



SOUTH COAST SPECIES AT RISK

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR Land snails at risk



Pacific Sideband

The South Coast of BC has many types of land snails. They play an important role in keeping forest ecosystems healthy. By eating lots of live and dead vegetation, they help with decomposition adding nutrients to the soil. Snails also feed on certain types of fungi that help tree roots to better absorb minerals and water. In helping to spread these fungi spores, land snails also increase tree health.

This document will guide you to the best resources to learn about and help to protect BC's South Coast land snails. They can be mostly found on-line.

Visit www.sccp.ca for a PDF version with on-line links.



**SOUTH COAST
CONSERVATION
PROGRAM**

www.sccp.ca
info@sccp.ca

Searching for Land Snails

Snails are most active when the ground is moist, and temperatures are moderate. Look for them after the spring thaw before the hot summer starts, and again in the fall.

How to Identify Land Snails

- Look at the SCCP's **Common Land Snails of BC's South Coast Identification Guide** (on-line or paper version available)
- Read the reference book: Forsyth, R. G. (2004). *Land Snails of British Columbia*. Victoria: Royal BC Museum
- Province of BC's **Species and Ecosystems Explorer** (searchable on-line database)
- Search **E-Fauna BC** website

There is currently one land snail listed as at-risk in BC – the Oregon Forestsnail.





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What can you do?



Oregon Forestsnails are often found in patches of stinging nettle.

Look at These Resources to Learn more about the Oregon Forestsnail and its At-Risk Status

- SCCP's **Species Profile** on the Oregon Forestsnail (via website or phone app)
- **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada** (COSEWIC) website
- Government of Canada's **Species at Risk Act (SARA) Registry** website

Report a Snail at Risk

Sharing information about the Oregon Forestsnail helps us to better understand how populations are faring.

- First, record the location, date and time, the species and number of snails. And take photos of all sides of the snail!
- Then, send your information to the Province's **BC Conservation Data Centre** (by accessing their on-line data forms)

For help deciding if you have spotted an at-risk snail, contact the SCCP at info@sccp.ca

The purpose of the South Coast Species at Risk Series is to provide stewardship guidance for species at risk. Before undertaking land-use changes, make sure all relevant regulations are being followed. Under the *BC Wildlife Act*, it is illegal to capture, move, harm or kill wildlife without a permit.

Learn Where Oregon Forestsnails Live

In Canada, this species is mainly found in the Fraser Valley, with some populations in Metro Vancouver. There is also one population on Vancouver Island.

Found often in patches of stinging nettle, this endangered snail lives in wet lower elevation deciduous forests with dominant bigleaf maple trees.

Threats to Snails at Risk

- Habitat loss through development
- Introduction of invasive and non-native species

What Can You Do to Help?

- Read the **Oregon Forestsnail Best Management Practices Guidebook** (2018 draft) – visit sccp.ca for a copy



- Garden with native plants, such as stinging nettle and bigleaf maple. Spread stinging nettle through propagation.

For **free personalized property advice** on creating habitat for the Oregon Forestsnail and other wildlife in your backyard, contact the SCCP's Nature Stewards Program. Visit www.sccp.ca or email info@sccp.ca.

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