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Central Okanagan

Wildlife Habitat Suitability

Habitat mapped for 9 species:

- Painted Turtle
- Great Basin Gopher Snake
- Northern Pacific Rattlesnake
- Lewis' Woodpecker
- Flammulated Owl
- Western Screech-owl
- Townsend's Big-eared Bat
- Badger
- California Bighorn Sheep



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Species Selection Rationale

- Known to occur in area
- Adequate knowledge of habitat use
- 'At Risk' (provincial and/or federal)
- Cross-section of taxonomic groups and habitat types
- Cultural importance



Habitat Ratings Standards

1. Rating Schemes – based on knowledge level of habitat use

Relative to Benchmark	6-class (Substantial Knowledge)		4-class (Intermediate Knowledge)		2-class (Limited Knowledge)	
	Rating	Count	Rating	Code	Category	Code
76 - 100 %	High	1	High	H	Habitat Useable	U
51 - 75 %	Mod - High	2	Moderate	M		
26 - 50 %	Moderate	3				
6 - 25 %	Low	4	Low	L	Likely No Value	X
1 - 5 %	Very Low	5				
0%	Nil	6	Nil	N		

Habitat Ratings Standards

2. Themes – one for each life requisite and habitat use (including season of use)

Examples:

Painted Turtle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security/Thermal habitat for Reproduction, all year (egg-laying sites)• General Living, all year (ponds)
California Bighorn Sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food for general Living during Growing season• Security habitat for general Living during Growing season• Food for general Living during Winter• Security habitat for general Living during Winter• Security habitat for Reproduction (lambing cliffs)

Habitat Mapping Process

1. Create Ratings Table:

- Generate table listing all occurring Ecosystem Units
- Assign wildlife habitat rating to each Ecosystem Unit for each theme

ECO_SEC	BGC_ZONE	BGC_SUBZON	BGC_VRT	BGC_PHASE	SITE_S	SITEMC_S	SITE_MA	SITE_MB	STRCT_S	STRCT_M	STAND_A	SERIAL
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM			3			
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM			4		B	
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM			5		B	
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM			6		B	
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM			7			
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	g		3			
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	g		4			
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	g		5			
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	g		6		M	
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	g		7			
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	k		3		B	
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	k		4			
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	k		5		B	
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	k		6			
NOB	IDF	xh	1		0	AM	k		7			

Habitat Mapping Process

2. Apply ratings to TEM polygons using ERM tool, which links three sources:

Spatial data

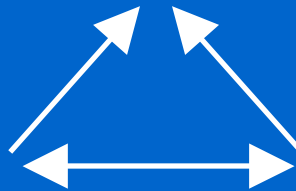


TEM database

ECP_TAG	BGC_ZON	BGC_SUB	BGC_VRT	SDEC_1	SITEMC_1	SITE_M1A	SITE_M1B	STRCT_S
082E073_4032	IDF	xh	1	8	DP			5
082E073_4033	IDF	xh	1	7	DS	g		5
082E073_4034	IDF	xh	1	6	DP	k	s	5
082E073_4035	IDF	xh	1	10	DP	k	s	5
082E073_4036	IDF	xh	1	5	RS			6
082E073_4037	IDF	xh	1	5	DP			5
082E073_4038	IDF	xh	1	5	SP	k	s	4
082E073_4039	IDF	xh	1	5	DS			6
082E073_4040	IDF	xh	1	8	SD	g		5

Ratings table

Concatenation	RCROR_LIS	RCROR_STLIA	RPICA_LIS	RPICA_STRE	RCHPI_LIA
NOBIDFxb1AM3	M	N	M	N	N
NOBIDFxb1AM4B	M	N	M	N	N
NOBIDFxb1AM5B	M	N	M	N	N
NOBIDFxb1AM6B	M	N	M	N	N
NOBIDFxb1AM7	M	N	M	N	N
NOBIDFxb1AMg3	M	N	M	N	N
NOBIDFxb1AMg4	M	N	M	N	N



