

Preface

This manual presents an introduction to the species inventory program in British Columbia. It was compiled by the Elements Working Group of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Task Force, under the auspices of the Resources Inventory Committee (RIC). The objectives of the working group are to develop inventory methods that will lead to the collection of comparable, defensible, and useful inventory and monitoring data for the species component of biodiversity.

This manual is an introduction to the Standards for Components of British Columbia's Biodiversity (CBCB) series. It describes the history and objectives of RIC, and outlines the general process of conducting a species inventory according to RIC standards, including selection of inventory intensity, sampling design, sampling techniques, and statistical analysis. This manual, *Species Inventory Fundamentals*, provides important background information and should be thoroughly reviewed before commencing with a RIC species inventory. RIC standards are also available for vertebrate taxonomy (No. 2), animal capture and handling (No. 3), and radio-telemetry (No. 5). Field personnel should be thoroughly familiar with these standards before engaging in inventories which involve any of these activities. The rest of the manuals in the CBCB series present standard protocols designed specifically for a group of species with similar inventory requirements. Each of these manuals outlines inventory methods at three levels of intensity: presence/not detected (possible), relative abundance, and absolute abundance.

Standard dataforms are required for all RIC species inventory. Survey-specific dataforms accompany most manuals while general inventory forms are available in the corresponding Species Inventory Fundamentals No. 1 [Forms] (previously referred to as the Dataform Appendix). This is important to ensure compatibility with provincial data systems, as all information must eventually be included in the Species Inventory Datasystem (SPI). For more information about SPI and dataforms, visit the Species Inventory Homepage at: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/spi/ric_manuals/

It is recognized that development of standard methods is necessarily an ongoing process. The CBCB manuals are expected to evolve and improve very quickly over their initial years of use. Field testing is a vital component of this process and feedback is essential. Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to the Elements Working Group by contacting:

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