



Montane Cordillera Ecozone

Most of southern British Columbia and a portion of southwestern Alberta are contained within the Montane Cordillera Ecozone.

Physiographically, it is essentially a rugged mountain unit which rings several major interior plains. The plains are more extensive to the north and finger out as intermontane valleys towards the southerly half.

The climate is typified by moderately long, cold winters and short, warm summers. Annual precipitation is about 800 mm over the northern section, 1200 mm along the British Columbia-Alberta border, and only 500 mm in the desert-like environments towards the Canada-U.S. border. The mean daily January temperature ranges from -7.5°C to -17.5°C , with the mean daily July temperature ranging from 13°C to 18°C .

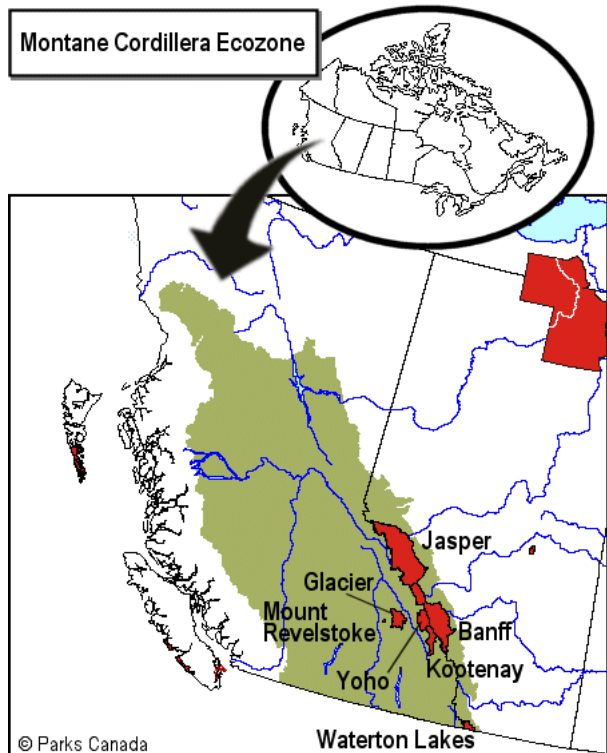
The vegetation pass by the alpine environment with lichen and shrub associations, by the subalpine with trees species such as lodgepole pine, alpine fir and Engelmann spruce. With decreasing elevation, the vegetation of the mountains changes.

Characteristic mammals of the Montane Cordillera include woodland caribou, mule deer, wapiti, bighorn sheep, fisher, badger and hoary marmot.

Typical bird species include blue grouse, stellar's jay and black billed magpie.

This ecozone includes:

- [Banff National Park of Canada](#)
- [Glacier National Park of Canada](#)
- [Jasper National Park of Canada](#)
- [Kootenay National Park of Canada](#)
- [Mount Revelstoke National Park of Canada](#)
- [Waterton Lakes National Park of Canada](#)
- [Yoho National Park of Canada](#)



Reference: Lands Directorate, *Terrestrial Ecozones Of Canada*, Ecological Land Classification No. 19, 1986, p. 26.