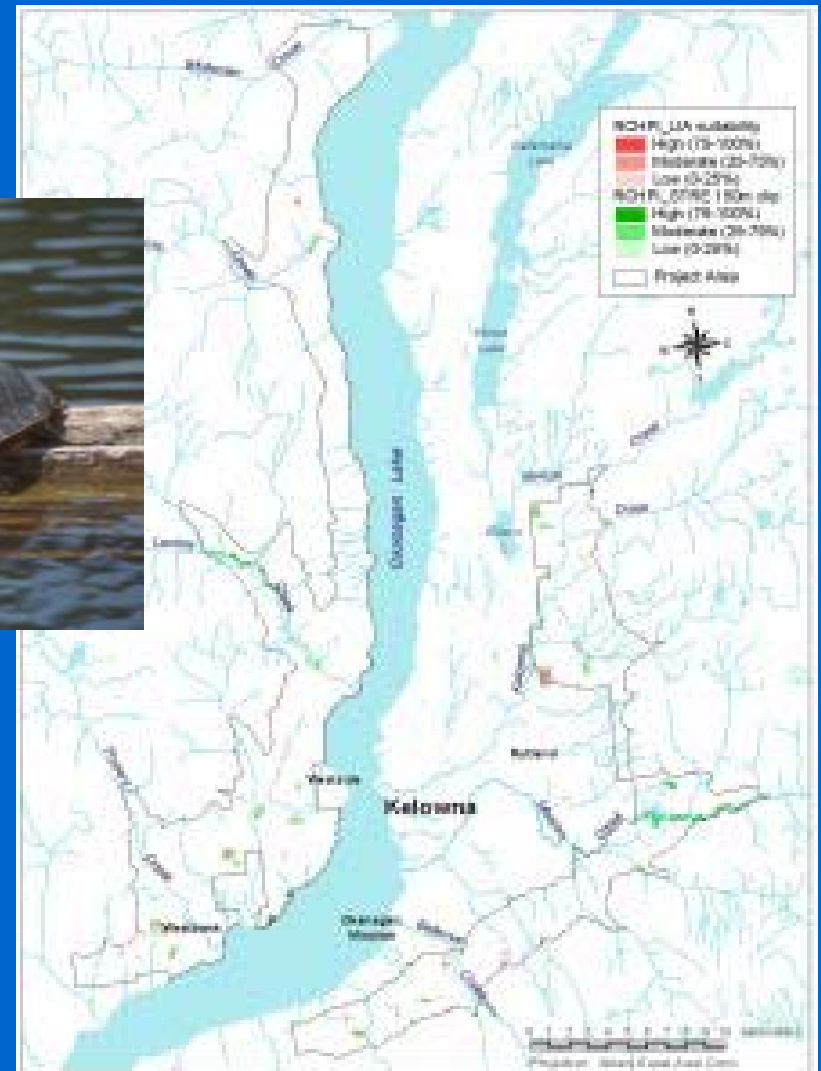
Painted Turtle Suitability

Status: Blue



Habitats:

