

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA: PROPOSED LISTING OF BLACK ASH (*FRAXINUS NIGRA*) UNDER THE SPECIES AT RISK ACT

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Canadian Wildlife Service – ON Region

November 10, 2021



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

Why Are We Here Today?

- Species at Risk Act Consultation, Cooperation and Accommodation Project
- Context: The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) Listing Process
- Proposed Addition of Black Ash to Schedule 1 of SARA
 - Species Information
 - Discussion



SARA Consultation Project: Overview

- Partnership between Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) on a National Species At Risk Act (SARA) Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Project
- Two-year project to facilitate Indigenous communities' and organizations' participation in meaningful consultation and cooperation in support of the listing, recovery and protection provisions of SARA.
- CIER will support Indigenous communities and organizations and ECCC in collaborative work, including:
 - recovery document development
 - knowledge and language sharing
 - land use planning for species at risk on reserve lands and within traditional territories
- Provision of funds on behalf of ECCC, through:
 - participant fees and Elder honoraria to attend species-specific workshops
 - modest capacity funding requests
 - Expression of Interest (EOI) call for proposals



SARA Consultation Project: 2021/2022 Workshops

Workshop	Date/Time
Introduction to the Species at Risk Act	Nov 4, 2021; 9am-12pm EST 2 nd half-day workshop in early 2022 (date TBD)
Information session on the EOI call for proposals	Nov 9, 2021; 12-2pm EST Nov 18, 2021; 12-2pm EST
Consultation on the addition of Black Ash to Schedule 1 of SARA	Nov 10, 2021; 9am-12pm EST Additional dates to be confirmed
An introduction to the Land Relationship Visioning Tool	Nov 16, 2021; 9am-12pm EST Nov 23, 2021; 9am-12pm EST Feb 8, 2022; time TBD
Discussion of Canadian Wildlife Service's work in the Carolinian Zone of Ontario (Species at Risk and National Wildlife Areas)	Nov 30, 2021; 10am-4pm EST
Overview of the current Recovery Document consultations for various species	Dec 7, 2021; 9am-12pm EST 2 nd half-day workshop in early 2022 (date TBD)
Early engagement on the development of a Management Plan for Wolverine	2 half-day workshops (dates TBD)
Early engagement on the development of a recovery strategy for Monarch	2 half day workshops (dates TBD)
Consultation on amending the list of species under the Species at Risk Act	1 half day workshop in early 2022 (date TBD)



The *Species at Risk Act*

SARA is designed to:

- Protect individuals and habitat;
- Allow for recovery of species; and
- Work in a complimentary fashion with provincial legislation



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The *Species at Risk Act*

Recognizes that:

“the roles of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada and of wildlife management boards established under land claims agreements in the conservation of wildlife in this country are essential,”

and that:

“the traditional knowledge of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada should be considered in the assessment of which species may be at risk and in developing and implementing recovery measures”



SARA Recognizes Indigenous Rights

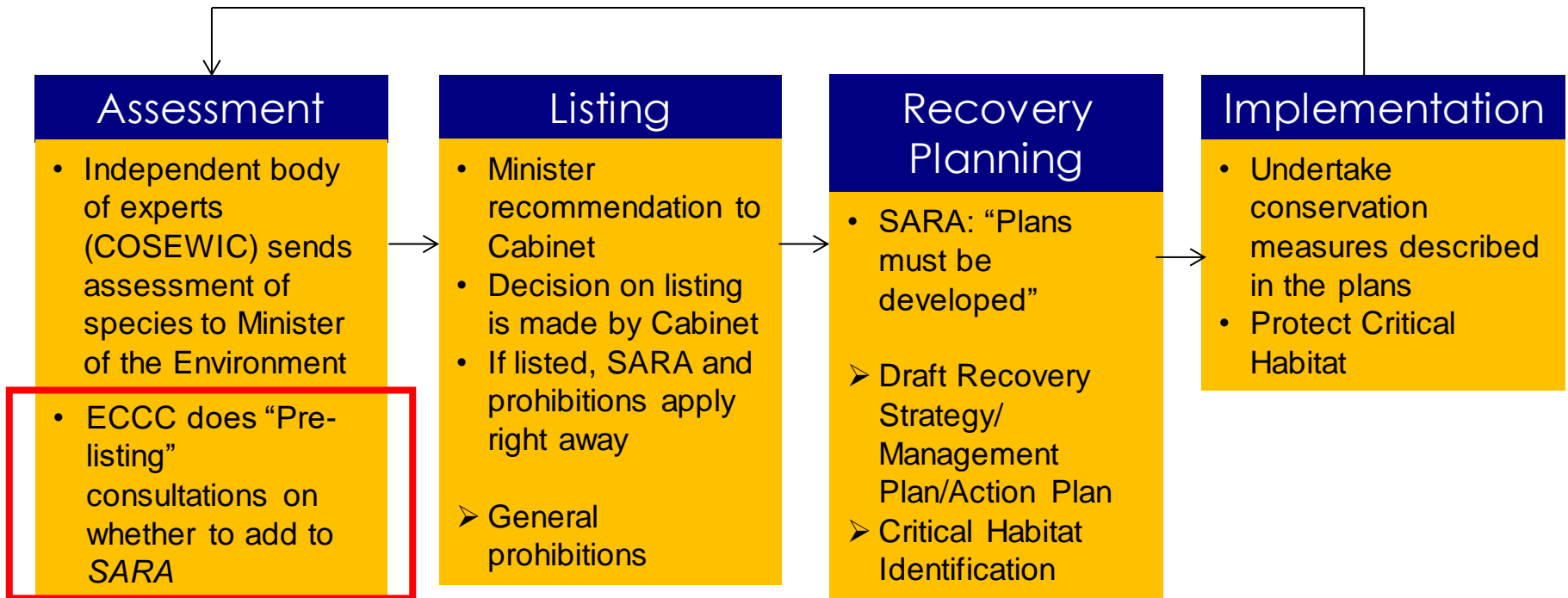
SARA respects the protection of Aboriginal rights, as affirmed in the Constitution

- **Canadian Constitution (Section 35):** “The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.”
- **SARA (Section 3):** “For greater certainty, nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for Aboriginal or Treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada...”



The *Species at Risk Act* Process

Species are re-assessed every 10 years



We are here



Assessment: Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)

- Independent group of experts who assess the risk of species' extinction in Canada
- Assessments are based on:
 - Status of wildlife in Canada
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) quantitative criteria
 - Scientific knowledge, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) and community knowledge
 - ATK subcommittee provides ATK to COSEWIC during assessment process

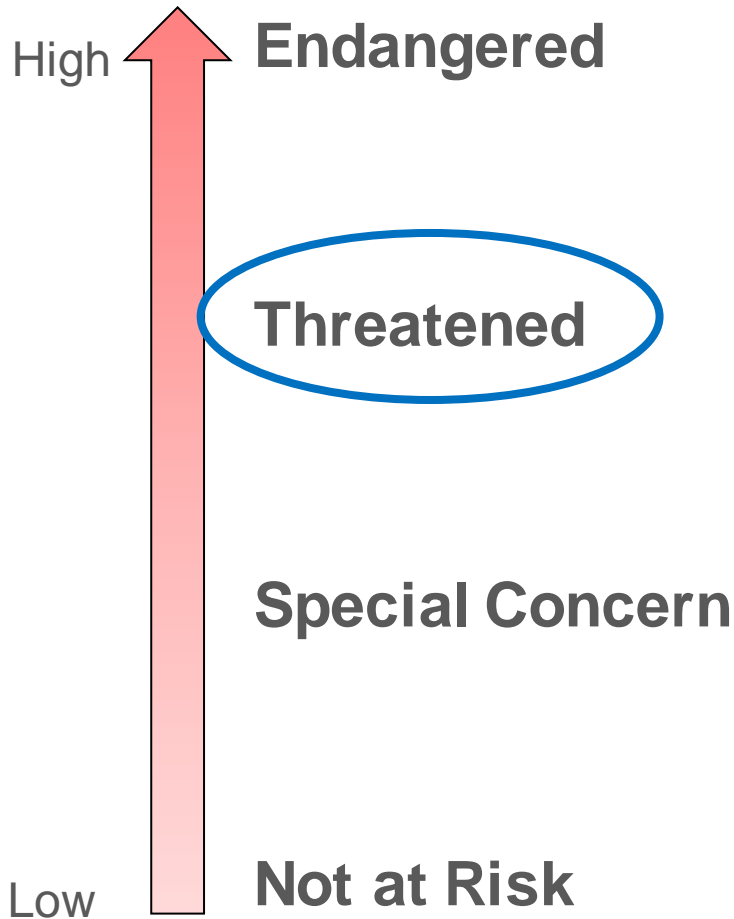


Listing: Key Steps

1. Minister of Environment receives ‘assessment of risk’ status reports from COSEWIC, has 90 days to respond by indicating next steps
- 2. Consultation period with provinces/territories, Indigenous peoples, and local stakeholders**
 - i) Often use an “**extended process**” for species requiring more consultation/ analysis
3. Minister of Environment sends recommended listings to the Governor in Council (Cabinet), which has nine months to consider whether or not to list a species



Implications of SARA Listing



Prohibitions:

- Apply to extirpated, endangered, threatened species
- For terrestrial species, prohibitions apply on federal land only. For migratory birds and aquatic species, prohibitions apply where ever they are found.
- No person shall kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual; possess collect, buy, sell or trade an individual; damage or destroy the residence of one or more individuals



Listing: Consultation

When: December or January

What: Email/Mail from CWS-Ontario region - SpeciesatRisk.Ontario@ec.gc.ca

- Subject: Seeking comments on the Proposed Amendment to Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA): the List of Wildlife Species at Risk
- Includes:
 - Consultation Booklet (easy read): Listing process, questions
 - List of species including proposed status and consultation period
 - Normal: 3-4 months
 - Extended: 9+ months for species of a higher socio-economic interest which will need more in-depth consultations)
 - Species fact sheets

Why: To help inform the Minister's recommendation; voice your opinion

How: Send comments by email, mail, online survey or phone

- If you have questions or to request a meeting – email/phone Victoria Leck



Listing: Areas of Focus

Supporting meaningful involvement in SARA listing decisions

When deciding whether to list a species, the Minister considers:

- **Recommendations** from the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge sub-committee
- **If the species supports livelihoods** (e.g. through harvesting, subsistence or medicine)
- Potential **impacts to people's activities** with the species
- Potential **cultural, social, or economic costs or benefits** to individuals, communities or organizations
- If **current or planned activities** overlap with species range/occurrence
- Any current or planned **activities that may harm** the species and/or destroy part of its habitat
- Any **other information** people choose to share during consultation



Black Ash

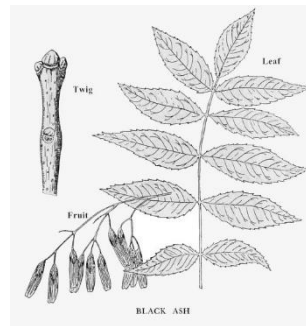
Proposed Addition to Schedule 1 of SARA

Assessed as **Threatened** by COSEWIC (November 2018)



Black Ash - Identifying Features

- Deciduous, hardwood tree with flexible wood
- Opposite, compound leaves with 7-11 leaflets
- Grows up to 15-20 m tall, 30-50 cm diameter
- Mature trees have grey bark with vertical, narrow, scaly strips
- Grows in mucky or peaty soils in swamps, such as river floodplains



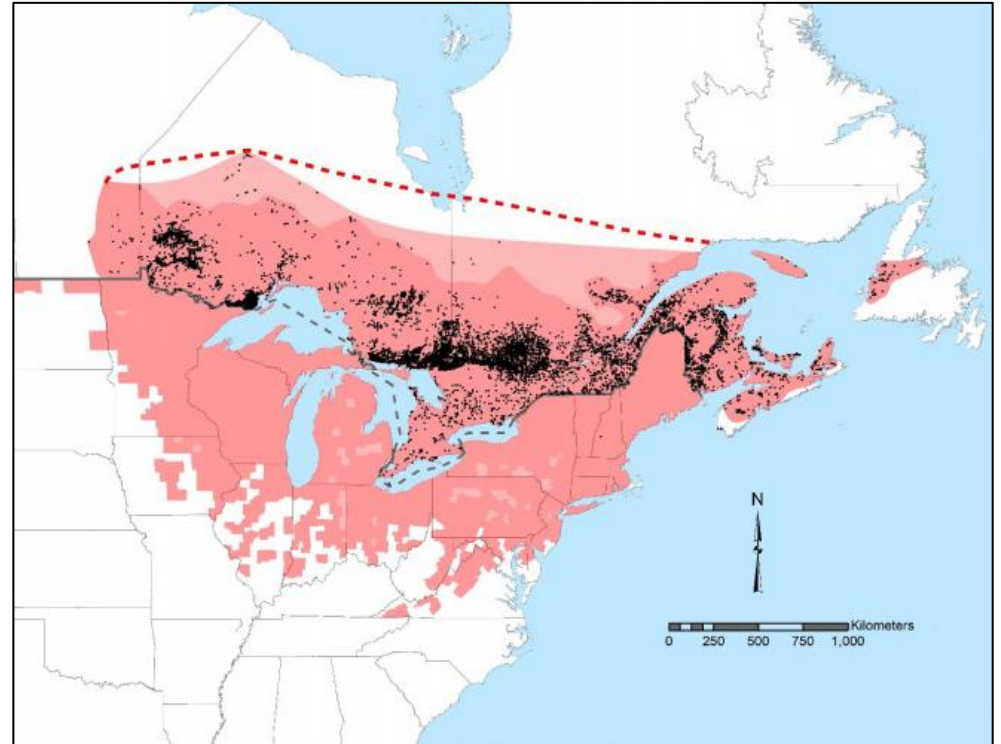
Black Ash - Biology

- Flowers in mid- to late-spring
- Pollination & seed dispersal by wind
- Seeds can remain dormant in soil for up to 8 years
- Can reproduce by seed at ~30 years
- Lives up to 300 years
- Provides food & shelter to many species, including ash-specific arthropods



Habitat Needs and Distribution

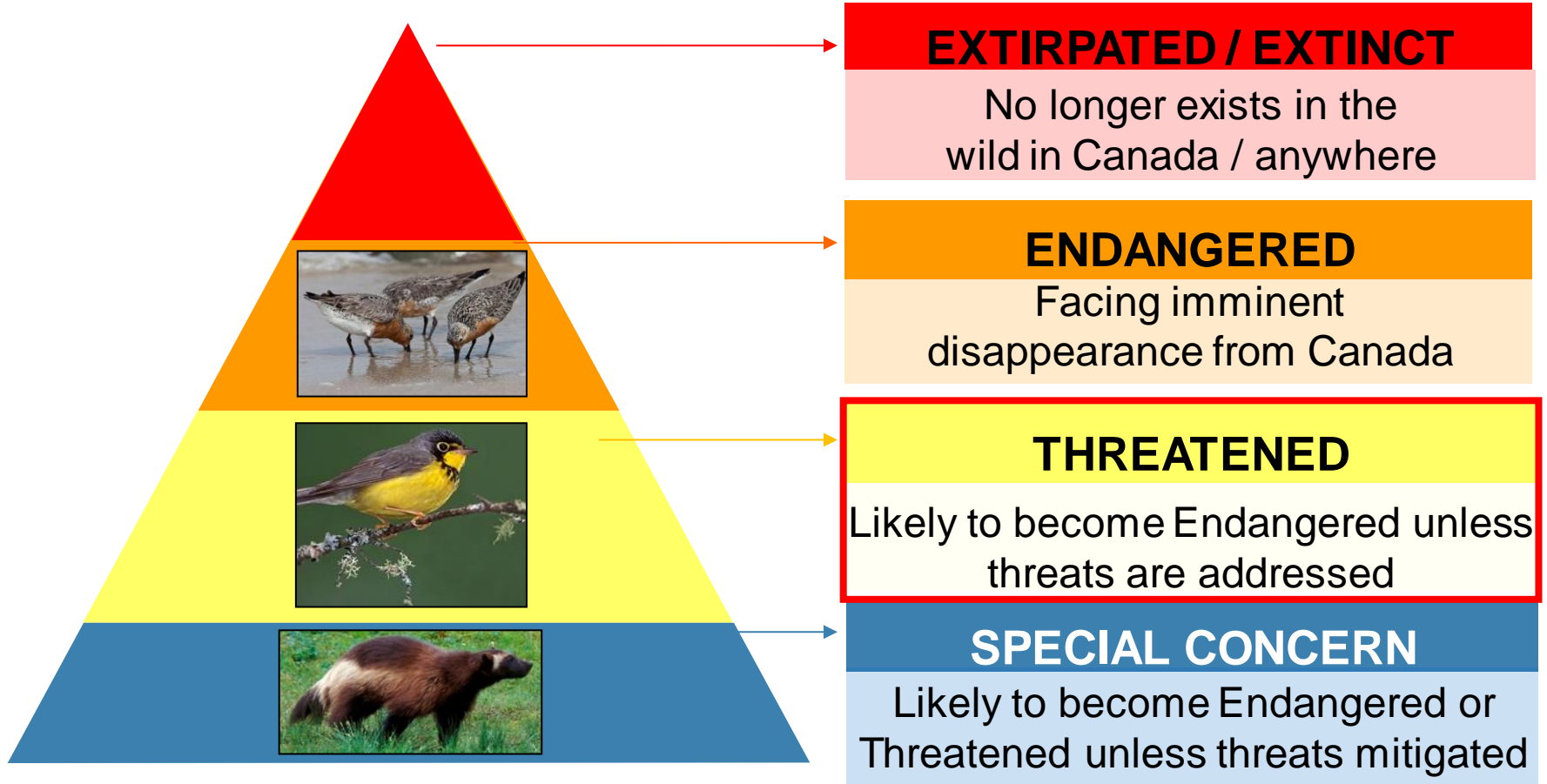
- Wetland species of swamps, floodplains and fens.
- Most sites in which it is dominant are flood-prone.
- Also occurs in moist upland forests, but at lower densities.
- ~51% of global range found in Canada



COSEWIC 2018



Species Status – risk of extinction



Threats to Black Ash



- Native ash trees, including Black Ash, are declining primarily due to **habitat loss** and to the introduction of a non-native beetle called the **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**
 - Blue Ash is already listed as SC under SARA (being reconsidered as Threatened), and Pumpkin Ash is currently being assessed by COSEWIC
- EAB has caused modest *overall* declines of ash in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba to date, however:
 - Projections indicate that mortality rates will be greater than 90%;
 - ~73% of the Canadian population is likely to be affected by EAB within the next 60 years under current climate conditions
- Other Threats may include:
 - Unknown and potentially introduced pathogen in Nova Scotia
 - Asian fungal disease, Chalara Dieback, not yet known in North America
 - Climate change, which may reduce the suitable habitat for Black Ash



How to Identify EAB



Signs of EAB Infestation:

- Larval galleries
- D-shaped exit holes
- Crown dieback
- Yellowing foliage



How to Identify EAB



Signs of EAB Infestation:

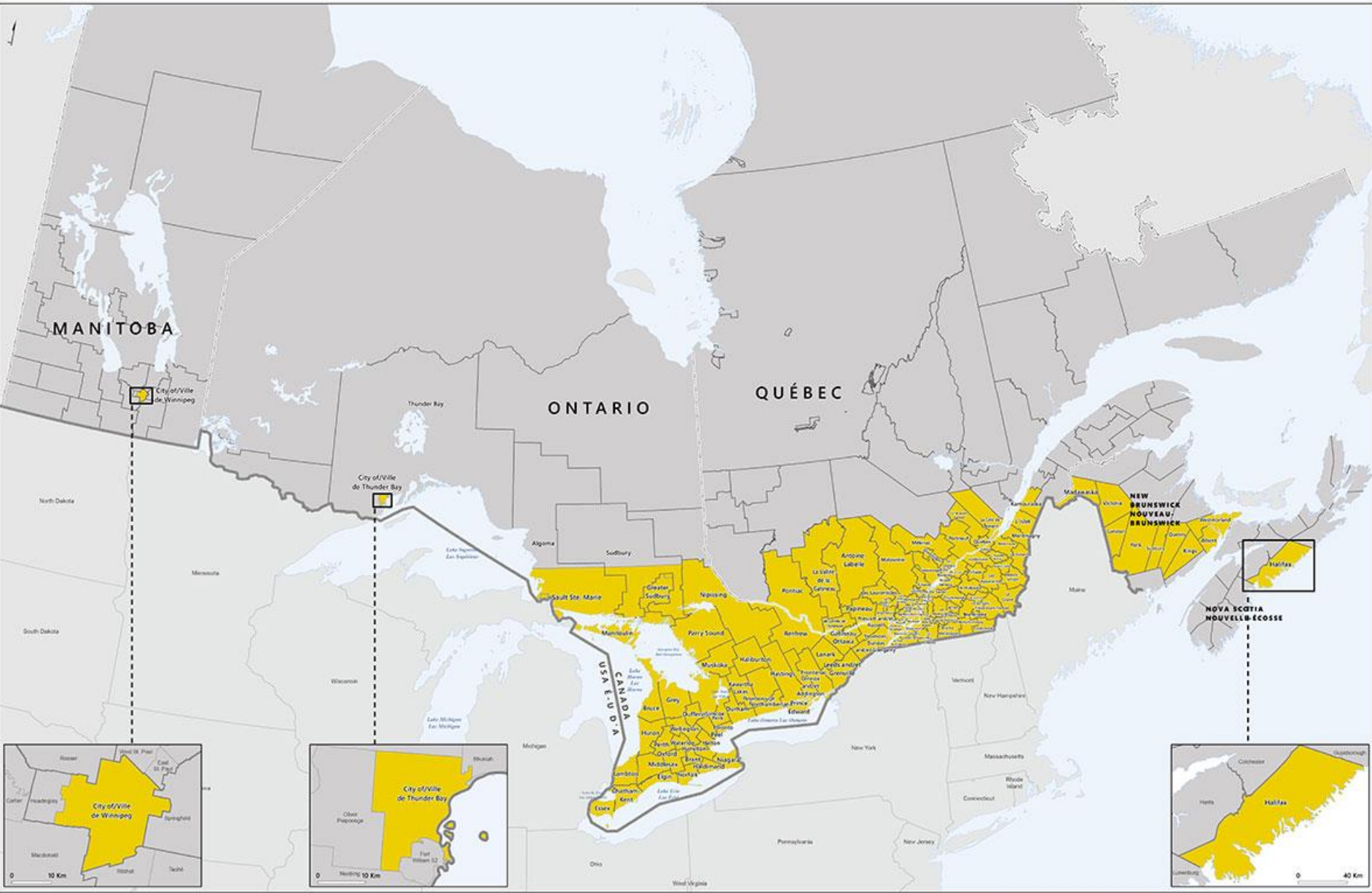
- Epicormic shoots
 - Sprouts that grow on tree trunk and roots when tree is under stress
- Bark deformities
- Woodpecker feeding holes



Management Approaches

- Promotion of best woodlot/ forest management practices and overall ecosystem health
 - Poor tree health increases susceptibility to EAB
- Identification of high-value stands of Black Ash and development of forest management plans to monitor, protect and preserve these stands
- Restrictions on movement of firewood to mitigate EAB spread
 - Specific areas of NS, NB, QC, ON and MB have regulatory measures in effect which prohibit the movement of firewood, including ash materials (regulated by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA))





0 100 200 400 Km
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 Map Projection Canada Albers Equal Area Conic | Projection cartographique conique équivalente d'Albers Canada

Areas regulated | Lieux réglementés

Y1/An: 2020
 M0/R: 02

© 2020 The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Mapping and GIS Services, London, Ontario. | L'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments, Cartographie et services SIG, London, Ontario.

Management Approaches

- Natural Resource Canada (NRCAN) National Tree Seed Centre is collecting and preserving Black Ash seeds for future reforestation and breeding
- NRCAN Invasive Alien Species Strategy
 - Work on breeding resistant trees.
 - Biological control – NRCAN (Canadian Forest Service) began the releases of two parasitic wasps in 2016 in Southern Ontario that target Emerald Ash Borer. Effects on ash survival are not yet clear.
- Pesticide Use
 - Trunk injections of a pesticide can help control EAB in high value landscape trees. Application is costly and requires follow-up treatments, so method is not feasible for large forest stands.



Submitting Species Observations

- Report species observations to conservation data centres, including:
 - The Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/natural-heritage-information-centre>)
 - iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>)
 - Invasive species centre [705-541-5790](tel:705-541-5790)
info@invasivespeciescentre.ca
 - Call the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at 1-800-667-1940
 - Call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-800-442-2342.

Thank you for participating in today's workshop!



Proposed Addition of Black Ash to SARA – Polling Question

Does Black Ash occur within your community/territory?



Proposed Addition of Black Ash to SARA – Discussion

Listing Impacts:

1. Is Black Ash used in your community/territory?

- Does Black Ash support livelihoods, e.g. through harvesting, subsistence or medicine?
- Does Black Ash provide cultural or spiritual benefits?
- Does Black Ash provide environmental benefits?

2. How would listing Black Ash impact you and your community?

- What are some costs and/or benefits that would result with listing?
- Are there any current or planned activities that would be impacted by listing Black Ash?



Proposed Addition of Black Ash to SARA – Discussion

Recovery Planning/ Implementation:

- Are there any specific threats in your community/territory that have not been identified, or conservation approaches that should be added?
- What conservation actions do you think are necessary in order to recover these species?
- Are there any current conservation actions occurring within your community/territory or any actions that could be implemented on your lands?
- How would you like to be involved in the development of a future recovery strategy for this species?



For More Information...

- **Species at Risk Public Registry:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html>
- **Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act - Terrestrial Species January 2020:** <https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/consultations/3542>

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