

ENDEMIC SPECIES

Endemic species are naturally occurring species that are restricted to a particular locality or that may only occur on one or very few islands. They may represent unique populations.



Spruce Grouse (*Falcipennis canadensis*)

Associated with taiga and northern montane coniferous forests with a lush shrub understory; endemic to Prince of Wales Island.

2008 Forest Plan Endemic Terrestrial Mammals

A. The objective is to maintain habitat to support viable populations and improve knowledge of habitat relationships of rare or endemic terrestrial mammals that may represent unique populations with restricted ranges.

1. Use existing information on the distribution of endemic mammals to assess project level effects. If existing information is lacking, surveys for endemic mammals may be necessary prior to any project that proposes to substantially alter vegetative cover (e.g., road construction, timber harvest, etc.). Surveys are necessary only where information is not adequate to assess project-level effects.

a) Survey islands smaller than 50,000 acres in total size (e.g., Heceta Island and smaller) that have productive old-growth forest suitable for timber harvest. Conduct surveys on larger islands if there is a high likelihood that endemic taxa are present and a high likelihood that they would be affected by the proposed project.

b) The extent and rigor of surveys will be commensurate with the degree of existing and proposed forest fragmentation, and potential risk to endemic mammals that may be present.

c) Surveys should emphasize small (voles, mice, and shrews) and medium sized (ermine and squirrels) endemic mammals with limited dispersal capabilities that may exist within the project area.

d) Use the most recent inventory protocols for surveys.

2. Assess the impacts of the proposed project relative to the distinctiveness of the taxa, population status, degree of isolation, island size, and habitat associations relative to the proposed management activity.

3. Where distinct taxa are located, design projects to provide for their long-term persistence on the island.

B. Consider habitat needs of endemic mammals in design of thinning treatments.

Prince of Wales Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus griseifrons*)



The Prince of Wales flying squirrel is endemic to the Prince of Wales Island complex (Demboski *et al.* 1998; Smith 2005). The flying squirrel plays an essential role in the dynamics of coniferous forest ecosystems (Carey 2000a) because it disperses ectomycorrhizal fungi (Maser and Maser 1988), a food source that is lacking in young-growth forest (Flaherty *et al.* 2008). It is a species of concern because of this close association with old-growth forest structure and processes and because of its specific habitat requirements for efficient movement (Carey 2000a; Scheibe *et al.* 2006).

Other Species



Marbled Murrelet

(*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

Marbled murrelets are generally associated with mature/old growth forests

2008 Forest Plan

A. Cooperate and coordinate with state and other federal agencies to better understand the life history requirements and distribution of the marbled murrelet. Nesting habitat relationships are poorly understood.

B. If nests are found during project implementation, maintain a 600-foot, generally circular, radius of undisturbed forest habitat surrounding identified murrelet nests, where available. Minimize disturbance activities within this buffer during the nesting season (May 1 to August 15). Maintain the buffer zone and monitor the site for nesting activity for not less than two nesting seasons after nest discovery. Maintain the buffer if the nest site is active during the monitoring period. Buffer protection may be removed if the site remains inactive for two consecutive nesting seasons.