- Living (foraging/security)
- Breeding



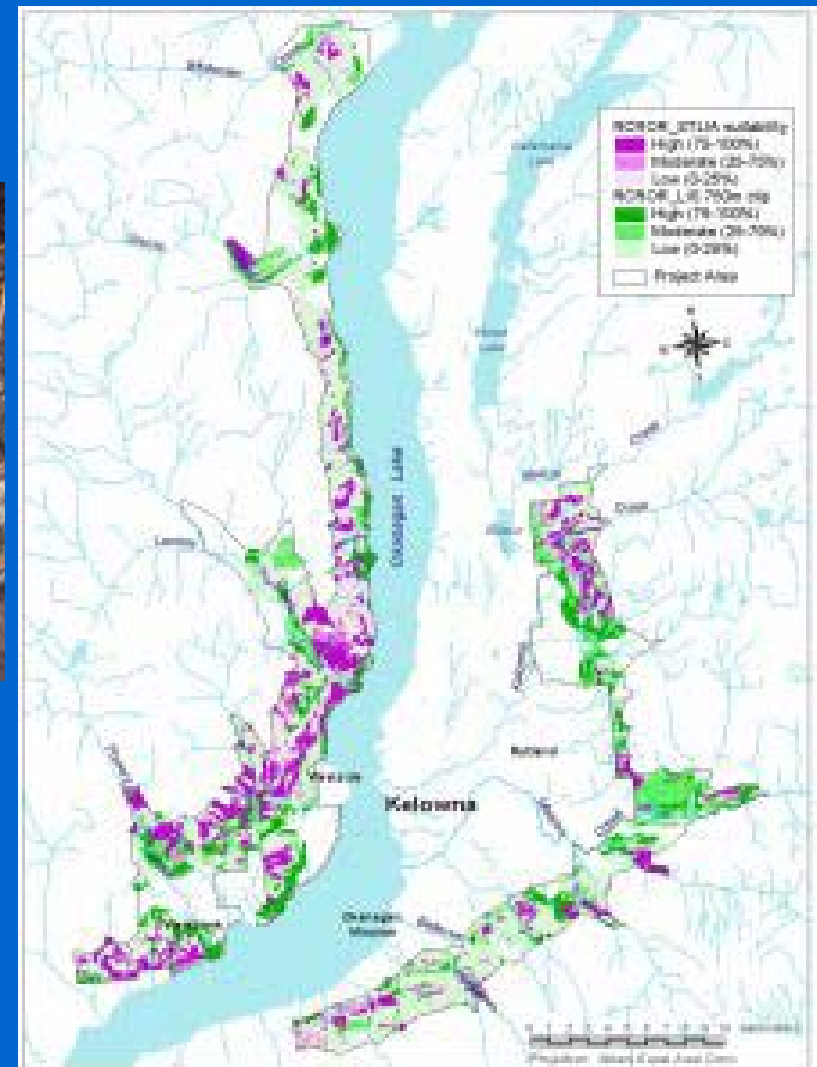
Rattlesnake Suitability

Status: Blue, Threatened



Habitats:

- Basking/denning
- Foraging



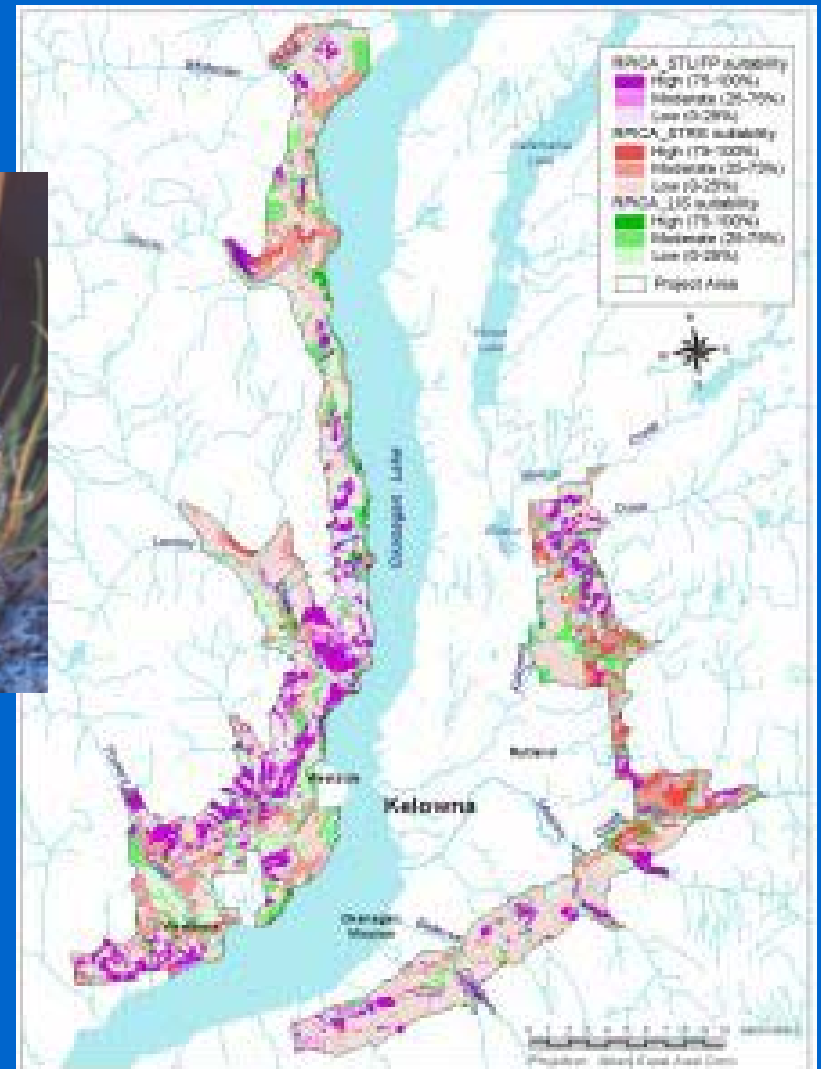
Gopher Snake Suitability

Status: Blue, Threatened



Habitats:

