



British Columbia Conservation Data Centre – 2020 Data Update

Did you know that the BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is not only part of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, but is also a member of the non-profit organisation, [NatureServe Canada](#), and the international [NatureServe](#) Network? Every Province, Territory and U.S. State as well as many Latin American countries, has a program that follows a common method for ranking and mapping species and ecosystems.

How incredible to have a dataset that crosses borders!

The BC CDC responds to over 800 custom data requests annually and our web tools are accessed over 400,000 times per year.

Read more about these tools, how they can help your work and how you can help us below.

2020 Taxonomy, Classification and Rank Updates

The BC CDC annually releases updates to Conservation Status Ranks of selected species and ecological communities, additions of new species and ecological communities in BC and changes in species taxonomy and ecological community classification.

The 2020 changes are now available through [BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#) (BCSEE). BCSEE is the source for the Provincial Resource Inventory Standards Committee (RISC) standard for scientific names, English names and species codes (RISC codes) for vertebrates and invertebrates. In addition, BCSEE provides the provincial standard list and names for plants.

Archive files of previous years' taxonomic, classification, and rank updates are available for download from our [Archive of Changes](#) web page.

The following is a brief summary of this year's changes. Find all of the exciting details on the CDC [Recent Data Changes](#) web page.

The [General Status of Species in Canada](#) program provided many new plant and animal groups that were reviewed and incorporated into CDC data. For many of these groups or species there is insufficient information to conduct a full status assessment, and consequently they have been assessed as "SU" (unknown) at this time. It is important to report these species and groups even without status ranks, as they can be used as a reference for further inventory, biodiversity studies and motivation to find out more.

Ecological Community Data

The conservation status ranks for ten ecological communities were reviewed. There were 4 rank changes and 5 ranks remained unchanged. One new community was added and ranked (*Fragaria chiloensis* - *Poa confinis* - *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*; coastal strawberry - beach bluegrass - bent-leaf moss). Sixteen ecological communities had scientific name changes, to align with new scientific names of Sitka Alder (now *Alnus alnobetula* ssp. *sinuata*) and Yellow Cedar (now *Callitropsis nootkatensis*).

Plant Data

The conservation status ranks for over 2400 vascular plants and macrolichens were reviewed this year, resulting in 127 conservation status rank changes for vascular plants this year. There were 22 new vascular plants added to the BC flora and 11 were removed. There were 43 changes to taxonomic classifications or nomenclature.

Provincial conservation status rank changes were minimal for nonvascular plants/lichens this year, with only three amended ranks. There were 48 new macrolichens added to the BC flora, and 11 removed. Three bryophytes were also removed. There were 1283 microlichens added, a new group for the BC CDC! Many of these are ranked “SU” (unknown) at this time. 3178 macrofungi were also added to the BC CDC list; ranking is in progress for these. There were 21 taxonomic classification or nomenclature changes, mostly to lichens.

