



# Grassland Species at Risk Workshop Prairie Region

Species At Risk Act Consultation, Cooperation, and Accommodation Project  
in Partnership with the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)

Paulson Des Brisay, Species at Risk Biologist

Wendy Eskowich, Consultation Biologist

Canadian Wildlife Service – Prairie Region

Environment and Climate Change Canada (CWS-PRA-ECCC)

**Tuesday March 1, 2022**



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

# Introduction and Acknowledgement

- CIER Staff:
- Kat Hewitt – Project Manager
  - Originally from Toronto, ON, now located in Williams Lake, British Columbia
  - Previously Natural Resources Manager at the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council and Mentor/Co-Chair of the First Nations – B.C. Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum
  - Focus on Wildlife Ecology and Sustainable Development
  - [khewitt@yourcier.org](mailto:khewitt@yourcier.org)
- Anita Murdock – Research Associate
  - Originally from Brandon but currently located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Member of Long plain First Nation.
  - Finishing up a M.Sc in Microbiology
  - Joined CIER in July 2021



## Wendy Eskowich, Consultation Biologist



- Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) – Prairie: AB, SK & MB  
Office: Saskatoon, SK , live near Melfort, SK
- BU Owl, FE Hawk, DU Wetland Educator,
- CWS since 2012- consultations on Listings and Recovery Documents

[Wendy.Eskowich@EC.gc.ca](mailto:Wendy.Eskowich@EC.gc.ca)

## Curtis Kayseass, Consultation Program Officer



- CWS Prairie Region- Saskatoon Office, SK
- Indigenous Services Canada, Governance Officer;  
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Call Centre, 2007 -2019 Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, Nutrition North Canada, 2011 Manitoba Flood Class Action.

[Curtis.Kayseass@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Curtis.Kayseass@ec.gc.ca)

# Introduction and Acknowledgement

- **European** – Ancestors came to the Canadian Prairies from Iceland, UK
- **Born and raised in ON** – grew up in Ottawa and Gatineau
- Worked on ants to elk from the Yukon to the Amazon
- **Back to the Prairies** – moved to Manitoba for graduate studies - lived in Winnipeg since 2014
- **ECCC** – started working for the Canadian Wildlife Service – 2019

[Paulson.DesBrisay@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Paulson.DesBrisay@ec.gc.ca)



# AGENDA

2:00 – 5:00 CST / 1:00 -4:00 MST

2:05 **Opening and Introductions**

2:20 Agenda and Housekeeping

**2:25** Purpose, Goals, Funding Recap

**2:35** **SARA Process: Assessment, Listing.**

Grassland Species Overview

Discussion / Q & A: Projects Ideas, Funding

3:20 Break

3:30 **SARA Process: Recovery Planning:**

Grassland Species Overview

Discussion / Q & A: Project Ideas, Funding

4:15 **SARA Process: Implementation & Monitoring**

Other available funding

4:30 **Open Q & A**

4:50 Closing

**House Keeping & Recording**

# Introduction and Acknowledgement



**CIER**  
Centre for Indigenous  
Environmental Resources

- The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)
- Canada's first Indigenous-directed environmental non-profit charitable organization.
- We work directly with Indigenous communities to make a lasting impact on the home we all share by working on different environmental initiatives to build sustainable communities and protect lands and waters across several program areas including water, traditional knowledge, youth, biodiversity, climate change and food sovereignty. We are a virtual organization with staff from BC, AB, MB, ON and QC.
- <http://yourcier.org>

# PURPOSE

- **High-level overview of the Species at Risk Act Process**
  - Assessment, Listing, Recovery Planning & Implementation
- **Prairie Region – GRASSLAND species at risk**
  - Information sharing and discussion about species currently undergoing **Listing and Recovery Planning**

# GOALS

- **Help Indigenous communities / organizations** identify, ask questions and discuss ideas about:
  - grassland species at risk that they would be interested in supporting the recovery of
  - the types of conservation activities that may help reduce the threats to a particular species
  - the types of funding programs that might support a conservation project
  - Work together **to increase Indigenous interest and representation** in federal recovery planning processes to **help conserve and recover Species at Risk**

# CAPACITY FUNDING

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- 1. Funding to support participation in species-specific workshops and/or meetings organized by CIER/ECCC**
  - To provide funding for community members, staff, elders, and knowledge holders to share their time and cover in-person meeting expenses.
  - Funding amounts are based on Treasury Board of Canada rates. Details on available funding will be provided in individual session invitations.



# CAPACITY FUNDING

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## 2. Capacity funding to support information sharing for federal terrestrial species at risk listing and recovery planning

- To help address possible capacity challenges and work better together, ECCC is partnering with CIER who will **administer federal capacity funding for those wishing to share data, knowledge and other information with ECCC** about terrestrial species at risk but need some support to do so.
- can involve approaches that can work for everyone (e.g., MOUs, protocol agreements, data sharing agreements).
- can support honorariums, travel, room rental, hospitality, professional services, Indigenous Knowledge collection, document review and written comments.

# Funding Information (through CIER)

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## Second call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

- **Additional targeted funding** to directly support Indigenous peoples' and organizations' meaningful participation in **currently active/open, listing consultations and recovery planning for terrestrial species at risk**, and **to address immediate threats to species and their habitats.**
- **EOI deadline is March 11, 2022**
- **CIER email January 19 or reminder January 25** included attached documents (Overview of Funding; EOI Form)
- Keep this EOI funding in mind as we go over the Grassland species, threats and discuss project ideas.

# Funding Information (through ECCC)

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- Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR)
- Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP)
- Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program (CHIP)
- Canada Nature Fund (CNF)
  - Indigenous Guardians
  - Priority Places
  - Community Nominated Priority Places
  - Challenge / Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- Nature-Smart Climate Solutions
- Directed Funding
  - Indigenous Partnerships Initiative

# What is a “Species at Risk” ?

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- **Species** = A plant or animal
- **At risk** = there is a possibility, or “some risk”, that the species may disappear from *the wild in Canada*,



unless the (human made) threats that are causing the decline in their numbers, are removed or reversed.

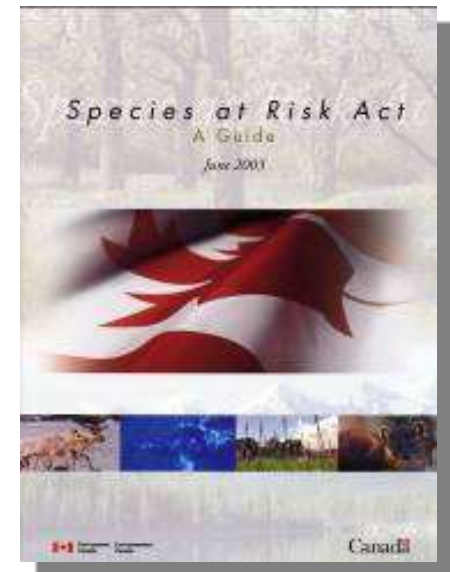
# What is the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*?

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A *national* (federal) approach for conservation of species that may be at risk of disappearing in the wild in Canada

**The purpose of the federal Species at risk Act (SARA) is to:**

- **prevent** species from becoming extinct by *protecting* individuals and their habitat
- **recover** species that are endangered or threatened as a result of *human activity and/or developments*
- work in a complimentary fashion with provincial legislation.



# The Species At Risk Act (SARA)

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## 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

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## ***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 existing aboriginal or treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada by the recognition and affirmation of those rights in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.”

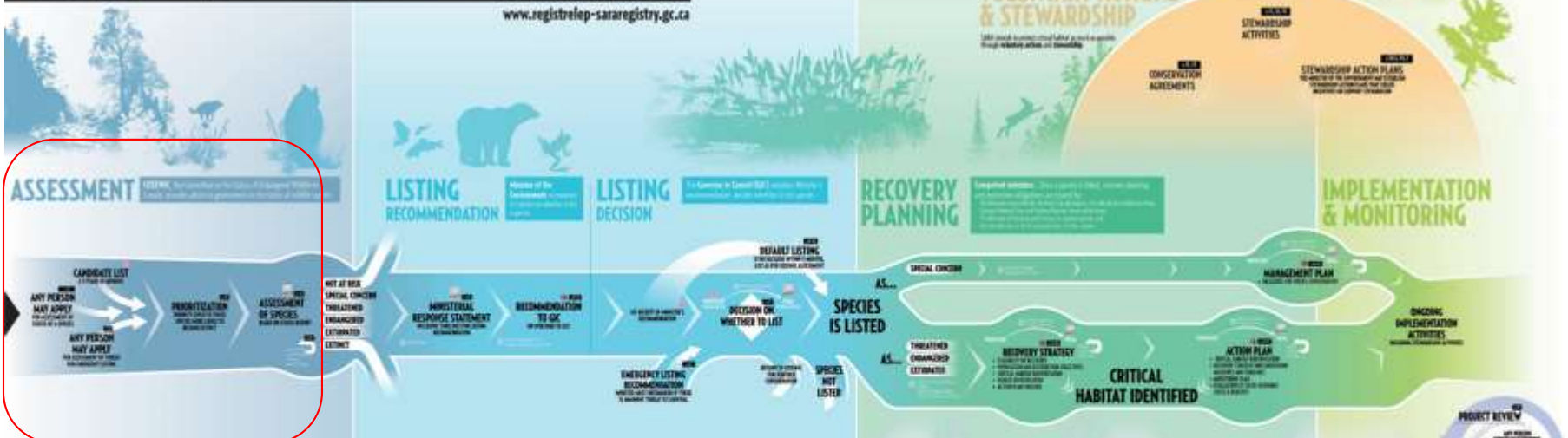
# SPECIES AT RISK ACT: Process Map

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) aims to:

1. Prevent **wildlife species** from becoming extirpated or extinct.
2. Provide for the recovery of extirpated, endangered or threatened **wildlife species**, and
3. Manage "species of special concern" to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened.

**Wildlife species** includes species, subspecies, varieties, or geographically or genetically distinct populations of animals, plants or other organisms that are wild by nature and native to Canada or whose range has extended into Canada for at least 10 years.

[www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca)



## SPECIES AT RISK CONSERVATION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN CANADA



**LEGEND**

- Stated Provisions Not Required by the Act
- Obligation to Consult and/or Comply
- Section Reference
- Provision (Enlightened or Policy) Requirement for Public or the Species at Risk Registry

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**PROTECTION**

- PROTECTION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND RESIDENCES:** Prohibitions apply automatically; competent authority must determine if a species is present; do not have power to apply prohibitions.
- EMERGENCY MEASURES:** Competent authority must determine if a species is present; emergency measures must be taken; do not have power to apply prohibitions.
- PROTECTION FOR CRITICAL HABITAT:** Competent authority must determine if a species is present; make order to apply prohibitions; make a declaration; do not have power to apply prohibitions.
- REGULATIONS:** Critical habitat protection; action plan implementation; management plan implementation.
- EXCEPTIONS:** Ministerial order; do not have power to apply prohibitions.
- PERMITS:** Ministerial order; do not have power to apply prohibitions.



# Status – How “at risk” is a species?

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**Extinct** – No longer exists anywhere in the world.

**Extirpated** No longer exists in the wild *in Canada*

**Endangered** Facing imminent extirpation or extinction  
(close to disappearing from Canada)

**Threatened** Likely to become endangered unless  
threats are removed

**Special Concern** May become threatened or  
endangered because it is sensitive  
to human activities or natural events

**NOT AT RISK or No longer at Risk**

# Who decides if a species is “at risk”?

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**COSEWIC** (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada)  
Independent group of experts, that gather knowledge to **assess** how “at risk” a species is, and oversee the development of a status report.

- use the best **biological** information available at the time, including scientific knowledge, community knowledge and aboriginal traditional knowledge\*\*
  - is the population declining;
  - is the range shrinking;
  - are there major new threats
- Socio-economic considerations are NOT factored into COSEWIC’s assessment
- Must assess the **entire population across Canada (or DU)**

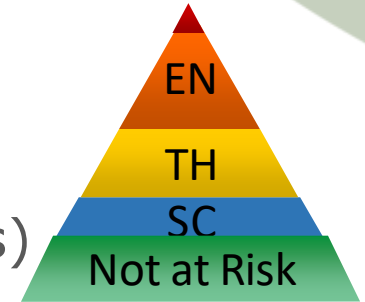
**\*\*Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee**  
provides ATK to COSEWIC for the assessment process, from literature, sought from Indigenous communities, or gathered directly from ATK holders depending on the species and resources available.





# COSEWIC ASSESSMENT

COSEWIC assesses each species as either extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened, special concern, data deficient, or not at risk. (Re-assessed ~10 years)



<https://www.cosewic.ca/index.php/en-ca/>

COSEWIC sends its assessments and supporting evidence to the Minister of the Environment once per year.

The COSEWIC assessments are also posted on the SARA Public Registry

Within 90 days of receiving the Assessment, the Minister must publish **Response Statements** on the Public Registry, which indicate how the Minister intends to respond to each COSEWIC assessment for a given species.

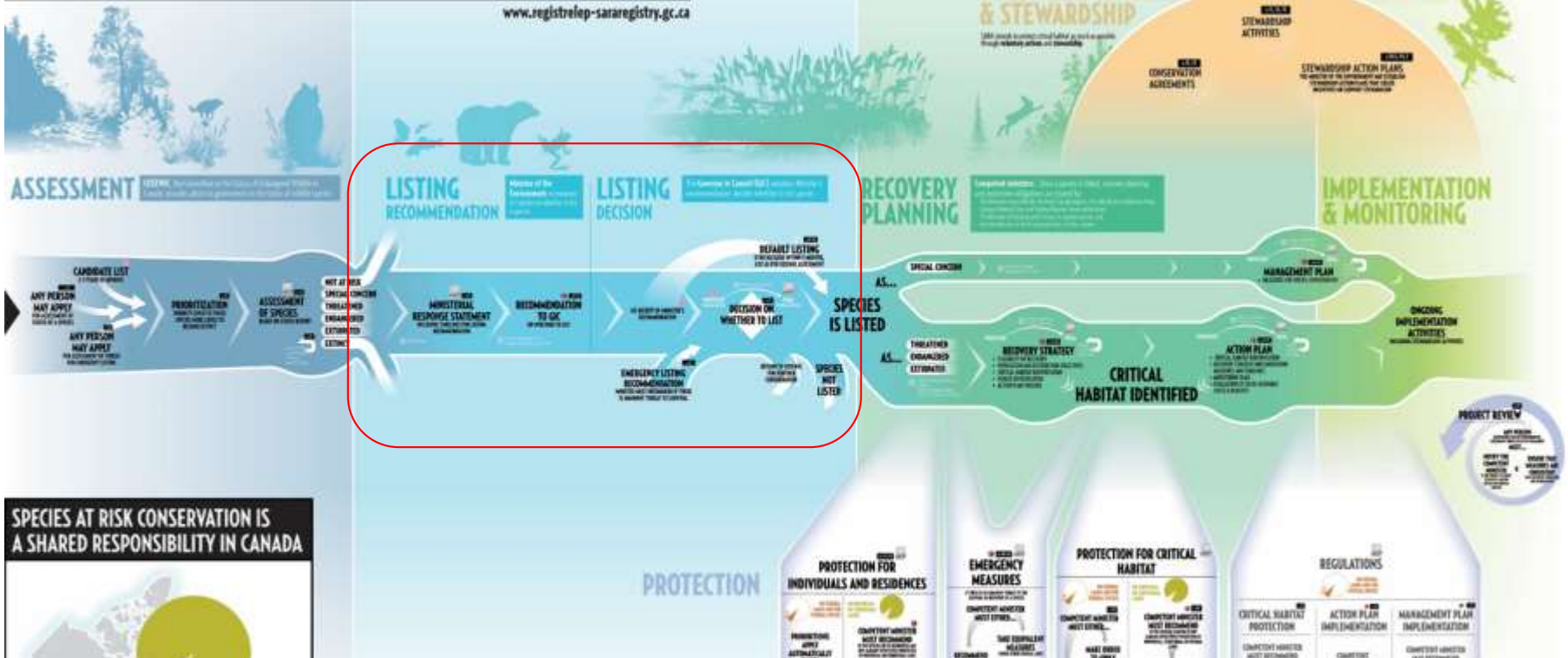
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SPECIES AT RISK CONSERVATION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN CANADA

- Listing- the process by which a species at risk is added to the Species At Risk Act- on Schedule 1 = the official "List" of Species at Risk in Canada.
- Once "listed", the measures *to protect and recover* the listed species as outlined in SARA, come into effect. The species moves through the SARA cycle-Recovery Planning/Implementation

# Protections once Listed

## SARA: protection of individuals & residences: “General Prohibitions”

- apply to species listed as **extirpated, endangered or threatened**:

No person shall:

- kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual
- possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual, or any part
- damage or destroy the residence of one or more individuals

- General prohibitions apply **automatically\*\***:



- on all federal lands
- to aquatic species anywhere they occur.
- to protected migratory birds (MBCA 1994) anywhere they occur
- **Note: *habitat*** is NOT protected *upon listing*-this occurs later in the SARA cycle, however *if* a species is listed, then it must move through the SARA cycle- so critical habitat will eventually be identified and protected *for EX, EN & TH* species.
- **\*\***do not apply automatically on private or P/T lands for other terrestrial species. A GIC order is needed to apply the prohibitions to these lands, if necessary (Minister must first form an opinion).