- Basking
- Egg-laying
- Foraging

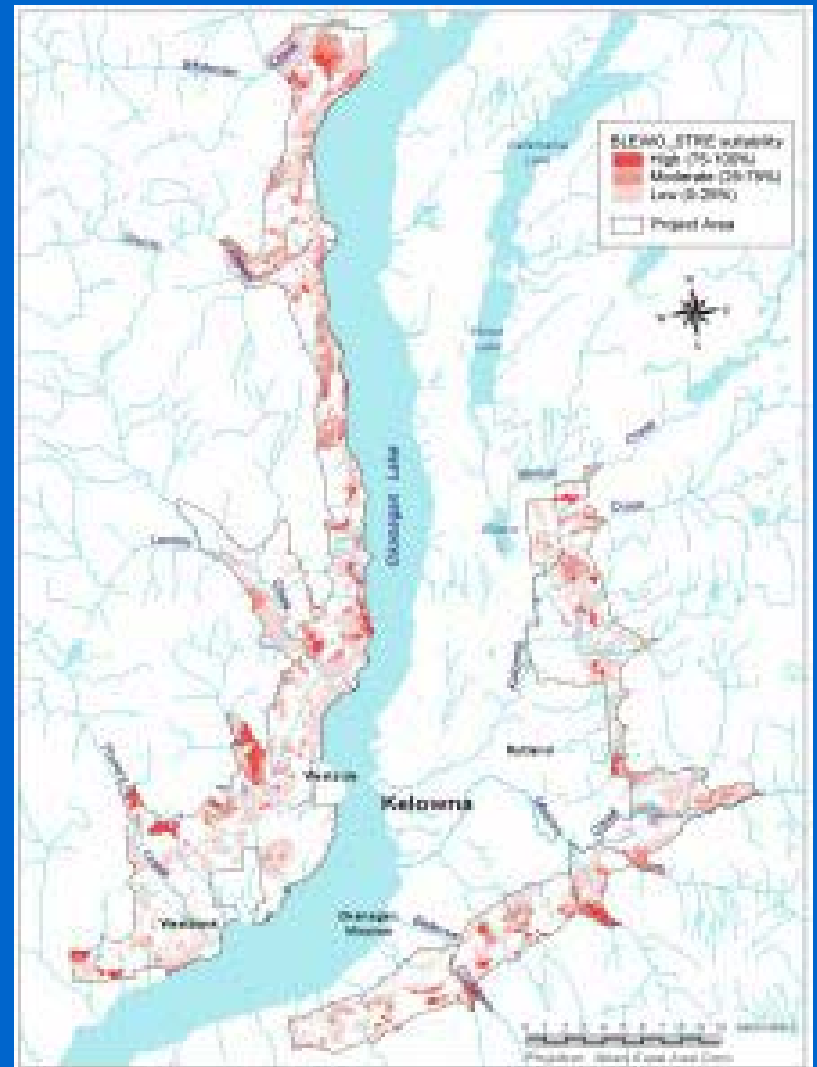


Lewis' Woodpecker Suitability

Status: Blue, Special Concern

Habitats:

