - site and route selection;
 - project scheduling;
 - project designs (equipment selection, placement, emissions abatement measures); and,
 - construction and operation procedures and practices.
24. Standard mitigation, best management practices (BMPs), environmental management plans, environmental protection plans, contingency plans, emergency response plans and other general practices assumed or proposed to be implemented by the applicant must be clearly stated in the report.
25. Recommended actions to restore or enhance ecosystem functions or habitat that have been degraded prior to development or that would be impacted by the proposed development. All mitigation, restoration, and compensation prescriptions will include clearly articulated performance standards that are based on the best available science. Approach the Island Trust Conservancy and local stewardship groups/conservation organizations for advice on restoration and enhancement opportunities and techniques.
26. If avoidance or mitigation measures are not likely to be effective, the recommendation should be that the development be re-designed or relocated away from Sensitive Ecosystems, other significant habitat, and/or species of interest.

Incomplete or Deficient Reports

If it is determined that a report is incomplete or deficient, the applicant will be notified in writing of the nature of the deficiencies and the timeframe to resubmit the corrected report.

DRAFT

Islands Trust Natural Environment Development Permit Area

Purpose

The purpose of the Natural Environment Development Permit Area is to establish objectives and guidelines to protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas, ecosystems and biological diversity, including critical habitat, ecosystems at risk, and the habitat for species at risk.

Designation

In accordance with Section 488(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act*, all lands within the boundaries of the Islands Trust Area are designated as a development permit area for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

This Natural Environment Development Permit Area applies to the following Environmentally Sensitive Areas:

1. Freshwater Aquatic Ecosystems
 - a. Any development within 30 metres of the natural boundary of a freshwater aquatic ecosystem.
2. Terrestrial Sensitive Areas:
 - a. Areas designated under the provincial Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory categories, such as cliff, herbaceous, mature forest, older forest, riparian, seasonally flooded, wetland and woodland.
3. At-risk species and ecological communities:
 - a. Including, but not limited to, species listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), assessed as at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and species and ecological communities provincially designated as red- or blue-listed.
4. Marine shorelines:
 - a. Any development within 30 metres horizontal distance of the high water mark of the ocean.

Objectives

- Protect the natural environment, its ecosystems and other areas of ecological sensitivity, wildlife and other important habitats and biological diversity from potential development impacts.
- Protect rare and endangered ecosystems, ecological communities and species.
- Maintain ecosystem connectivity.
- Restore and enhance lost or degraded ecosystems and ecosystem functions.
- Promote and encourage ecological resilience in the natural environment to respond to climate change.
- Protect against flooding, erosion and sea level rise in ways that preserve environmental, cultural and recreational values.
- Establish procedures and guidelines for restoration environmentally sensitive lands damaged by unauthorized development.
- Manage the introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Ensure that ecosystem protection and enhancement values are elevated and prioritized in the development design and review process, and specify where and how lands are developed around environmentally sensitive areas.
- Meet and generally exceed the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR) requirements.
- Provide comprehensive environmental protection guidelines that are scientifically rigorous, clear, and transparent to development applicants and the greater community.

Exemptions

A Natural Environment Development Permit will not be required when:

- The property has a covenant registered under the *Land Title Act*, which protects the entire environmentally sensitive area, all conditions in the covenant have been met, and the proposed development will not affect any portion of the environmentally sensitive area; or
- The land is not environmentally sensitive and the natural feature is no longer present due to previously approved development and cannot be restored. To determine whether the proposed development qualified for this exemption, applicants will be required to provide a report on the condition of the environmentally sensitive area, prepared by a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio); or

- Development activity occurs outside the environmentally sensitive area, and which appropriately protects and buffers any environmentally sensitive area on the property; or
- Emergency works or procedures that are necessary to prevent, control or reduce flooding, erosion or other immediate threats to life or property, including emergency flood or erosion control works; or
- The removal of hazardous trees that present an immediate danger to the safety of persons or will damage public or private property, as determined by an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) with Tree Risk Assessor Certification (TRAC), provided a tree risk assessment report is provided to Islands Trust including the proposed tree replacement following provincial criteria and removal is in accordance with the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, *Water Sustainability Act*, *Wildlife Act* and *Fisheries Act*; or
- The activity proposed on the site will not impact the environmentally sensitive area and the activity relates solely to normal farm practices in accordance with the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* and the landowner follows other requirements or regulations listed in the Act; or
- The development activity involves forest management on lands subject to the *Forest Act* or *Private Managed Forest Land Act*; or
- Renovations, repair and maintenance to existing buildings, structures and utilities provided the structure remains on its existing foundation, does not extend the structure footprint either horizontally or vertically beyond its pre-existing condition, and is in compliance with the *Local Government Act*; or
- The activity proposed is for restoration only, including hand removal of invasive plants or noxious weeds on a small scale with appropriate disposal methods and the planting and maintenance of native trees, shrubs or ground cover for the purpose of restoring or enhancing habitat values and/or soil stability. A restoration plan prepared by a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) must be provided to Islands Trust prior to these activities taking place.

Guidelines

General

- No alteration of land, disturbance of vegetation, movement of soils or other disturbance of land or water, or subdivision of land within the DPA may be undertaken without:
 - A Development Permit issued under these guidelines; and
 - Strict compliance to the terms of such a Development Permit.