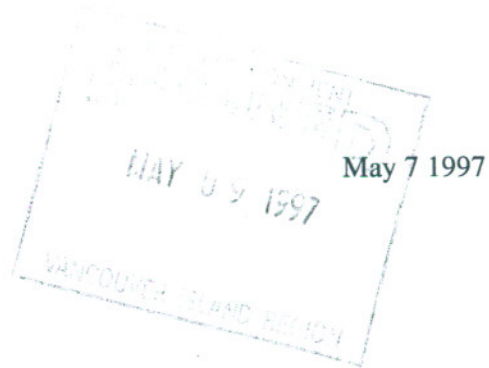




Trudy Chatwin
Rare and Endangered Species Biologist
Wildlife Branch
2080 Labieux Rd
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6E9



Re: Revised report on 1996 Vancouver Island Water Shrew (*Sorex palustris brooksi*) inventory activities

Enclosed is a revised copy of the 1996/97 progress report for the FRBC-funded inventory of the Vancouver Island Water Shrew (FRBC #PA96186-IN). This report replaces that distributed January 20, 1997, which need not be retained on file. Photos and slides taken during the field season are contained in the original version of the report, which is held by the project biologist (L. Hartman, Wildlife Research Section, Victoria), and can be viewed upon request.

This was the first year of a 3-year inventory, and entailed some development of methods. Project funding has now been reduced, which will reduce sampling over that initially proposed for the study. Work in this first season led to the capture of 3 specimens near Lowry Lake, a new locality record. Details of this record, and one for Hamilton Marsh based on 2 captures by an independent consultant (J.C. Lee and Associates, Nanaimo) are included in the report.

As *Sorex palustris brooksi* is a candidate for "identified wildlife" status under the *Forest Practices Code Act of British Columbia*, the process of formally reporting these occurrences, and taking steps to apply the draft guidelines of the *Managing Identified Wildlife Guidebook* should be initiated.

Sincerely,

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