- Nesting



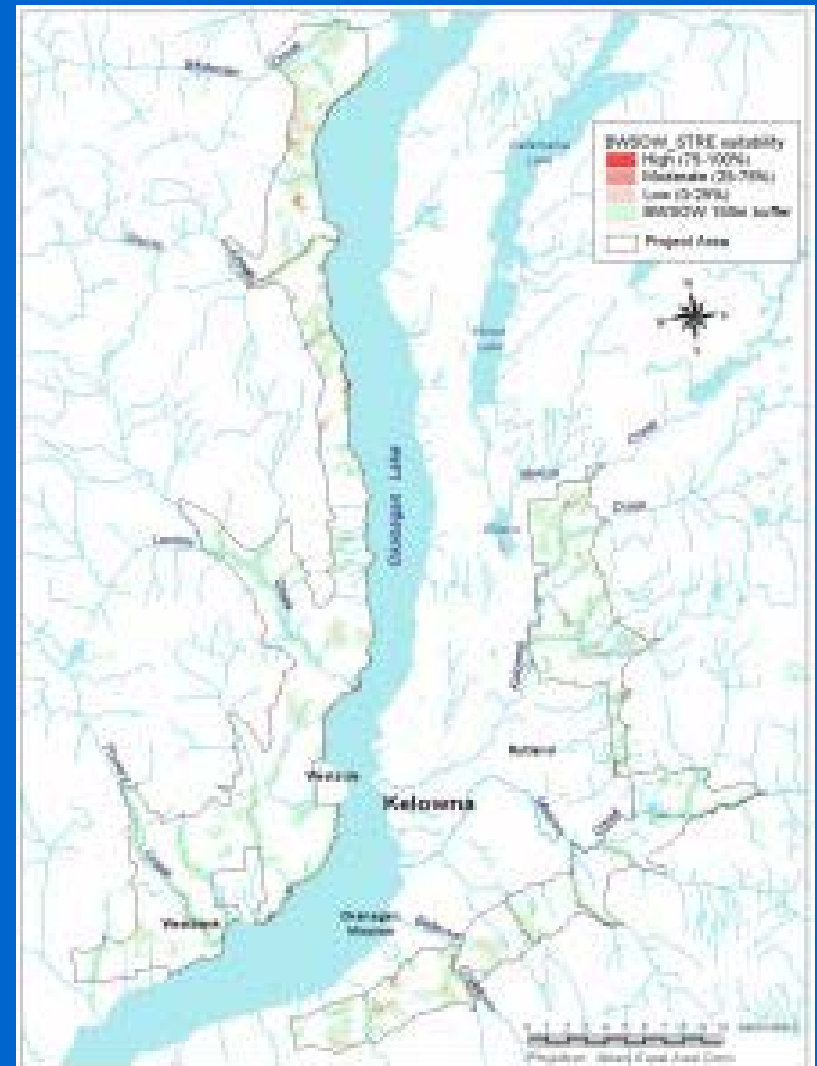
Western Screech-owl Suitability

Status: Red, Endangered



Habitats:

- Nesting
- Foraging buffer



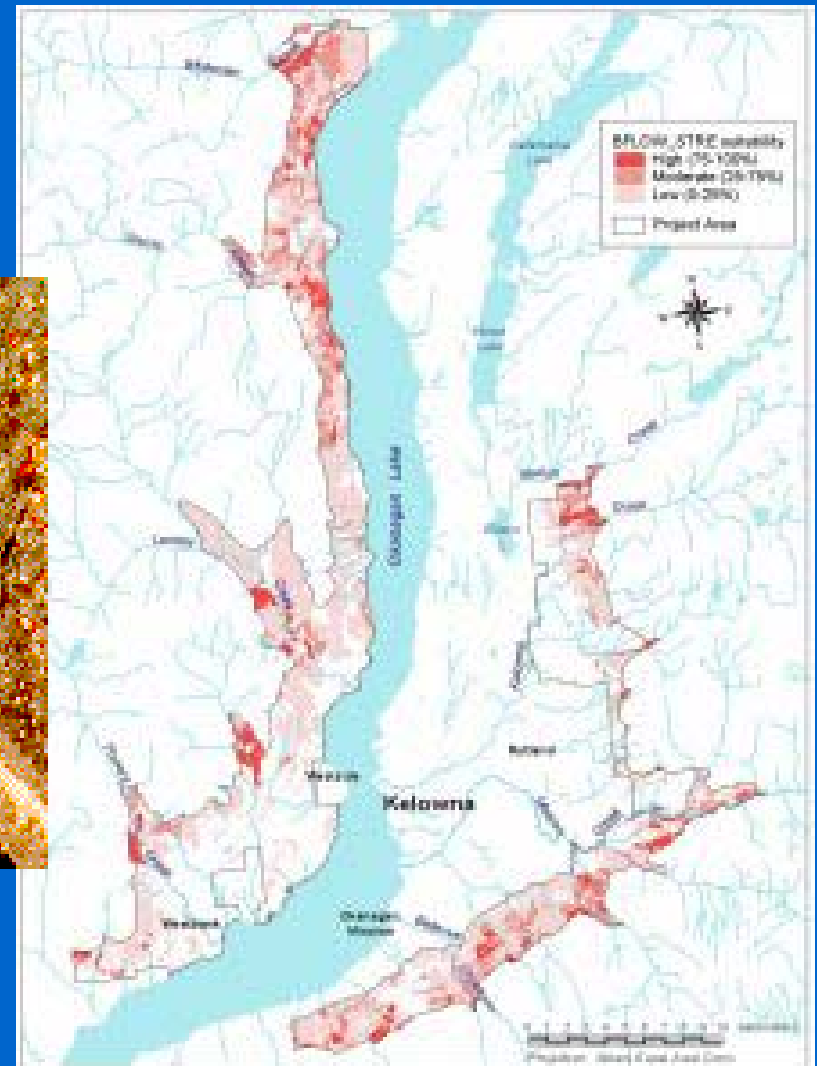
Flammulated Owl Suitability

Status: Blue, Special Concern



Habitats:

- Nesting



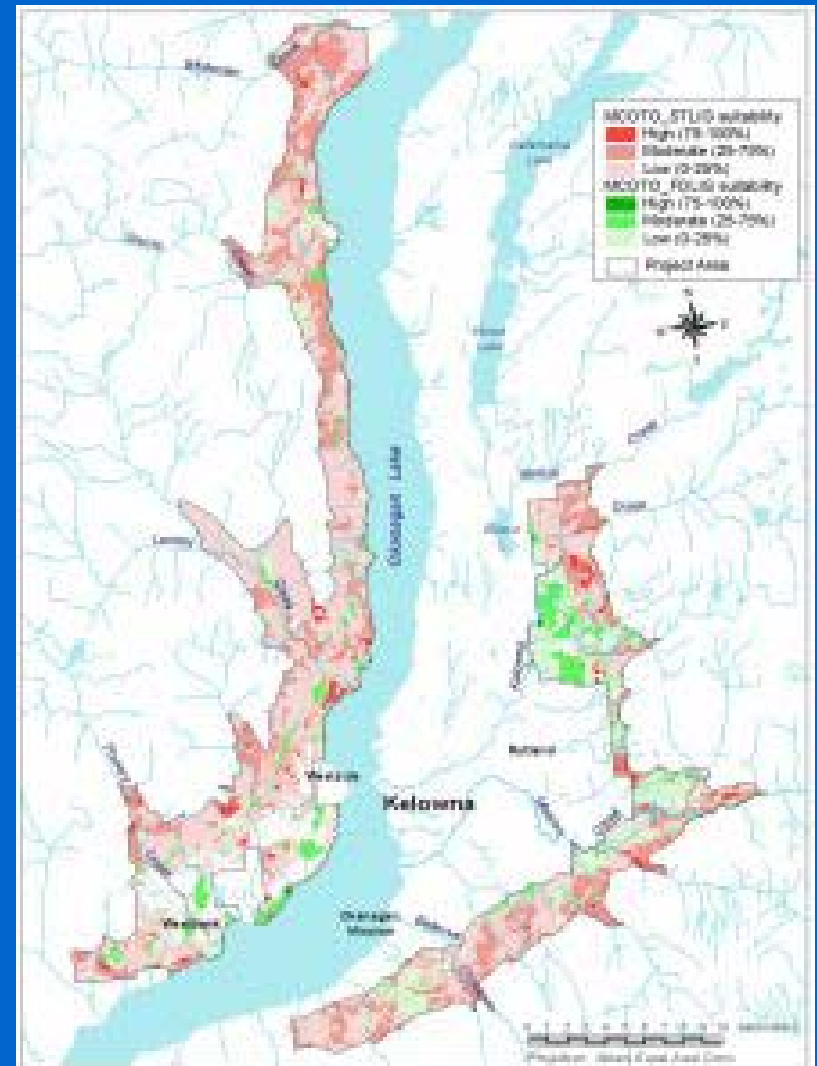
Townsend's Big-eared Bat Suitability

Status: Blue



Habitats:

