

Effectiveness of protected areas in conserving species and ecosystems at risk in British Columbia

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We know how many protected areas we have in British Columbia, how many hectares they include, what federally and provincially listed species and ecosystems at risk are known to occur within their boundaries and what biogeoclimatic variants are covered – are the protected areas effectively representing the province's biological diversity and can we expect the protected area system to effectively conserve species and ecosystems at risk? What is needed to improve the system? How many of the in-park listed species have recovery teams, recovery plans or recovery strategies in place or in preparation? How many have Parks staff participating in teams and/or reports? How many species or ecosystems at risk are only known from protected areas? How many at-risk species or ecosystems have action on the ground in protected areas to address the conservation of that species or ecosystem? Answers to these questions are provided using existing tabular and geographic databases. Interpretation of the results covers a broader discussion of representation, fragmentation and connectivity, island biogeography, landscape level planning and management, the importance of inventory, monitoring and adaptive management, cooperative management across a broader landscape, and the contribution of protected areas to conservation of species and ecosystems at risk in British Columbia.