

Species at Risk

American Badger

Taxidea taxus jeffersonii



STATUS

The American Badger is protected under the federal *Species at Risk Act* as an Endangered species. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has recommended they be split into two populations, with the British Columbian population recommended for protection as Endangered.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION

The American Badger can be found all around western North America. In Canada, the *jeffersonii* subspecies is only found in the dry interior of southern B.C. Habitat requirements are not fully understood but can be generalized to areas with frail soil for burrowing by badgers as well as the mammals upon which they prey. Natural habitats include grasslands, forest clearings, deserts and burned areas; human-made habitats include agriculture fields, golf courses and clear-cuts. Suitable habitat in B.C. is declining mostly due to urbanization and intensive agriculture such as orchards.

HABITAT FEATURES (BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES)

American Badgers require habitat with the following biophysical attributes:

- Open habitat areas (including deserts, grasslands, forest clearings, alpine areas, agricultural fields, road rights-of-way, golf courses, and clear-cuts); and
- Frail soil, suitable for badgers to burrow in and find prey (small mammals).

CRITICAL HABITAT RANGE

Badgers are commonly found open habitats, whether natural or man-made, in valley bottom elevations from the east slopes of the Coast mountains eastward through British Columbia. A map of habitat range is currently unavailable.



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CRITICAL HABITAT FEATURE LINK TO BC AGRICULTURAL BMPs

This table identifies which Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) may be applicable; other stewardship actions may also be possible.

Habitat biophysical attributes	Activity that would destroy critical habitat	Agricultural BMP for protection or enhancement of habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open habitat areas 	Land conversion for human development (e.g. housing and urban areas, logging, agriculture) in core or connectivity critical habitat. <i>How activity would destroy critical habitat:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results in direct loss or degradation of habitat (e.g. soil compaction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance grassland and open woodland Locate new roads and infrastructure outside of critical habitat areas BMPs 2006-0601 2006-0602 2006-1002 2006-1003 2006-2001 2006-2101 2006-2104 2006-2107 2006-2203 2018/2019-0601 2018/2019-3001 2018/2019-1002 2018/2019-1003 2018/2019-1004
	Development and/or maintenance or modification of transportation and service corridor infrastructure (e.g. road building, expansion, upgrading or installation of impassable barriers). <i>How activity would destroy critical habitat:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results in increase risk of road mortality Results in direct loss of habitat 	
	Installation of impassable barriers (e.g., multi-lane roads with no culverts). <i>How activity would destroy critical habitat:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of impassable barriers leads to elimination of access between foraging, dispersal, and breeding habitats, which results in loss of habitat function and reduced gene flow 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frail soil, suitable for badgers to burrow in and find prey (small mammals) 	Repeatedly driving or walking over exposed earth can lead to soil compaction. <i>How activity would destroy critical habitat:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil compaction can make burrowing and hunting difficult or impossible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there are loose non-compacted soils where farm vehicles do not drive. When unavoidable, concentrate vehicle movement to designated routes or relocate infrastructure to minimize generalized compaction. BMPs 2006-2204 2018/2019-0704 2018/2019-2204 2018/2019-3501
	Overgrazing by livestock can lead to increased soil compaction. <i>How activity would destroy critical habitat:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil compaction can make burrowing and hunting difficult or impossible 	



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