# Pre-Listing Consultation Process

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**Pre-Listing consultation period** with provinces/territories, Indigenous peoples, and local stakeholders ([Batch 19: Jan 2022](#))

- Normal process – 3-4 months

- **“extended process”** for species requiring more consultation/ analysis

- to help inform the pending listing decision
- to provide input on the potential impacts
- to share ideas on how to approach the threats to the species
  
- Invite comments on possible **social & economic impacts / benefits** *IF a species is listed* and/or the potential consequences of NOT adding a species to the list in SARA.
  
- Comments are used to help inform Minister’s recommendation to LIST, NOT List or send a species back to COSEWIC for review

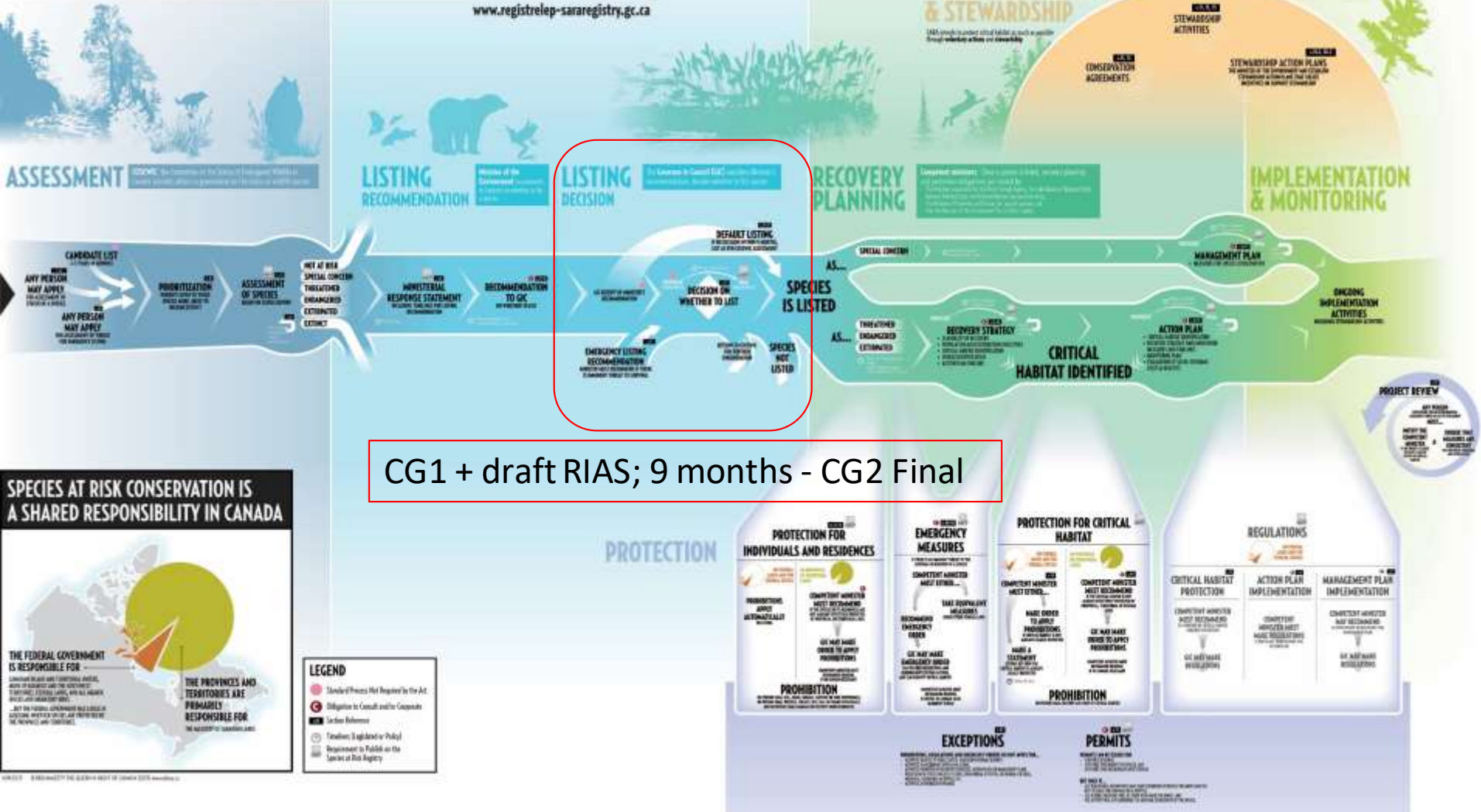
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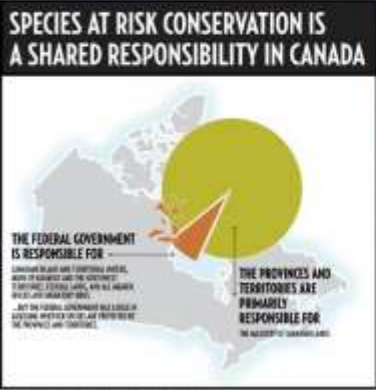
1. Prevent **wildlife species** from becoming extirpated or extinct,
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[www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca)



CG1 + draft RIAs; 9 months - CG2 Final



#### LEGEND

- Species of Special Concern in the Act
- Obligation to Consult with the Provinces
- Species Reference
- Timeline (Application of Policy Requirement to Publish on the Species at Risk Registry)

# FEDERAL LISTING – things to consider

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Do you think that listing species “x” would result in any **cultural, social, or economic costs and/or benefits** to you, your community/organization?

- **If the species supports livelihoods** (e.g. through harvesting, subsistence or medicine)
- Potential **impacts to people’s activities** if the species were to be listed
- Potential **cultural, social, or economic costs or benefits** to individuals, communities or organizations if a species were to be listed
- If **current or planned activities** overlap with species range/occurrence in your area, and if those activities **may harm** the species and/or destroy part of its habitat
- Any **other information** people choose to share during consultation



## SPECIES IN THE LISTING PROCESS

Species	SARA Status	COSEWIC Assessment	Proposed Change	Consultation period
Barn Swallow	Threatened	Special Concern	↓	Oct 2022
Ferruginous Hawk	Threatened	Special Concern	↓	May 2022
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Threatened	↑	Oct 2022
Lesser Yellowlegs	No Status	Threatened	↑	Oct 2022
Red Knot <i>rufa</i> subsp. (Northeastern South America)	No Status (DU split)	Special Concern	new	Oct 2022
Red Knot <i>rufa</i> subsp. (SE USA /Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean)	No Status (DU split)	Endangered	new	Oct 2022
Hudsonian Godwit	No Status	Threatened	new	CG1 pending
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Special Concern	↓	CG1 pending
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Threatened	Endangered	↑	CG1 pending
Monarch Butterfly	Special Concern	Endangered	↑	CG1 pending
Nine-spotted Lady Beetle	No Status	Endangered	↑	CG1 pending
Western Bumble Bee <i>occidentalis</i> subsp.	No Status	Threatened	new	CG1 pending
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	No Status	Threatened	new	CG1 pending
Plains Hog-nosed snake	Not listed	Special Concern	new	CG1 pending
Greater Short-horned Lizard	Endangered	Special Concern	↓	CG1 pending
Plains Bison	Not listed	Threatened	new	CG1 pending

# Questions & Discussion

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- Are any of the species being considered for listing of particular interest to your community/organization?
- Do you need support to gather information to comment on a listing being considered?



# Plains Bison *(Not on Schedule 1 (under consideration for addition as TH))*

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**The Plains Bison** is the largest land mammal in North America and can be recognized by its large head and shoulders, large snout, and horns that curve inward. The Plains Bison can be distinguished from the Wood Bison by its lower shoulder hump, lighter and woollier coat, longer beard, shorter tail, and thicker mane.

The range of Plains Bison in Canada is fragmented with no corridors between herds. Herds of wild bison can be found in Saskatchewan and herds of semi-wild or captive bison can be found in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

## Habitat

- Open habitats including meadows and grasslands
- Areas with suitable access to food

## Threats to Survival and Recovery

- Loss of habitat due to agriculture and urbanization
- Domestic cattle diseases
- Genetic pollution from escaped ranched bison



## SPECIES IN THE LISTING PROCESS

Species	SARA Status	COSEWIC Assessment	Proposed Change	Consultation period
<b>Migrant Grassland Shorebirds</b>				Oct 2022
				May 2022
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Threatened	↑	Oct 2022
Lesser Yellowlegs	No Status	Threatened	↑	Oct 2022
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# Migrant Grassland Shorebirds

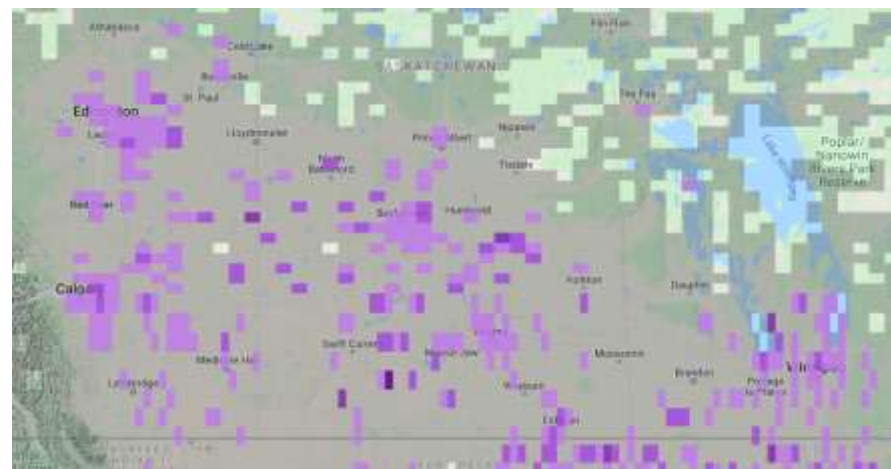
**HUDSONIAN GODWIT**

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS**

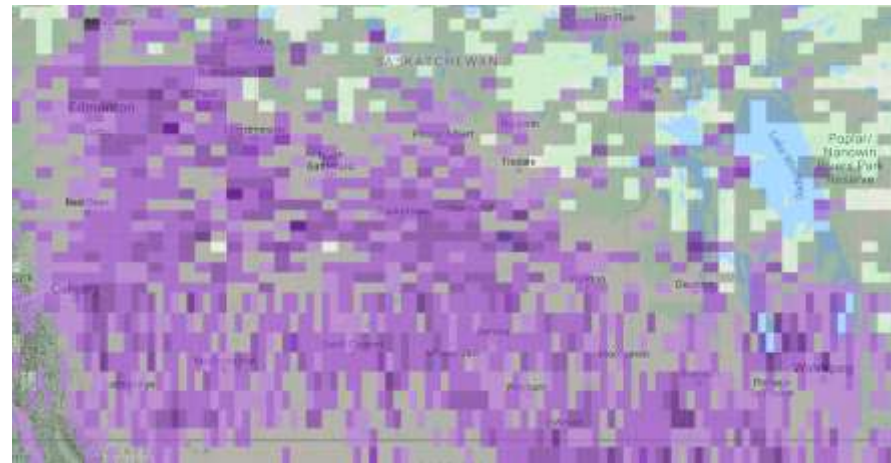
**RED KNOT**  
**RUFA SUBSPECIES**



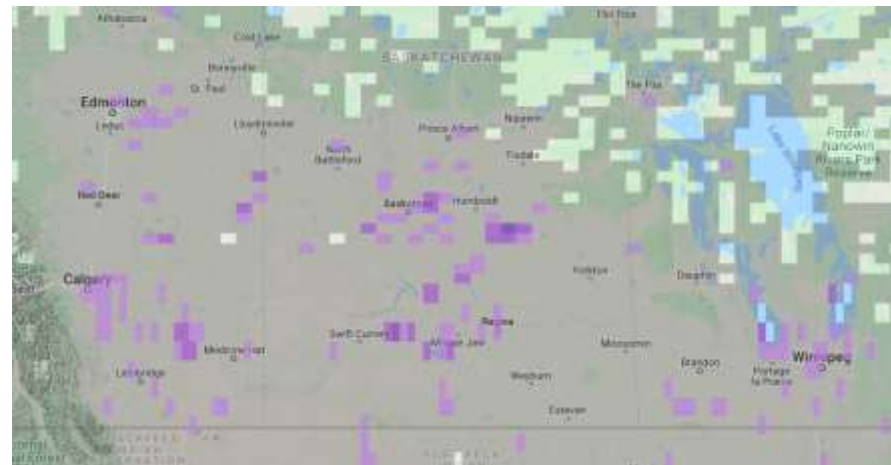
# HUDSONIAN GODWIT



# LESSER YELLOWLEGS



# RED KNOT



# Capacity Request for Listing Comment



## Primary Contact Details for Indigenous Community or Organization

Name of Community or Organization	
Contact Name	
Contact Title	
Contact Email	
Contact Phone Number	
Street Address, City, Province/Territory & Postal Code	

## Information Sharing Details

Anticipated month that information will be shared	e.g., June
Anticipated format for sharing information	e.g., email summary, written report, spatial data
Request for formalized information sharing agreement and format if known	If yes, e.g., Community's existing information sharing agreement template is attached, Community wishes to co-develop agreement with ECCC

## Description of Funding Requested

Activity	Cost
e.g., A meeting with x number of participants and x number of Elders to talk about recovery planning related to x species	\$xx for room rental for X days; lunch for meeting participants at \$xx per person for x people
e.g., Number of days to review COSEWIC assessment prepare for meetings, finalize comments in a written report for ECCC	person 1 (job title) at \$xx per day for x days, person 2 (job title) at \$xx per day for x days

## Total Amount Requested

\$
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Red Knot <i>rufa</i> s South America)	<b>Pollinators!</b>	Special Concern	new	Oct 2022
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# MONARCH - *(SPECIAL CONCERN - UPLISTING TO EN)*



© Ryan M Bolton

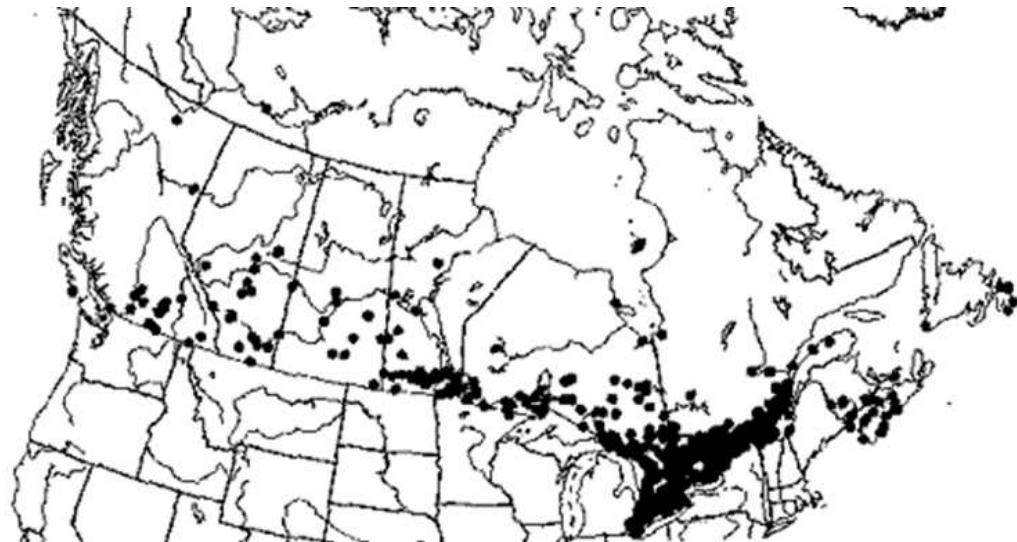
- adult monarch is an orange butterfly with a black outline and white spots, while the caterpillar is striped with white, yellow, and black bands.
- migrates from southern Canada to Mexico, from coast to coast. In Canada, the Monarch can be found in every province and the Northwest Territories.

## **HABITAT**

- Where milkweeds grow
- Open fields, wetlands, prairies, forests

## **THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY**

- Decline in milkweeds
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Extreme weather events



## WESTERN BUMBLE BEE

*OCCIDENTALIS SUBSPECIES*

### *(Assessed as TH)*

medium sized (1 – 2 cm) bumble bee with a short head. The abdomen is colour variable, but all individuals have a transverse band of yellow hair on the thorax in front of the wing bases, and the tip of the abdomen is almost always white. Found in southern BC, AB and SK

### HABITAT

Meadows, prairies, farmlands, urban areas, and mixed woodlands



© David Houye

## SUCKLEY'S CUCKOO BUMBLE BEE

### *(Assessed as TH)*

medium sized bumble bee that is a social parasite of nest building bumble bees and does not collect pollen for their offspring. Found in every Canadian province and territory, excluding Nunavut

### HABITAT

meadows, prairies, farmlands, urban areas, and the boreal forest



©CorySheffield

## GYPSY CUCKOO BUMBLE BEE

### *(Endangered)*

medium-size black and yellow bumble bee with a white tip at its end. The queen takes over the nests of other bumble bee species and controls those workers to raise its young. Has been recorded in every province and territory, excluding Nunavut.

### HABITAT

Meadows, mixed farmlands, urban areas, boreal forest and montane meadows



© Rehanon Pampel

Their distribution is partially determined by the distribution of their host bumble bee species

### THREATS

- Pesticides
- Habitat loss
- Climate change
- Parasites and infections from introduced commercial bumble bees

- Decline of other host bumble bee species, especially Western Bumble Bee and Yellow-banded Bumble Bee

# POLLINATORS!



- Capacity request to organize a species specific meetings to share knowledge.
- EOIs to participate in community science – i.e. youth engagement
  - Trinational Monarch Knowledge Network (<https://birdscanada.org/naturecounts/tmkn/main.jsp>)
  - Bumble Bee Watch – (<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>)
- EOIs to address land use/weed management
  - Plant Milkweed! Plant pollinator gardens!

# BREAK

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- SARA Process continued- Recovery Planning, Implementation & Monitoring
- Species with a Recovery Strategy or Management Plan in development
- Discussion of longer term project ideas and funding opportunities

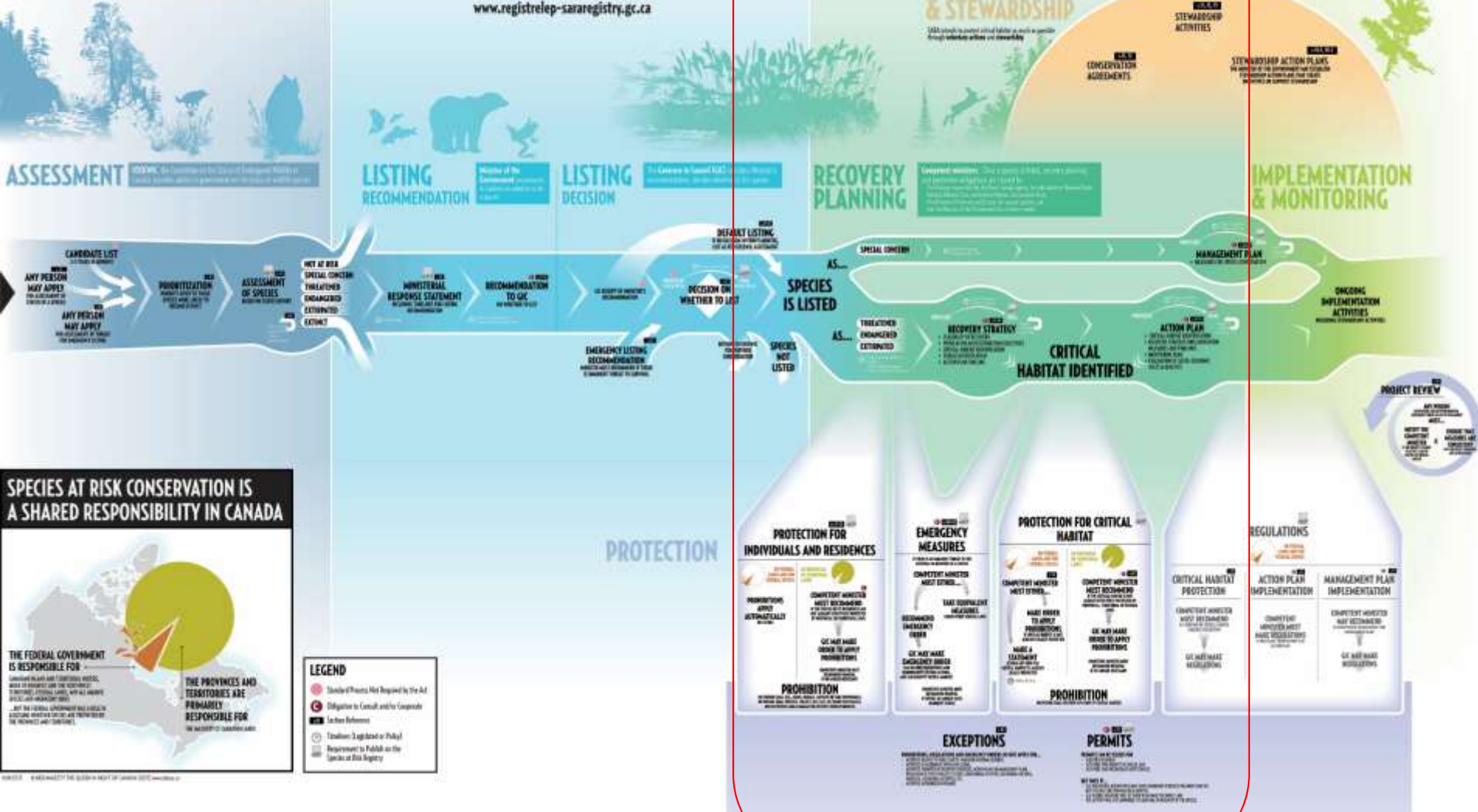
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## SPECIES AT RISK CONSERVATION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN CANADA

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR**  
 - Canada's shared and territorial species  
 - Migratory birds and other species  
 - Species of special concern, at-risk marine species, and invertebrates

**THE PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR**  
 - The majority of Canadian species

**LEGEND**

- (Pink circle) Considerations Not Required by the Act
- (Red circle) Obligation to Consult and/or Cooperate
- (Black square) Section Reference
- (Grey square) Timeline / Expedited / Priority
- (Blue circle) Requirement to Publish on the Species at Risk Registry

# Recovery Planning: Requirements

For *extirpated, endangered and threatened* species, a **recovery strategy** is prepared:

- within 1 year for endangered species; 2 years for threatened/ extirpated
- High level strategic document
- includes identification of Critical Habitat, to the extent possible
- includes timelines for an **Action Plan** = which outlines priority recovery “measures” to be taken = “actions on the ground” , +/- critical habitat

For *special concern species*, a **management plan** is prepared

- Includes measures for the conservation of the species
- No critical habitat is identified



Species at risk public registry

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html>

Species	Status reports	Recovery	Permits	Find a document	Latest publications and news	Consultations
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# Consultations on federal Recovery Documents

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**Who:** To the extent possible, ECCC cooperates and consults with:  
Province(s) and/or territory(ies); Wildlife Management Boards;  
Directly affected Indigenous groups;  
Directly affected organizations or Individual persons

**What: Email notification from Prairie:** [SARA.PNR@EC.gc.ca](mailto:SARA.PNR@EC.gc.ca)  
"Seeking Input /comments on the draft/proposed Recovery Strategy/  
Management Plan for species x..." (60/90 day comment period)

**Why:** To acquire information to inform plans for recovery  
To avoid or minimize impact on Aboriginal rights  
(when critical habitat is identified on/near reserve lands)  
To engage Indigenous peoples in future recovery implementation

**How:** Submit Comments [on the content of the recovery document](#) to  
Prairie Region: [SARA.PNR@EC.gc.ca](mailto:SARA.PNR@EC.gc.ca) or directly to SARA registry

All comments received will be considered when revising the recovery document before it is finalized.

