



Yuma Myotis

Photo: Jared Hobbs



Tree Enhancement and Roost Mitigation for Bats in the Northern Columbia River Valley

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Wildlife Conservation Society Canada Western Bat Program



WCS
CANADA



- Most bats in BC depend on trees for roosting
- Roost trees in decline
- Multiple roost trees are required for reproductive success



BATS 101



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BATS 101

- Most bats in BC depend on trees for roosting
- Roost trees in decline
- Multiple roost trees are required for reproductive success
- Bat boxes not appropriate
 - Only 2 local species typically use
 - 2023 BMP for Canada and US
 - Not for 'natural areas'



TREE ROOST CREATION

BrandenBark™
on tree



Three main roost types:

- BrandenBark™ installed on trees
- BrandenBark™ installed on poles
- Chainsaw modified wildlife trees

	Basin-wide	Golden Area
BrandenBark™ trees	85	7
BrandenBark™ poles	35	2
Wildlife trees	62	9



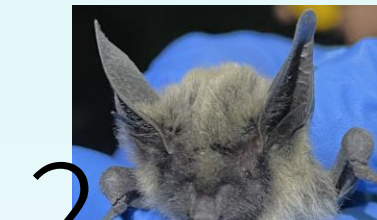
BrandenBark™ on pole
being erected

Crevices cut into trees
with chainsaws



USE OF TREE STRUCTURES WE HAVE CREATED

Genetic species ID from guano collected:
7 - 8 species of bats Basin-wide
(6 confirmed in Golden Area)



?

OTHER ONGOING MONITORING

- Bat detectors
- Temperature/Humidity dataloggers
- Some capture inventory



PARSON BAT CONDO

“Air BnB”

- Replaced lost building roost of Little Brown Myotis
- Designed for **bats** and **swallows**
- PIT tag reader on solar power



Western Bat Program

BATS and SWALLOWS Live Here!

Upper Columbia Swallow
Habitat Enhancement Project

WELCOME to the “AirBnB” for Bats and Birds!

This is a joint project between Wildlife Conservation Society Canada and Wildsight Golden to create a unique habitat opportunity for both at-risk bats and barn swallows.

Did you know we can eat up to our body weight in insects each warm summer night and can live up to 40 years?

We Need Bats

Bats are the only flying mammal, they eat insects, and play a critical role in keeping our ecosystems healthy.

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They Need Protection

Natural bat habitat and roosts are being lost due to land conversion, agriculture, and timber harvest.

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Artificial Bat Roosts

This artificial structure provides habitat for bats that prefer buildings, such as the Little Brown Myotis and Yuma Myotis.

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Swallows provide immense natural insect control and play a critical role in keeping our ecosystems healthy

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They Need Our Help

Barn swallows once nested in caves, but now build their nests on human-made structures with specific features (e.g. openings, rough surfaces for nest attachment).

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Enhancement Projects

Projects such as this aid in the reversal of significant population declines facing barn swallows by creating more breeding habitat.

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Citizen-science in Action

From 2020-2026, dozens of volunteer citizen-scientists conduct swallow monitoring in the Columbia Valley, leading to conservation action.

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This Region is Important

The Columbia Valley provides 'Critical Habitat' for bank swallows and habitat for 5 other swallow species too!

Thank you to our funders:

Inkind and volunteer contributions:

Cory Schacher, Thomas Davis, Dominic Fyfe, the Lake Windermere District Rod and Gun Club, Bob Walker, Rob Hour, David Thompson, David Jenkins, Brian Platzer, Rene North Star Hardware and Sir Home Ltd.

We additionally thank Tenbec for access to the site.

WCSbats.ca

Wildsight.ca

In memory of our friend, Cory Schacher

May your structure design house the swallows to glide over the Columbia during the day and the bats to navigate the wetlands by night. Our memories will continue to flow with The river 1973-2023

Cory's tireless vision and enthusiasm made this project happen. He is missed.

THANK YOU

Laura Kaupas, Shuswap Guardians, Amanda Weber-Roy, Rachel Darvill, Ducks Unlimited, Todd Manning, Joe Doran, Jeremy McDowell, Andrew Mills, Dylan Neilson-Schenk, Sigi Liebmann, Kelsey Low, Jenna Schulhof, Joyce DeBoer, Darcie Quamme, Cory Schacher, Bob Walker, Invermere Rod and Gun Club, Adrian Johnson

