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# HELEN DAVIS

## PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGIST, College of Applied Biology (British Columbia)

MASTER OF SCIENCE in Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, 1996

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in Animal Biology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, 1992

Member of the federal *jeffersonii* Badger Recovery Team and Communication/Extension Recovery Implementation Group.

Member of the federal *macfarlanei* Screech-owl Recovery Team

## SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

I have extensive experience in the inventory, research, and management of various species at risk. I have conducted RISC-compliant surveys for spadefoots, gopher snakes, rattlesnake, screech-owls, and badgers as well as having conducted research projects on both badgers and screech-owls. Much of the species-at-risk work that I have completed has been for First Nations' clients. I have experience successfully initiating, generating funding, and completing projects and have produced both peer-reviewed publications as well as informative publications for the public from these projects. Creating effective extension and communication strategies for projects and conducting landowner contact has been a particular emphasis of my work. I have extensive field experience including ecosystem assessments, invasive weed management, population inventory, the capture, immobilization and handling of live animals, and ground and aerial radiotelemetry. I am proficient at using various methods of habitat assessment and measurement, particularly the biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification system. I have been dedicated to ensuring that the results of my work are translated into habitat and population management recommendations.

## TYPICAL RECENT EXPERIENCE

2005-2008: **Principal Investigator** for inventory, research, and extension program aimed at conservation of western screech-owls along the Shuswap River. Responsible for developing objectives and all aspects of project coordination and implementation, including preparation of successful funding applications. Project funded by Bridge Coastal Restoration Program, Habitat Stewardship Program, and the Endangered Species Recovery Fund.

2007-2008: **Lead Biologist** developing Bear-Viewing Strategy for the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy and surrounding area. Developed rationale for where and how bear viewing should take place in the range of Kermode bears. Conducted for BC Parks.

2004-2005: **Project Coordinator** for sensitive ecosystem inventory of the Vernon Commonage. Tracked budgets, coordinated fieldwork, conducted all landowner contact, chaired Steering Committee. Conducted for the Allan Brooks Nature Centre.

2005-present: **Project Co-leader** for Species at Risk surveys. Secured funding from the Interdepartmental Recovery Fund. Conducted RISC-compliant presence/not detected inventories of western screech-owls, North American badgers, western rattlesnakes, Great Basin gopher snakes and Great Basin spadefoots for Okanagan Indian Band, Vernon, BC.

2004-present: **Project Co-leader** for Species at Risk surveys. Secured funding from the Interdepartmental Recovery Fund. Conducted RISC-compliant presence/not detected inventories of western screech-owls, North

American badgers, gopher snakes and Great Basin spadefoots for Spallumcheen Indian Band, Enderby, BC.

2004: **Project Leader** for assessment of impacts of hydroelectric development on riparian-associated wildlife species in the Shuswap River drainage. Conducted RISC-compliant inventory surveys for western screech-owls, sandhill cranes, great blue herons, amphibians, and reptiles for Spallumcheen Indian Band, Enderby, BC.

2003: **Project Leader** for program to mitigate the effect of concrete roadside barriers on badgers in the Thompson region. Assessed roadways for risk to badgers, coordinated replacement of barriers and monitoring of use of alternative crossing structures by wildlife. Conducted for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

2003: **Lead Biologist** on project examining the habitat ecology of American black bears in coastal environments. Project involved analysis of habitat and spatial data collected during the Nimpkish Black Bear Study. Developed predictive habitat model and published manuscript in peer-reviewed journal. Conducted for Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Woss, BC.

1999 – 2004. **Extension Specialist** for Thompson-Okanagan Badger Project. Responsible for developing extension priorities for conservation strategies, conducting target group consultation, production of extension materials, and project delivery.

2002: **Principal Investigator** on project examining the home ranges and spatial organization of American black bears in coastal British Columbia. Produced manuscript for

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peer-reviewed publication. Conducted for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Victoria, BC.

2001: **Project Leader** for ecosystem restoration of IDFxh1 grasslands. Secured funding from Terrestrial Ecosystem Restoration Program, conducted inventory of ecosystems and identified sources of degradation, which were incorporated into a restoration working plan, particularly involving invasive weed management. Conducted for Spallumcheen Indian Band, Enderby, BC.