- Roosting
- Foraging



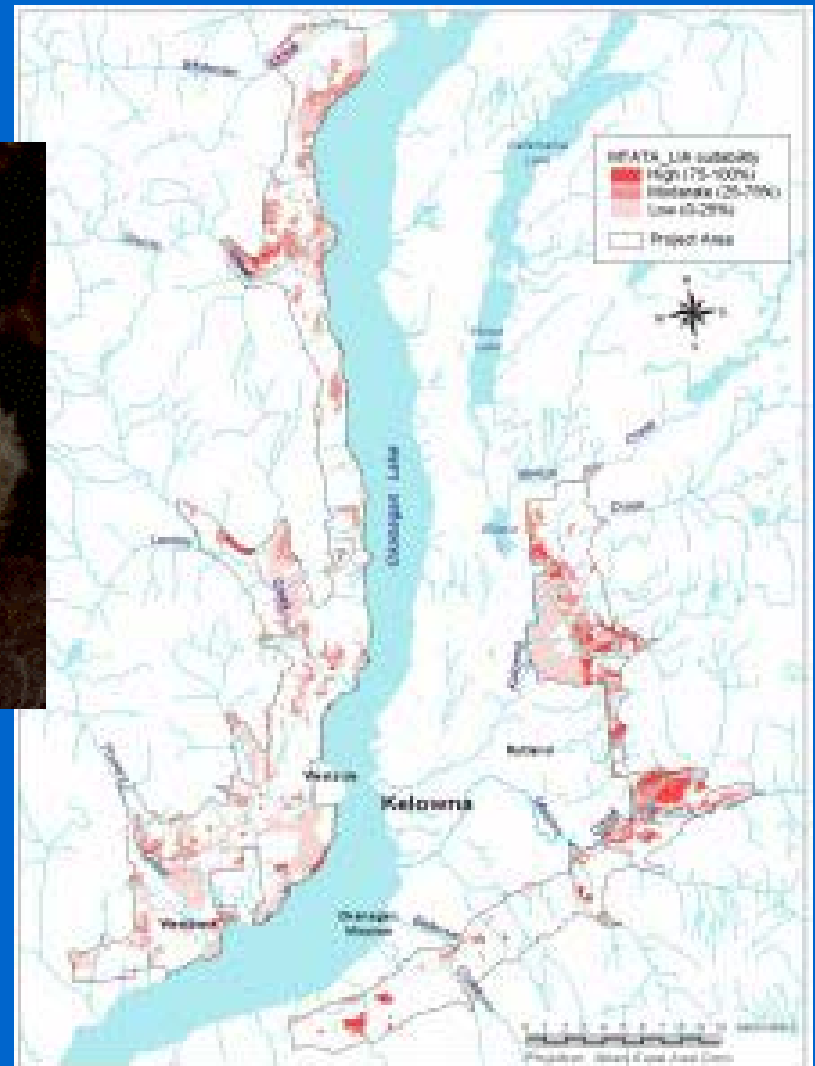
Badger Suitability

Status: Blue, Threatened



Habitats:

- General Living (denning / foraging)



