

# Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*) Conservation Status Rank Summary

April 6, 2026

For details on assessment and ranking methodology, see: [Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species](#)

## Rarity and Trends

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value Factor Rating	Score	Data Source	Comments
<b>Rarity</b>					
Range Extent	2024-12-11	$\frac{146276.3 \text{ km}^2}{F = 20,000-200,000 \text{ km}^2}$	3.930	MTNHP Range Maps	None
Area of Occupancy			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Number of Occurrences	2025-01-23	$\frac{7}{B = 6 - 20}$	1.380	MTNHP Data	Approximately seven discreet areas with breeding populations
Population Size			-		Factor not used in ranking.
# of Occurrences in Good Condition			-		Factor not used in ranking.
% of Area Occupied in Good Condition			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Environmental Specificity	2009-01-15	$\frac{\text{Narrow}}{B = \text{Narrow; specialist or community with key requirements common}}$	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Factor not used in ranking. Dependent on moist conifer forests which are still relatively widespread.   Methodology: NS (2003)   Original Score: B
Rarity is calculated by averaging weighted factor scores: $(3.93 \times 1) + (1.38 \times 1) / 2 = 2.66$					
<b>Trends</b>					
Short-term Trend	2023-12-20	$\frac{[-13.5, -0.1\%]}{FG = \text{Decline of 30\% to relatively stable}}$	[-0.070, 0.000]	IMBCR	IMBCR trend in population estimates for Montana. "- 95% CI"
Long-term Trend	2009-01-15	$\frac{*}{F = \text{Decline of 10 - 30\%}}$	-0.070	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Mature moist conifer forests have declined since European arrival, but are probably stable within +/-25%.   Methodology: NS (2003)   Original Score: E
Trends score is calculated by summing weighted short and long-term trend scores: $([-0.07, 0.00] \times 2) + (-0.07 \times 1) = [-0.21, -0.07]$					

\*Values may be absent if not precisely estimated; factors may still be assessed for rank if a Factor Rating can be assigned.

## Threats

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value Factor Rating	Score	Data Source	Comments
<b>Threats</b>					
<b>Overall Threat Impact</b>		Medium C = Medium	3.670		Loss of mature forests with high canopy cover due to fire, beetle kill, and timber harvest.
<b>Intrinsic Vulnerability</b>	2009-01-15	Not intrinsically vulnerable C = Not intrinsically vulnerable	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Factor not used in ranking. Methodology: NS (2003)   Original Score: C
Threat score is calculated from Overall Threat Impact when available or Intrinsic Vulnerability if not: <b>( 3.67 ) = 3.67</b>					

### Individual Threats Data

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Impact Score	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
<b>Biological Resource Use</b>	2024-12-11	Medium	Restricted	Serious	High	Numbers can decline dramatically after even moderate levels of timber harvest. Logging is not implemented on large scales, but threat of fragmentation and local decline is significant where these projects are implemented.
<b>Natural System Modifications</b>	2024-12-11	Medium	Large	Moderate	High	High severity fire presents a threat to the species as it relies on mature forest. All suitable habitat for the species in Montana falls within areas at moderate to high risk of fire (USDA Wildfire Risk to Communities Project, Wildfire Likelihood map)
<b>Climate Change &amp; Severe Weather</b>	2024-12-11	Low	Pervasive	Slight	Moderate	Audubon's Survival by Degrees project predicts a slight range contraction in western Montana and expanded habitat east of the Continental Divide with warming of 1.5C
Threat Tally: 0 - Very High, 0 - High, 2 - Medium, 1 - Low Overall Threat Impact* = Medium						

\*See [Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species](#) for calculation of Overall Threat Impact based on the number and impact of individual threats.

## Conservation Status Rank Calculation

### Raw score

Rarity:  $(2.66 \times 70\%)$  + Threats:  $(3.67 \times 30\%)$  + Trends:  $([-0.21, -0.07])$  =  $[2.75, 2.89]$

Calculated Rank: S3

<b>Author(s)</b>	Dan Bachen
<b>Date Information Last Updated</b>	2026-04-06
<b>Accepted Rank</b>	S3
<b>Rank Approved By</b>	Montana Species of Concern Committee
<b>Date Current Rank Initially Approved</b>	2009-05-01
<b>Rank Justification</b>	Species is common to uncommon within suitable forested habitats across central and western Montana. It appears to be undergoing minor declines and faces threats from forest management including timber harvest and fire. Moderate warming is predicted to have slight impacts on habitat suitability.