# What are we consulting on *in* a Recovery Document?

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## The contents of the recovery document

- Where the species and its habitat *has been found*
- What the **species needs** to survive and/or recover
- **Threats** (current & historical) and which activities might destroy their **habitat**
- Population and distribution objectives for recovery/management
- What **approaches could be taken** to recover/manage the species and what **actions are already underway**
- Anything else that may aid in the survival and recovery of the species
- Indigenous Knowledge that communities would like to share

In a **recovery strategy** (or Action Plan) for EX, EN or TH species:

- **Critical Habitat (CH) Identification**: whole or partial
- Consultations with potentially affected parties



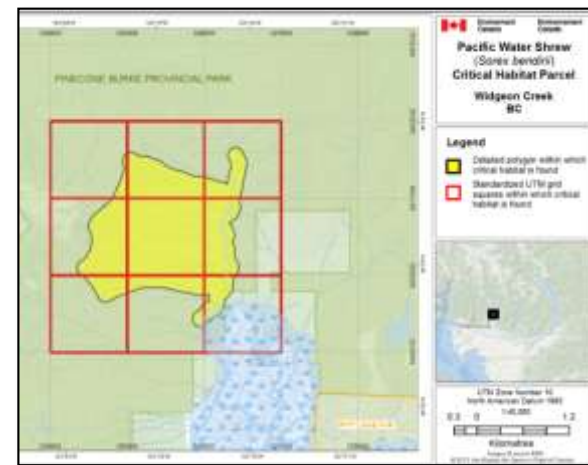
# Critical Habitat (CH)

“the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a *listed extirpated, endangered or threatened wildlife species* and that is identified... in the recovery strategy or action plan for that species”

- based on biological criteria rather than socio-economic considerations
- based upon the best, currently-available information
- may also be identified in the Action Plan that follows the Recovery Strategy

## Critical Habitat has 3 parts:

- Map of the boundaries
- List of **biophysical attributes** necessary for survival and recovery
- Examples of activities likely to destroy attributes



The 1 km x 1 km UTM grid overlay shown on this figure is a standardized national grid system that indicates the general geographic area containing critical habitat-which is shown in yellow. Areas outside of the shaded yellow polygons do not contain critical habitat. NOTE: Within the yellow shaded areas- **critical habitat is only present "IF it contains the bio physical attributes"** as described in the recovery strategy.

# Species with a Federal recovery document being developed



Species	SARA Status	Recovery Doc	Stage
American Badger taxus subspecies	Special Concern	Management Plan	In preparation
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Management Plan	Comments closed
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Management Plan	Comment open – Apr 20
Piping Plover circumcinctus subsp.	Endangered	Recovery Strategy / Action Plan	In preparation
Baird's Sparrow	Special Concern	Management Plan	Comments closed
Lark Bunting	Threatened	Recovery Strategy	In preparation
Bobolink	Threatened	Recovery Strategy	In preparation
McCown's (Thick-billed) Longspur	Threatened	Recovery Strategy	In preparation
Prairie Rattlesnake	Special Concern	Management Plan	In preparation
Bullsnake	Special Concern	Management Plan	In preparation
Western Tiger Salamander (Prairie / Boreal popn)	Special Concern	Management Plan	In preparation
Greenish-white Grasshopper	Special Concern	Management Plan	In preparation
Gibson's Big Sand Tiger Beetle	Threatened	Recovery Strategy	In preparation
Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee	Endangered	Recovery Strategy	In preparation
Yellow-banded Bumble Bee	Special Concern	Management Plan	Comment open - Apr 28
Golden-eye Lichen (Prairie / Boreal popn.)	Special Concern	Management Plan	In preparation

# Questions & Discussion

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- Are any of the species undergoing recover planning of particular interest to your community/organization?
- Do you need support to review and comment on recovery documents?



# American Badger *taxus* subspecies **(Special Concern)**



- medium-sized fossorial (burrowing) carnivore in the weasel (Mustelidae) family. They are well-adapted to digging, possessing a dorso-ventrally flattened body with a robust pectoral girdle and broad front paws used to excavate burrows and dig out prey.
- Four subspecies of American Badger are recognized, three of which occur in Canada: AB, SK, MB, and western ON

## Habitat

- Non-forested grassland and shrubland biomes
- Soil types that won't collapse are preferred; and prey availability are habitat components

## Threats to Survival and Recovery

- mortality due to road kill
- persecution
- Harvest
- Habitat loss/degradation
- rodenticides



# More Grassland Shorebirds!



Species	SARA Status	Recovery Doc	
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# More Migrant Grassland Shorebirds!

## Red-necked Phalarope (*Special Concern*) - MP

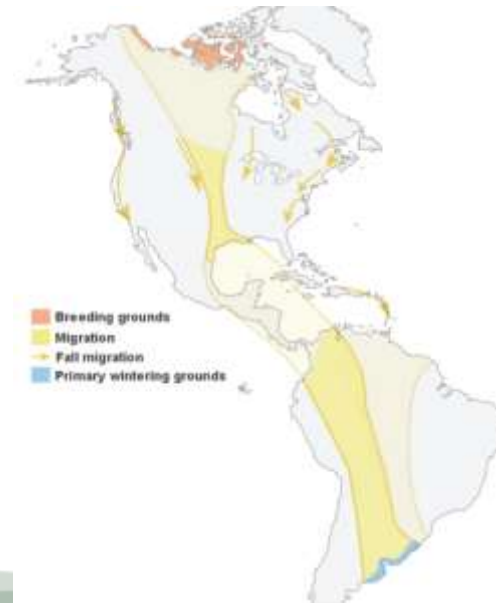


Distribution of the Red-necked Phalarope (from Cornell Lab—Birds of North America's Website, Rubega et al. 2000)

## BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Special Concern*) - MP



Photo courtesy Ted Swem

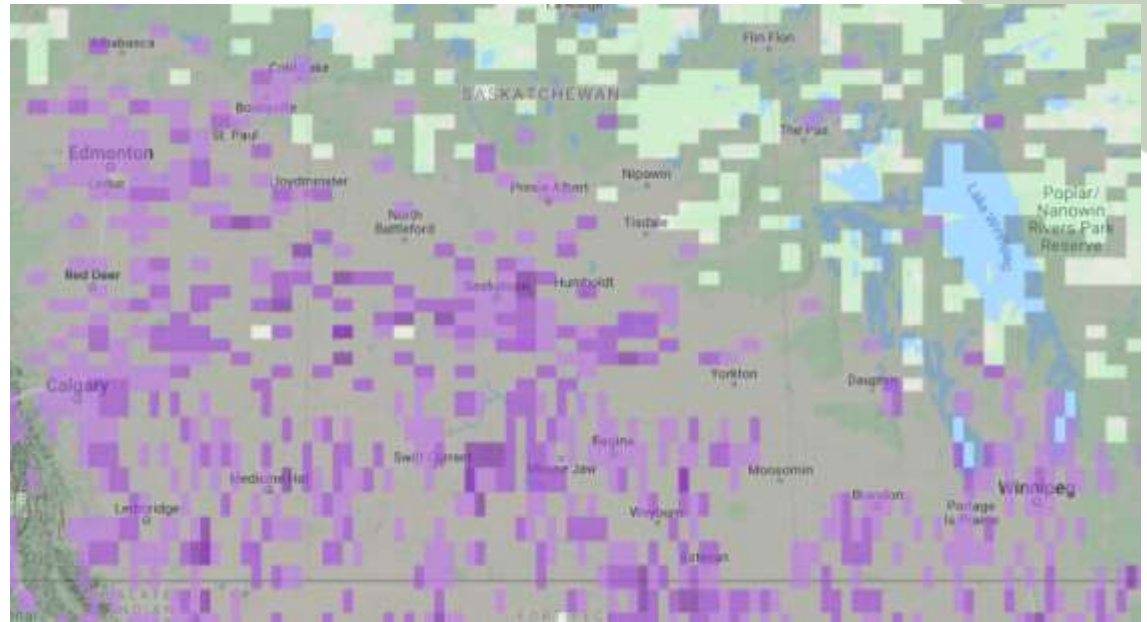


from Cornell Lab—Birds of North America's Website, McCarty et al. 2017)

# More Migrant Grassland Shorebirds!

eBird

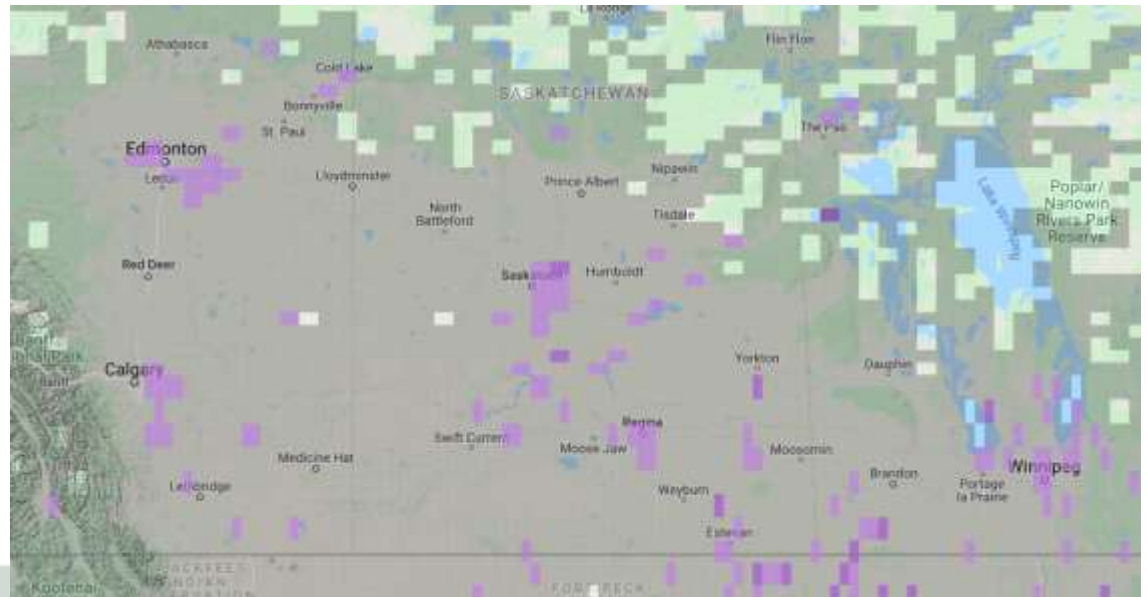
**Red-necked Phalarope**  
*(Special Concern) - MP*



**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**  
*(Special Concern) - MP*



Photo courtesy Ted Swem



# Multi-species projects!

**Red-necked Phalarope**  
*(Special Concern) - MP*



**HUDSONIAN  
GODWIT**



**RED KNOT**



**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**  
*(Special Concern) - MP*



**LESSER  
YELLOWLEGS**



## **LISTING**

- Shore bird Monitoring
    - Important Bird Areas
    - Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring
- <https://www.birdscanada.org/naturecounts/prism/main.jsp>
- Stopover habitat stewardship
    - Wetland restoration
    - NSCS



# SPECIES WITH A FEDERAL RECOVERY DOCUMENT BEING DEVELOPED



Species	SARA Status	Recovery Doc	
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# Grassland Herps

## LISTING

**Plains Hog-nosed Snake** (*Assessed as SC*)



© Kristiina Ovaska

**Greater Short-horned Lizard** (*EN - Assessed as SC*)



© Shelly Pruss

**Western Tiger Salamander**  
(Prairie / Boreal population)  
(*Special Concern*) - MP



© A. Whiting

**PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE**  
(*SPECIAL CONCERN*) - MP



©Adam Martinson

**Bullsnake**  
(*Special Concern*) - MP



©Jonathan Wright

# Grassland Snakes

- Do you have stories or teachings to share?
- Distribution poorly known - adding observations helps!
  - iNaturalist projects (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>)
  - Provincial Conservation Data Centers
  - Directly to ECCC
- Community education
  - Promote safety and avoid persecution

**Plains Hog-nosed Snake**  
*(Assessed as SC)*



© Kristiina Ovaska

**PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE**  
*(SPECIAL CONCERN) - MP*



©Adam Martinson

**Bullsnake**  
*(Special Concern) - MP*



©Jonathan Wright

# Road Mortality

- Have you seen snakes or salamanders killed on the roads in your community?
- Areas near wetlands and Hibernacula are particularly hazardous
  - Capacity request for community knowledge or EOI for surveys
- EOI to installing barrier fence or signs
  - More youth engagement?!

**Western Tiger Salamander**  
(Prairie / Boreal population)  
*(Special Concern) - MP*



© A. Whiting

**PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE**  
*(SPECIAL CONCERN) - MP*



©Adam Martinson

**Bullsnake**  
*(Special Concern) - MP*



©Jonathan Wright

# Species with a Federal recovery document being developed



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## CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

*(TH - Assessed as EN)  
GC1 Pending*



© Nick Saunders

## BAIRD'S SPARROW

*(Special Concern) - MP  
COMMENTS CLOSED*



© Glenn Bartley

# Grassland Songbirds

## Lark Bunting *(Threatened) - RS*



© Marcel Gahbauer

## BOBOLINK *(Threatened) - RS*



© Doug Gimler

## MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR *(Threatened) - RS*



© Gord Court

# Grassland Songbirds

- Monitoring – EOIs:
  - ARUs - ECCC grassland bird monitoring program
  - Motus Tower
- Land use Planning – EOIs for projects or Capacity request for meetings to discuss:
  - Grazing regimes
  - Haying
  - Resource development planning



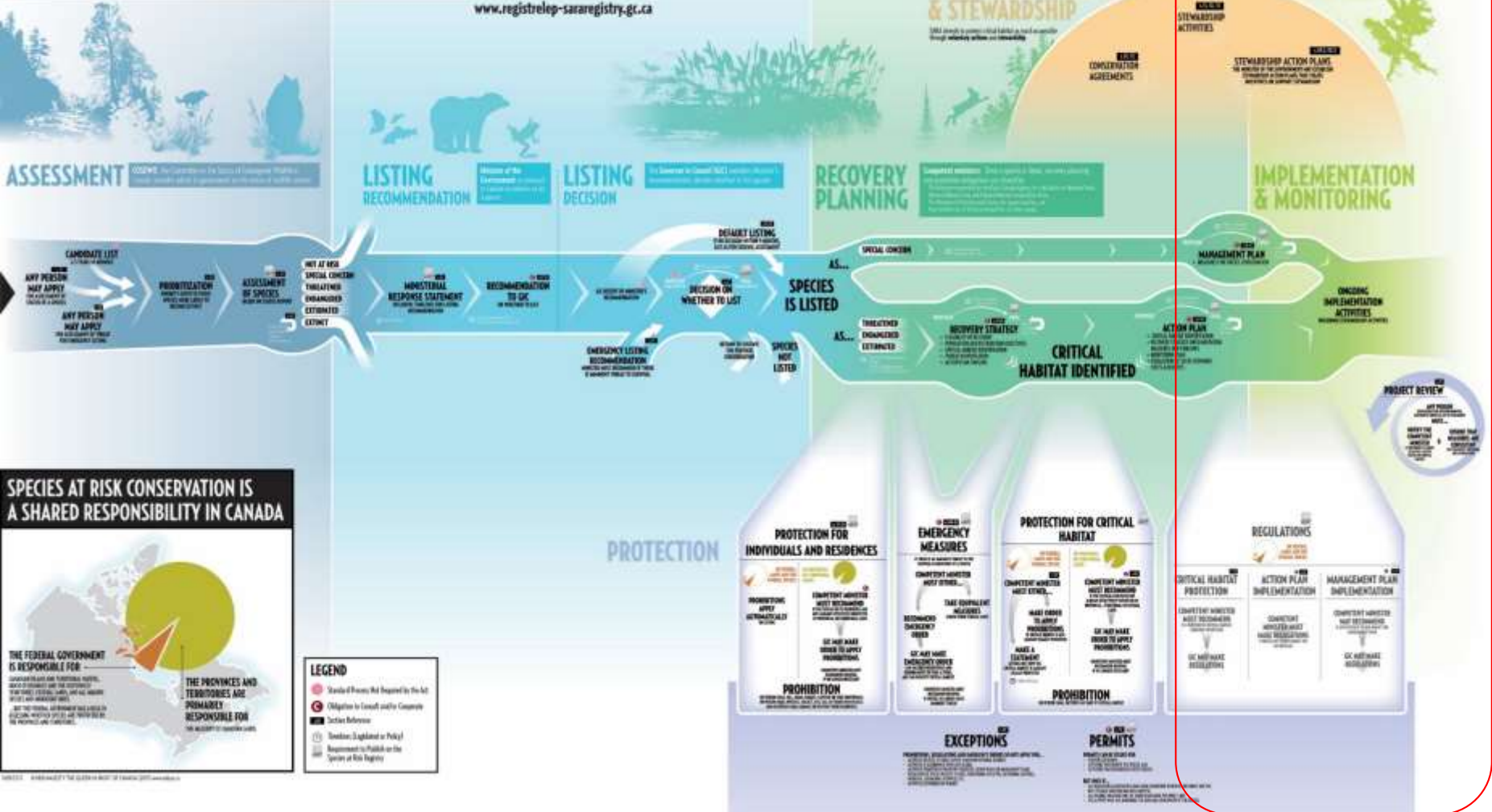
# SPECIES AT RISK ACT: Process Map

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) aims to:

1. Prevent wildlife species from becoming extirpated or extinct,
2. Provide for the recovery of extirpated, endangered or threatened wildlife species, and
3. Manage "species of special concern" to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened.