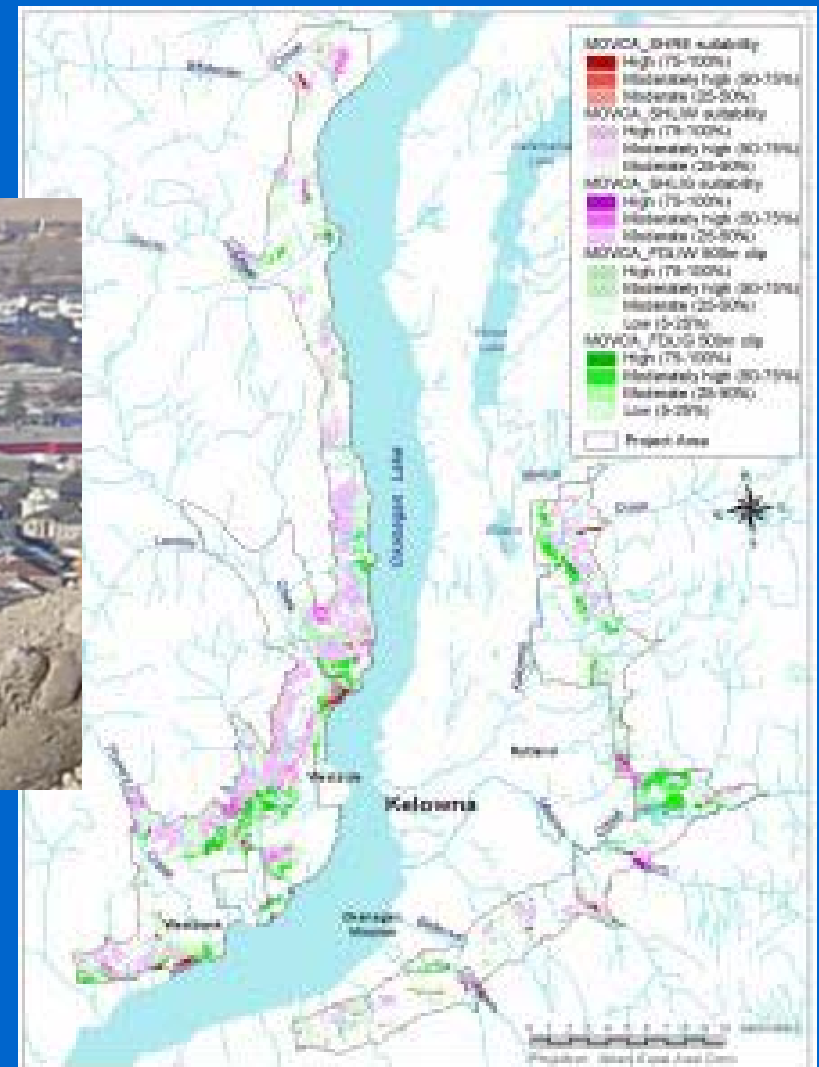
Bighorn Sheep Suitability

Status: Blue

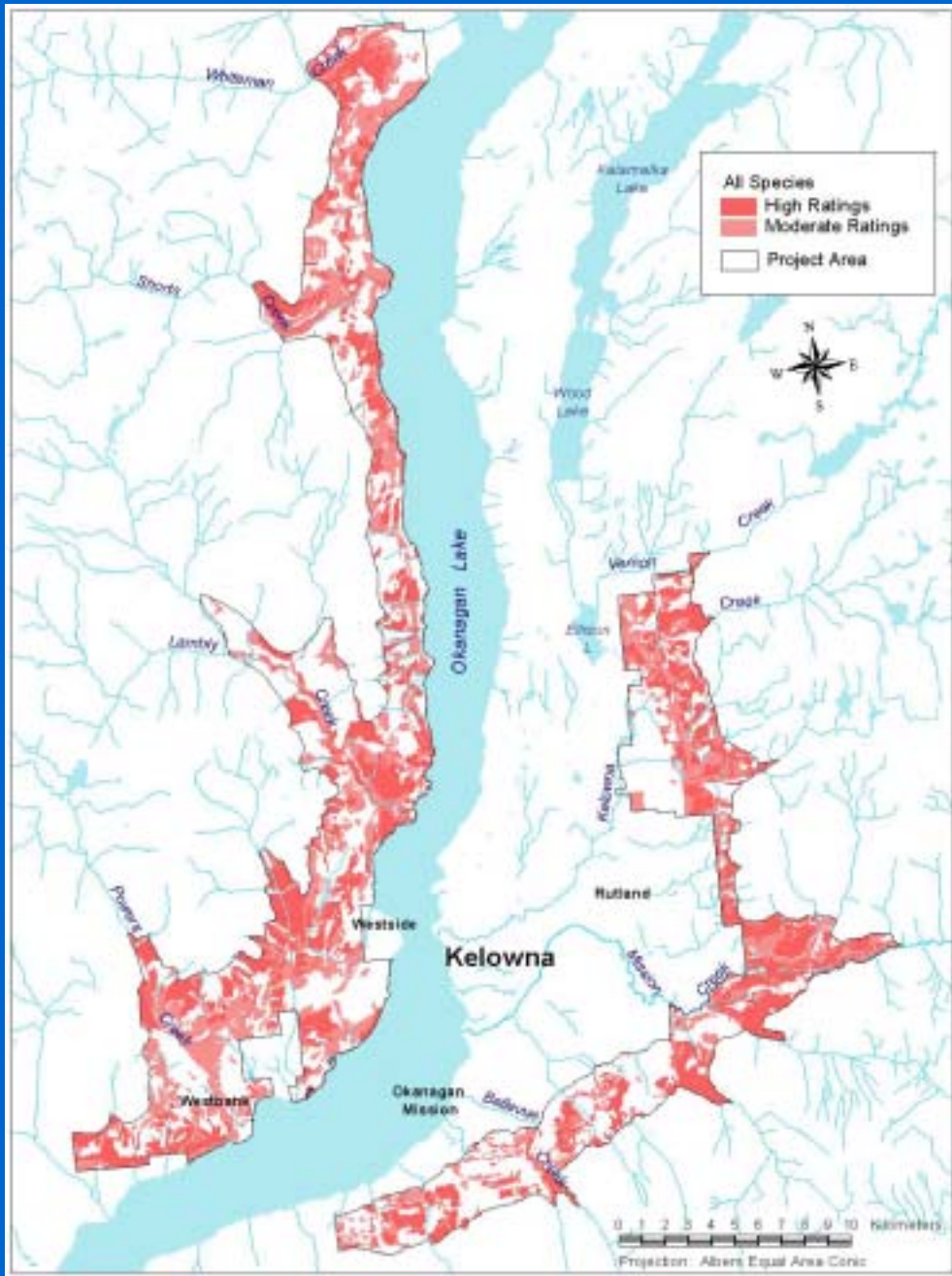


Habitats:

- Lambing
- Escape Terrain
- Foraging



Composite Map



- High and Moderate Suitability values for all species
- Includes the 12 most important habitat uses of the 9 wildlife species

Applications

Broad Scale:

- Integration with SEI for landscape conservation planning (core areas, buffers, corridors).

Fine Scale:

- Preliminary mitigation planning for development (avoiding critical habitats or features, retaining corridors, reducing road mortality).