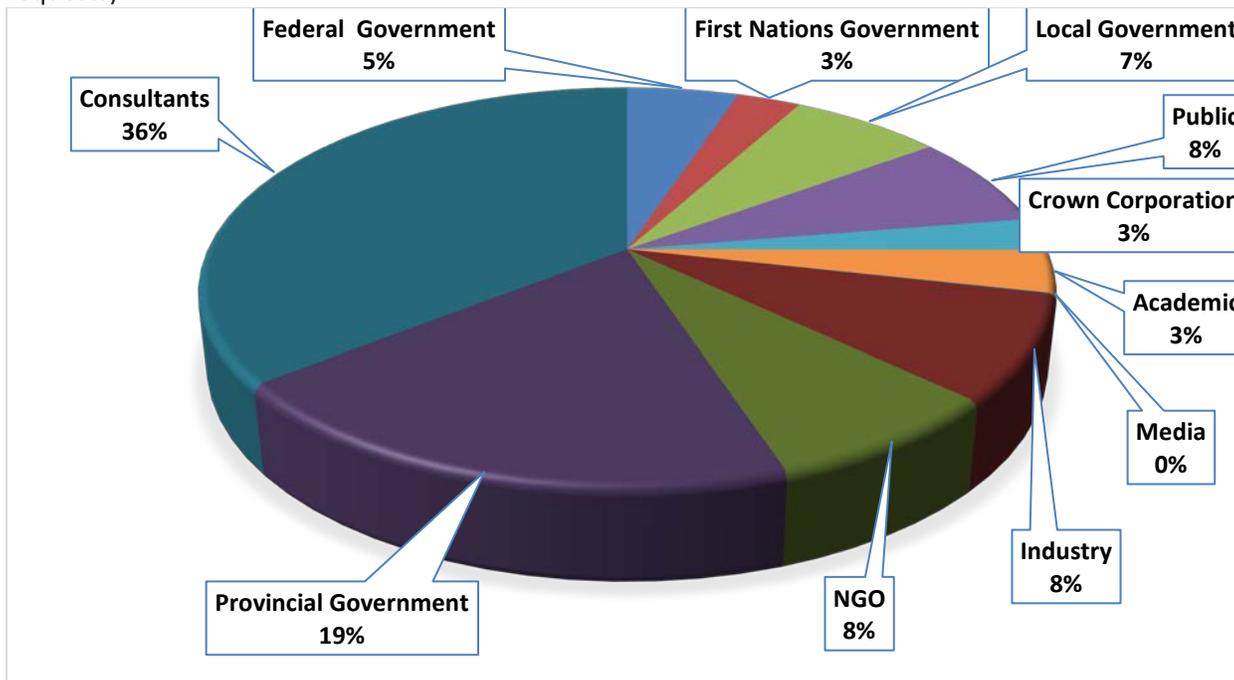
Animal Data

Conservation status ranks for 184 butterflies were reviewed this year resulting in 32 rank changes. Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) was reviewed this year and the status rank remained S3 at the species level. Recent genetic data, based on Weir et al. (in prep), indicates that there are two distinct populations within the province, which the CDC has also assessed separately. The Boreal population, which occurs in Northeastern BC, is ranked S3 and is on the blue list. The Columbian population, which occurs in the central interior of BC, is ranked S2 and is on the red list. There have been several sightings of Northern Pacific Right Whale in the past few years, resulting in change from SH (historical) to S1. Interestingly, three “accidental” birds showed up in BC (Red-footed Booby, Yellow-browed Warbler and Brown Shrike) and Whimbrel was confirmed breeding in the northwest of BC.

New groups and species added from the General Status program included 101 fleas, 22 earthworms, 9 Snakeflies and 51 Bees and Wasps.

Client Service

Questions from clients include how to use our online tools, requests for secure data and information and our methods for ranking and mapping species and ecological communities. This year’s breakdown of clients included (n=866 custom requests):



Please make use of our web tools to access information on species and ecosystems at risk.

Watch for our upcoming web tool enhancements!

[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#): ***Enhancement coming soon!** Use this application to generate lists of provincial species and ecological communities; conduct searches based on a number of criteria including conservation or legal

status, and spatial distribution; print your results, or download them to Excel; and access related reports and documents. To get the most out of the tool, view our [YouTube tutorial here](#).

[CDC iMap](#): ***Watch for EcoMap, coming soon!** Use our customised iMap Theme to view mapped known locations (element occurrences) of species and ecosystems at risk and print occurrence records; export those you are interested in to Excel, pdf, or shapefile. Try the Spatial Query tool under the “Find” tab. View our [YouTube tutorial here](#).

[BC Data Catalogue](#): Export CDC mapped element occurrences to Shapefile, Geodatabase, CSV, GeoRSS or GeoJSON or connect to the WMS URL.

[Submit your data here](#): Help us keep our information current! The link guides you to submit information relating to BC’s **animals, plants** and **ecosystems**.

For more information on the above tools, and more, please visit our [Explore Data](#) web page.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us. cdcdata@gov.bc.ca