2001: **Project Leader** for contract to develop implementation guidelines for "Bear Smart" status for communities in British Columbia. Project involved researching and synthesizing methods for reducing human-bear conflicts, developing criterion for "Bear Smart" status, and preparation of final published document. Completed for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, BC.

1999-2000: **Project Leader** for research and public education program aimed at developing conservation strategies for badgers in the Thompson and Okanagan regions. Responsible for developing objectives and all

aspects of project coordination and implementation, including preparation of successful funding applications.

1997, 1998, 1999: **Research Biologist** for project examining the genetics and distribution of Kermode bears in coastal BC. Designed and implemented a sampling program to collect DNA samples from white- and black-phase black bears in coastal BC. Conducted for Western Forest Products Ltd.

1998, 1999: **Research Biologist** for Northern Caribou study. Organized and conducted ungulate surveys in 3 study areas in the Williston Reservoir area. Radiotelemetry of caribou, moose, and wolves. Conducted for Slocan Forest Products.

1992-1995: **Project Biologist** for Nimpkish Black Bear Study, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, BC. Responsible for all aspects of the denning portion of the study design, data collection, analysis and reporting. Also responsible for immobilization, radio-collaring, and monitoring of bears, habitat classification and description, behavioural data collection, plant identification, and forestry interpretations.

## CERTIFICATION COURSES

Introduction to Wildlife Species Inventory (RISC)  
Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (RISC)

Chemical Immobilization of Wildlife  
Level 1 First Aid with Transportation Endorsement

## SELECTED REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

- Davis, H. and R. J. Cannings. 2008. Diet of western screech-owls in the interior of British Columbia. *British Columbia Birds* 18:19-22.
- Davis, H., and R. D. Weir. 2008. Western Screech-owl Conservation along the Shuswap River. Artemis Wildlife Consultants, Armstrong, British Columbia.
- Davis, H., R. D. Weir, A. N. Hamilton, and J. A. Deal. 2006. Influence of phenology on site selection by female American black bears in coastal British Columbia. *Ursus* 17:41-51.
- Davis, H., D. W. Wellwood, and L. M. Ciarniello. 2002. "Bear Smart" Community Program: Background Report. British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. Victoria, British Columbia.
- Davis, H., and R. D. Weir. 2002. Restoration of IDFxh grasslands in the Cleahl traditional territory of the Splats'in people. Prepared for Spallumcheen Indian Band, Enderby, BC.
- Davis, H. 1996. Characteristics and selection of winter dens by black bears in coastal British Columbia. M.Sc. Thesis. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.
- Davis, H., and A. S. Harestad. 1996. Cannibalism by black bears in the Nimpkish Valley, British Columbia. *Northwest Science* 70:88-92.
- Cannings, R. J., and H. Davis. 2007. Status of the western screech-owl *macfarlanei* subspecies (*Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei*) in British Columbia. BC Ministry of Environment. Wildlife Working Report No. WR-112. Victoria, BC.
- Lertzman, K. P., H. Davis, B. Evans, B. Moorehouse, and T. Poland. 1994. Two views of ecological issues in forestry. *Northwest Science* 68:65-68.
- MacHutchon, A. G., S. Himmer, H. Davis, and M. Gallagher. 1998. Temporal and spatial activity patterns among coastal bear populations. *Ursus* 10:539-546.
- Weir, R.D., H. Davis, and C.S. Hoodicoff. 2003. Conservation strategies for North American badgers in the Thompson and Okanagan Regions. Final report for the Thompson-Okanagan Badger Project. Artemis Wildlife Consultants, Armstrong, British Columbia.
- Weir, R. D., H. Davis, C. S. Hoodicoff, and K. W. Larsen. 2005. Life on a highway: Sources of mortality within an endangered British Columbian badger population. In T.D. Hooper, technical editor. Proceedings of the Species at Risk 2004 Pathways to Recovery Conference. March 2-6, 2004, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.