

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) b-ambi

#	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Ecosection	BBT, CPK
2	Biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	ICHmw1, ICHwk1 (Stevens 1993)
3	Habitat requirements	<p>The American Bittern is a secretive wetland species that inhabits tall, lush emergent vegetation such as cattails, bulrushes and willows, along the edges of marshes, sloughs, lakes, swamps, and rivers.</p> <p>Nesting marshes must have extensive stands of emergent vegetation and stable water levels. Because of the daily and seasonal fluctuations in water level of the Cummins River if this species is to nest in the study area it will do so on the higher banks, near the small oxbow ponds where the water level is more stable. (Campbell <i>et al</i> 1990)</p>
4	Assumptions	<p>In the ICHmw1 only structural stage 2 and 3 of the RH ecounit are suitable for the general living (LI) (feeding and cover) and Reproducing (RP) activities. These activities will be rated up to Low (L) for the growing season (G) only.</p> <p>In the ICHwk1 structural stage 2 and 3 of the RC, and RH ecounits are rated up to Moderate for the general living activity. The ecounits SS and WS are rated up to Moderate for the general living and breeding activities.</p>
5	Forage preferences	Opportunistic carnivore, feeds on any small animal it can catch including small mammals, amphibians, crayfish, small fish and insects (Ehrlich <i>et al</i> 1988)
6	Seasonal requirements & patterns	In the Cummins drainage if this species occurs at all it would be present during the growing season only. It would arrive in late spring and migrate west to the Fraser Valley or south to central U.S.A. by fall.
7	Notes	Assessed on a 4-class / 2 season rating scheme

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