Wildlife species includes species, subspecies, varieties, or geographically or genetically distinct populations of animals, plants or other organisms that are wild by nature and native to Canada or whose range has extended into Canada for at least 50 years.

www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca



## SPECIES AT RISK CONSERVATION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN CANADA



**LEGEND**

- States of Process Not Required by the Act
- Obligation to Consult public Consensus
- Section Reference
- Decision Enforced or Policy Requirement to Publish on the Species at Risk Registry



# IMPLEMENTATION & Monitoring

## Implementation

**ACTION PLANS** are written -Further critical habitat identified if required

- monitoring plan
- Includes specific conservation measures/on the ground actions-timelines

## Initiate actions to **formally protect Critical Habitat**

- on all identified lands = federal, provincial and private
- Done in cooperation with affected groups.

➤ SARA intends to protect critical habitat as much as possible through **voluntary actions** and **stewardship**

**Monitoring**- Report every 5 years on progress in carrying out/ implementing *the actions* to help species recover.

**Evaluation & Re-Assessment**- every 10 years (or sooner) species is **re-assessed by COSEWIC = SARA cycle**  
eg. Peregrine Falcon – reassessed- SC to No Longer at Risk



# Funding Information (through ECCC)

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- Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR)
- Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP)
- Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program (CHIP)
- Canada Nature Fund (CNF)
  - Indigenous Guardians
  - Priority Places
  - Community Nominated Priority Places
  - Challenge / Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- Nature-Smart Climate Solutions
- Directed Funding

# Funding Information continued

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## Second call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

- **Additional targeted funding** to directly support Indigenous peoples' and organizations' meaningful participation in **currently active/open, listing consultations and recovery planning for terrestrial species at risk**, and **to address immediate threats to species and their habitats.**
- **EOI deadline is March 11, 2022**
- **CIER email January 19 or reminder January 25** included attached documents (Overview of Funding; EOI Form)
- Information session was this morning, however you can contact CIER for more information

# KEY TAKE-AWAYS

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## Listing is super important – let your voices be heard

Socio-economic factors are considered

Once listed, lots of work and regulations kick in

## Recovery planning –focus on Critical Habitat and threats

We use the best available information including Indigenous knowledge

We want our gathering and inclusion of information to be meaningful and respectful

## Protection

Indigenous peoples have tools, information, and influence which can aid in protection of species-at-risk

## Funding

Different types of funding are available and we have opportunities to be creative and work collaboratively to help monitor, conserve and recover species at risk and their habitat.

# CONTACTS – CWS Prairie Region

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Species at Risk Recovery Unit- Conservation Planning-

Species at Risk Biologist

Paulson Des Brisay ([Paulson.DesBrisay@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Paulson.DesBrisay@ec.gc.ca))

Consultation Coordinator

Wendy Eskowich ([Wendy.Eskowich@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Wendy.Eskowich@ec.gc.ca))

Consultations - Program Delivery Officer

Curtis Kayseass ([Curtis.Kayseass@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Curtis.Kayseass@ec.gc.ca))

**Thank you**

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# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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# Current Listing Consultations (in Prairie Region)

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- **B19 Pre-Listing Consultations Package – Jan 18, 2022**  
10 species in PRA  
**Comments due May 10, 2022** (normal); **Oct 10, 2022** (extended)
- **B16 complex: upcoming CG1 ?March 2022** 30-day comment on RIAS; **CG2-fall** Peregrine Falcon (SC-Not at Risk); Common Nighthawk (TH-SC); Olive-sided Flycatcher (TH-SC); Harris Sparrow (SC); Mottled Dusky Wing-(EN) & Nine Spotted Lady-beetle (EN)
- **Western Bumble Bee (TH) & Monarch Butterfly (SC to EN):**  
**upcoming CG1 April? 2022** 30-day comment on RIAS; **CG2-fall**
- **B18 (simple) upcoming CG1- May? 2022** **CG2- Dec**  
Manitoba Oakworm (SC); Plain's Hog-nosed Snake (SC); Chestnut-collared Longspur (TH-EN)
- **Black Ash: (B17): pre-listing comment period** extended to March 2022:

# COSEWIC ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

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## COSEWIC wildlife species assessment: quantitative criteria & guidelines

Go to: <https://www.cosewic.ca/index.php/en-ca/assessment-process/wildlife-species-assessment-process-categories-guidelines/quantitative-criteria>

Table 2. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) quantitative criteria and guidelines for the status assessment of wildlife species



# Funding for Species at Risk Work

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- **Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR):**  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/aboriginal-fund-species-risk.html>
- **Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP):**  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/habitat-stewardship-species-at-risk.html>
- **Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program (CHIP)**
- **Canada Nature Fund (CNF):** <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund.html>
  - Indigenous Guardians: [ec.gardiensautochtones-indigenousguardians.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.gardiensautochtones-indigenousguardians.ec@canada.ca)
  - Priority Places
  - Community Nominated Priority Places
  - Challenge / Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- **Nature-Smart Climate Solutions:**  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/nature-smart-climate-solutions-fund.html>

# Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) and Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP)

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## AFSAR

- Helps build capacity to participate fully in SARA implementation
- All Indigenous communities and organizations located in Canada are eligible for funding
- Funding and duration: 1-3 years, must include 20% match (cash and/or in-kind), suggested minimum project \$10,000
- Eligible Species:
  - Must target Schedule 1 of SARA (except extirpated) and/or species that have been assessed by COSEWIC as endangered, threatened or special concern
  - Can include culturally significant species
  - Program prioritizes a few species each year for funding but inclusion of “priority species” is not required

## HSP

- Differs from AFSAR in that non-Indigenous applicants are also eligible and projects must include a 1:1 match (cash and/or in-kind)

# Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program (CHIP)

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- CHIP is a directed funding program focused on the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk and the restoration and protection of its Critical Habitat (CH)
  - Online content will be available by the end of June 2021
  - Eligible project activities include, but are not limited to: SAR and CH surveys, CH mapping, SAR reintroduction, monitoring
  - Eligible recipients include federal organizations, which will partner with First Nations for projects on reserve lands
-

# Canada Nature Fund

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- The Canada Nature Fund is the name given to a number of funding programs which together support the protection of Canada's ecosystems, landscapes, and biodiversity—including species at risk
  - This umbrella fund includes:
    - Priority Places
    - Community Nominated Priority Places
    - Indigenous Guardians
    - Challenge / Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
-

# Priority Places and Community Nominated Priority Places (CNPP)

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- 11 Priority Places across Canada identified by ECCC (2 in BC)
- CNPPs are hotspot areas for species at risk outside of the Priority Places
- The goal is to develop and implement ecosystem-based conservation plans
- Partners to work together on shared priority actions, such as:
  - habitat stewardship
  - habitat restoration
  - targeted education and outreach

# Indigenous Guardians

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- Indigenous Guardians Pilot aims to:
    - Support existing and new Indigenous guardians initiatives through the development of bilateral relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Metis
    - Facilitate sharing of experience and best practices
    - Conduct a program evaluation to support the building of a business case for long-term funding
  - Example activities:
    - Species and habitat protection
    - Data collection and monitoring
    - conservation planning and land-use management
  - Budget 2021 announced renewed funding for the Pilot
    - More details will become available over the next months
-

# NATURE-SMART CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

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- A minimum of \$36M in funding was approved for Indigenous led restoration initiatives over 10 years (2021-2022 to 2030-2031)
- Funding will be administered on a distinctions-based approach to support on-the-ground initiatives
- Aims at restoring degraded ecosystems, protecting wildlife, and improving land and resource management practices
- Ecosystem examples:
  - Wetlands
  - Grasslands
  - Peatland
  - Agricultural
  - Forests

# INDIGENOUS COMMITTEES UNDER SARA

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**Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)** <https://cosewic.ca/index.php/en-ca/>

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK ) subcommittee

–Ensures ATK is included in species assessment

Communities wanting to contribute to the assessment of a species by COSEWIC and hold relevant ATK are encouraged to contact ATK subcommittee at: [ec.cosepac-cosewic.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.cosepac-cosewic.ec@canada.ca)

Subcommittee co-chairs: Roger Gallant, Gloria Goulet –

**National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR)**–

Advises the Minister on implementing the administration of SARA

–Provide advice and recommendations to the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council [NACOSAR-CANEP@ec.gc.ca](mailto:NACOSAR-CANEP@ec.gc.ca)

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# COSEWIC ASSESSMENT

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## Endangered and Threatened:

- Small Distribution Range and Decline or Fluctuation
- Small and Declining Number of Mature Individuals
- Very Small or Restricted Total Canadian Population
- Quantitative analysis (population projections) showing the probability of extinction or extirpation in the wild is at least:
  - 20% within 20 years or 5 generations, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years (Endangered)
  - 10% within 100 years (Threatened)

## Special Concern:

Those wildlife species that are particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events but are not endangered or threatened wildlife species.

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