## Supplementary Information

Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2021. Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species. 18 p.

[https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana\\_State\\_Rank\\_Criteria\\_20211201.pdf](https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana_State_Rank_Criteria_20211201.pdf)

Montana Field Guide Species Account:

<https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=ABPBG09090>

Predicted Suitable Habitat Model:

<https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/models/?elcode=ABPBG09090>

## Information Needs

Information needs are assessed by considering the availability of factors used to assess species status as well as the quality of these assessments. Current information availability and quality to inform Conservation Status Rank for this species are highlighted.

Rank Factor	Assessment Category	Value	Criteria
General Status	Status Quality	Adequate	Calculated rank has low uncertainty and is represented by a single rank (e.g. S3); accepted rank may be adjusted to a range rank (e.g. S2S3)
		Poor	Rank assessed as SU or calculated rank has notable uncertainty and corresponds to a range rank with 2 or more values (e.g. S2?, S1S3, or S4S5)
Rarity	Range Quality	Adequate	Range polygon adequately represents area of probable occupancy and does not include substantial unoccupied areas; range may be adequately defined and still include areas of unsuitable habitat (e.g. mountain ranges for plains species)
		Marginal	Range polygon defined, but may include or exclude notable areas where the species may or may not occur on the landscape
		Poor	Range polygon not defined
	Habitat Quality	Adequate	Species-habitat relationship is well-defined (e.g. relevant literature or robust habitat model available)
		Marginal	Understanding of species-habitat relationship is adequate among some but not all habitats (e.g. literature covers similar habitats outside of Montana or habitat model performance is only somewhat adequate)
		Poor	Species-habitat relationship is not well understood
Threats	Threat Quality	Adequate	Threat Impact is a single value (including "Unthreatened")
		Marginal	Threat Impact assessed at more than one value (e.g. "High - Medium")
		Poor	Threat Impact is Unknown but Intrinsic Vulnerability is assessed
		Unknown	Threat Impact is Unknown and Intrinsic Vulnerability is not assessed
Trends	Recency	Current	Short-term Trend assessment date less than 10 years old
		Out of Date but Adequate	Short-term Trend assessment date is more than 10 years old or Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Out of Date	Short-term Trend assessment date more than 10 years old
		Not Available	Short-term Trend data are not available
	Trend Quality	Sufficient	Short-term Trend assessed at a single value or multiple values with a minimum trend greater than -10% (stable or increasing)
		Unknown but Sufficient	Short-term Trend is Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Poor	Short-term Trend is less than -10% (in decline) with two or more values selected
		Unknown	Short-term Trend is Unknown

### Summary of Information Availability

Information to assess status are available.

### Summary of Information Needs

No further information is needed and monitoring through IMBCR should continue.

## Additional Threat Details

The table below contains the complete threats assessment for this species. While the Conservation Status Rank Calculation is based on cumulative, broadly categorized (Level 1) threats data, threats are assessed and tracked for more specifically categorized (Level 2) threats when available.

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Assessed By	Data Source	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
<b>Biological Resource Use - 5.3 - Logging &amp; Wood Harvesting</b>	2024-12-11	Dan Bachen	Hutto and Young 1999, Young and Hutto 2002	Restricted	Serious	High	Numbers can decline dramatically after even moderate levels of timber harvest. Logging is not implemented on large scales, but threat of fragmentation and local decline is significant where these projects are implemented.
<b>Natural System Modifications - 7.1 - Fire &amp; Fire Suppression</b>	2024-12-11	Dan Bachen	USDA Wildfire Risk to Communities Project, Wildfire Likelihood map	Large	Moderate	High	High severity fire presents a threat to the species as it relies on mature forest. All suitable habitat for the species in Montana falls within areas at moderate to high risk of fire (USDA Wildfire Risk to Communities Project, Wildfire Likelihood map)
<b>Pollution - 9.3 - Agricultural &amp; Forestry Effluents</b>	2026-04-06	Dan Bachen	SWAP Assessment	Large	Unknown	High	Use of pesticides and herbicides reduces prey base (i.e., invertebrates).
<b>Climate Change &amp; Severe Weather - 11.1 - Habitat Shifting &amp; Alteration</b>	2024-12-11	Dan Bachen	Audubon Survival by Degrees Project	Pervasive	Slight	Moderate	Audubon's Survival by Degrees project predicts a slight range contraction in western Montana and expanded habitat east of the Continental Divide with warming of 1.5C