

Natural Legacies:

Your Educational Guide to Conservation in BC



Conservation Values of Your Land

Your land is special. Special to your family—a place you love to call home. It is special to the animals who also call it home, or at least a good place to come and find dinner. And it is special to the plants, from towering trees to delicate wildflowers that hide from all but the keenest eyes.

If you are looking to protect those values long-term, how do you determine what their conservation value is. Who decides? What type of information is required? And who can you talk to in order to find out?

Identifying conservation values:

In general, land has high conservation values if any of the following are true.

- It provides habitat for rare or endangered species (plants or animals)
- It includes rare or endangered ecosystems
- It includes nest sites of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron, or burrowing owl
- It includes mature forests, wetlands, or riparian areas (areas along coastal, lake or stream shorelines)
- It provides a wildlife corridor—travel corridor—for animal movements or the dispersal of native plants

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Preparing baseline inventories:

The LTABC Guide to Baseline Inventories provides a comprehensive approach to preparing a baseline inventory for conservation covenants, including information about the information required for the report, documents that need to be registered at the Land Titles Office, and data storage and archiving. It also includes sample of baselines, protocols, maps, etc.

Do I have rare or endangered species or ecosystems on my land?

The only way to be sure is to have a professional biologist undertake a study. This may involve the biologist visiting the land at different times of year. Some wildflowers or fungi, for example, are only visible for a short period and migrating animals will only be present at certain times of year. If you want to get an idea of rare and endangered species and ecosystems that may be present on your land, there are several sources of information.

If you decide to hire a professional biologist, the Province of B.C. sets out an approach for undertaking bio-inventories of land. This starts with a simple preliminary site survey and moves to a more comprehensive detailed site bio-inventory if rare or endangered species or ecosystems are identified.

For more details see *Develop with Care 2014: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia*, Appendix B (Bio-inventory Terms of Reference)

(<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare/DWC-Appendices-A-F.pdf>).

Resources:

Land Trust Alliance of BC. 2006. LTABC Guide to baseline inventories.

http://ltabc.ca/images/LTABC_Guide_to_Baseline_Inventories_2006.pdf. *A comprehensive set of recommendations for completing baseline inventories, and a standard for BC land trusts that is both appropriate for the legal enforcement of conservation covenants and applicable to specific types of management on conservation lands owned outright.*