

WILDLIFE



Hunting of species such as elk, deer, and bear has historically been as important to Western Washington tribes' survival as the harvest of salmon and shellfish.

Port Gamble S'Klallam tribal members rely on some mammals—like deer and elk—as a food resource. Other species—such as beavers and mountain lions—are important to the Tribe because they help maintain the health and balance of ecosystems.

What climate change impacts do we expect?

- **Altered habitat.**



Elk

Increased wildfire risk in our forests could damage elk, deer, and bear habitat. On the other hand, milder winters could make it easier for young elk to survive.



American marten

The American marten relies on deep snowpack, so warmer winter temperatures may reduce the number of places where they can live.



Beaver

We don't know very much about how beavers might be affected by climate change, but beavers may play an important role in preserving ecosystems in the face of increased drought. Research shows that wetlands are more stable in the face of changes in climate when beavers are present. Beavers also make deep, cool pools that benefit juvenile steelhead and other fish.

- **Reduced availability of food.**



Deer

Black-tailed deer that experience drought when they are young can remain small in size, potentially making it harder for them to survive and reproduce.



Mountain lion

Given the mountain lion's expansive range, it is not currently considered vulnerable to climate impacts at a large scale.

- **Changes in disease rates, health, and survival.**



Mountain goat

Mountain goats may need to move up in elevation to find suitable habitat as temperatures continue to rise.



Black bear

Warmer winters can cause some bears to end their hibernation early. If they leave their dens too soon, they might not find the food that they need.



Seal

When sea surface temperatures rise, seal pups have higher rates of mortality, probably because their food sources diminish. Warming ocean temperatures may therefore lead to a drop in seal survival.

What are we doing about it?

The Tribe is working to restore wildlife habitat and also working with the hunting committee to ensure the effective management of wildlife.

Want more info?

Contact Sam Phillips in the Natural Resources Department at sphillips@pgst.nsn.us or 360-297-6289.



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PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE