Until 2010, the Pacific Wren was considered a sub-species of the Winter Wren. It is small and well-camouflaged but is easily detected by its complex and vibrant song.

Pacific Wren

(Troglodytes pacificus)

STATUS

SARA	NO STATUS	British Columbia	YELLOW
Alberta	NO STATUS	Saskatchewan	ABSENT

PRIMARY HABITAT
Old coniferous/riparian

TERRITORY SIZE
1.2–3.3 ha

NEST TYPE
Variable (cavities, root masses, soil)

NEST REUSE
Some

STAND LEVEL
Retention of large trees, large downed logs, root masses, and slash piles.

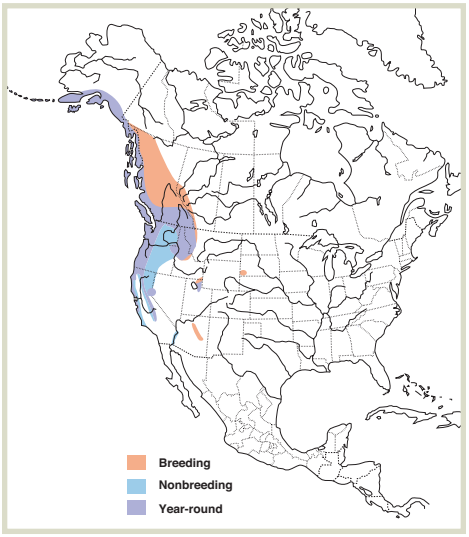
LANDSCAPE LEVEL
Large, old coniferous forests >30 ha (Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, etc.)

BREEDING WINDOW

HABITAT ECOLOGY

- The Pacific Wren is a year-round resident in parts of its range, including southern interior BC. During the breeding season, its range extends to include central and northern interior BC and the Alberta foothills.[1]
- This species is strongly associated with old coniferous forests that contain old forest features including snags, upturned tree root masses, downed trees, and large-diameter trees.[1]
  - The most suitable habitats for Pacific Wren include old western hemlock forests[2,3] and/or closed conifer forest >200 years old (e.g., Douglas fir, western red cedar, etc.).[4]
- In BC, the Pacific Wren is often found within 5 m of streams <10 m wide, where they nest on stream banks under soil overhangs and upturned root masses.[1,5,6]

RANGE MAP



RESPONSE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Clear-cutting and partial harvest reduce habitat suitability for the Pacific Wren[3] for up to 40 years,[7] however harvesting that retains high snag densities, slash piles, and upturned root masses may improve postharvest habitat quality.[1,8]
- Reduced densities of Pacific Wren near forest edges,[9] forest stands <20 ha.[1] and in narrow riparian buffers (avg. 13 m)[10] suggest that this species is sensitive to fragmentation of late-seral habitats.

STAND-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommended retention patch anchors include large-diameter downed logs, large-diameter trees, and fallen trees with large rootwads. Slash piles and shrub cover protection (i.e., maintaining >60% shrub cover) are also considered likely to improve habitat quality within harvested stands.[1,11]
- The creation of small canopy gaps using selection cutting may be an appropriate strategy, but would require the targeted retention of important habitat features including snags, downed woody debris, large-diameter trees, and upturned root masses.[6]
  - Cutblocks <10 ha that contain 10% dispersed retention may provide sub-optimal breeding habitat for Pacific Wrens, provided they are near mature or old forest.[12]
- Wide riparian buffers (e.g., >40 m), particularly along streams <10 m wide and including snags and downed trees, may represent suitable breeding habitat.[6,10,11]