



April 12, 2024

To: Indigenous Nations and Organizations in Southern Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands

Warm Greetings,

We would like to invite your Nation and/or Indigenous organization to attend an in-person **Working Together on Terrestrial Species at Risk Workshop and Indigenous Community Open House** with staff from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (ECCC-CWS) in **Victoria** on Wednesday, **May 8, 2024**.

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm – Interactive Workshop (by invitation)
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm – Indigenous Community Open House

Location: Four Points by Sheraton Victoria Gateway,
829 McCallum Road
Victoria, BC

Please RSVP online by April 30th:

For the daytime Workshop and/or Open House, RSVP at:

<https://yourcier.jotform.com/240857234173053>

Recognizing the time and resources it can take to travel to and participate in workshops, we have modest capacity funding available to support your participation in this workshop and open house. ECCC-CWS is partnering with the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) to provide logistical support to participants. Please contact Reiley Terbasket, CIER Biodiversity Associate, to learn more: rterbasket@yourcier.org.

Please help us spread the word about the Open House: to your community, organization, and partners.

CWS is not advertising the Open House beyond this email (i.e., in public forums) to help ensure those attending are those you wish to invite to an informal gathering where respectful conversations can take place in a good way. Attached you will find a poster, which you are most welcome to use to help get the word out.

About the Workshop and Open House: Who Should Attend, Format, Content

Purpose of the Working Together on Terrestrial Species at Risk Workshop

This in-person workshop is a gathering focused on sharing information about species at risk found in **Southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands**. We hope to learn from you about your interests, projects, ideas, questions, and concerns about terrestrial species at risk and their habitats and begin a dialogue on how we can best work together on these important topics.

Who Should Attend?

The interactive workshop is for lands managers, technical staff, youth, knowledge holders, Elders, and leadership from your Nation or organization. We invite you to extend this invitation to them.

Workshop format and content

The daytime workshop will be interactive, providing time and space for discussions about:

- The terrestrial species being considered for listing as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act*;
- Bats that are facing steep population declines;
- Species at risk recovery documents in various stages of development and how we could work together to help those species survive and recover;
- Draft policies that we will be consulting on in the near future relating to the protection of Species at Risk and their habitats;
- Funding available to Nations and Indigenous organizations to support species at risk caretakership; and
- Other topics you are interested in can be discussed throughout the day at breakout tables and at the evening open house.

The full workshop agenda and associated materials will be shared in advance of the workshop.

Evening Indigenous Community Open House: Format and Content

The Open House will be an opportunity for informal discussions about terrestrial species at risk for those wanting to engage more with Canadian Wildlife Service staff after the workshop, and for others that may not be available to attend the daytime workshop but are directly involved in the caretakership of wildlife and their habitat.

This open house is intended to be an informal gathering to:

- Share information and have good conversations
- See photos and maps of where species at risk are found
- Learn about the birds, plants, and other wildlife at risk in your area and how we can work together to help them

Again, please feel free to use the attached poster to spread the word!

We look forward to seeing you in **Victoria on Wednesday, May 8, 2024!**

Should you have any questions or are interested in the modest capacity funding to support your attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us at SAR@ec.gc.ca.

Thank you,

Danielle Prevost

Head, Indigenous Relations and Stakeholder Consultation Unit

Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific Region, Environment and Climate Change Canada