

To FESC
February 3, 2010

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) UBCM Member Notice - January 11, 2010
RE: ADDITION OF SPECIES TO THE SPECIES AT RISK ACT NOTICE (5280-12)

MOTION: 038/ 2010
MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR JOHANNESSEN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR ROESSINGH



THAT this correspondence be forwarded to the Fiscal and Environmental Select Committee for comments.

CARRIED

**Comments required prior to the February 15, 2010 Council meeting.

UBCM MEMBER NOTICE

TO: Chief Administrative Officers
FROM: Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst
DATE: January 11, 2010
RE: *Species at Risk Act*

To FESC
February 3, 2010

Please find enclosed an invitation to comment on proposed additions of species to the Federal Government's *Species at Risk Act*.

Please note that any comments must be submitted by **March 1st, 2010**.



5421 Robertson Road, RR#1
Delta, BC V4K 3N2

January 4, 2009

**An invitation to comment on the proposed addition of species to the
*Species at Risk Act***

Greetings,

Environment Canada is currently seeking comments from the public on the proposed addition of species to the Federal Government's *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). In an attempt to arrive at the best possible decision, the Government of Canada welcomes your observations and comments on the listing of species under the SARA.

Every year, the status of many species in Canada is assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), a scientific body that provides advice on species at risk independently of government influence. COSEWIC then provides its assessment of species to Environment Canada for consideration for listing under the SARA. The Minister of Environment then decides whether to provide legal protection for each species by adding it to Schedule 1 of the SARA, the official list of species at risk. The Minister accomplishes this task with the help of the public, through collecting and reviewing comments made during the consultation process. Your comments, questions or concerns are therefore welcomed as part of the consultation process, and we invite you to contact Environment Canada directly through our website and/or staff contacts, which are listed below. Your comments should be received by March 1st, 2010 in order to be considered by the Minister. The final decision whether or not to add these species to Schedule 1 is expected to be made in December 2010.

Once a species has been added to the *Species at Risk Act*, the federal government's intent is to ensure its protection and recovery, consistent with the Act. The primary goal is to improve the species' numbers, and remove or mitigate threats, such that the species is no longer at risk. Endangered and threatened species will be automatically protected on federally owned lands, and a process will be set in motion to plan for the recovery of these species throughout their range. As part of recovery planning, "critical habitat", which is the habitat needed for the species' survival and recovery, will be determined for each endangered and threatened listed species and appropriate protection measures will be established.

In Canada, 26 terrestrial species have recently been assessed by COSEWIC. Fourteen (14) of these species are found in BC. Of these species, eight (8) are proposed for listing and one (1) is proposed for a status change. The remaining five (5) species' status was reassessed and confirmed. A list of the BC species and their general locations is included in the table below.

COSEWIC assessments and status reports, and the Minister of the Environment's statement on how he intends to respond to the assessments, are available on the SARA Public Registry, listed below. The SARA Public Registry is a website designed to provide both information to the public about the *Species at Risk Act*, and a means for communication and consultations. Detailed information on the listing process is presented in "*Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act – Terrestrial Species*," which is available on the SARA Public Registry at: https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1920

You will also find, at this web address, an electronic form for submitting your comments regarding the possible addition of these species to the SARA.

Please review the list of COSEWIC recommended species below, and provide your comments through the SARA Public Registry. All comments and suggestions will be carefully considered. Should you have any questions related to the listing and consultation process, the species being recommended, or recovery planning, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Kira Furman
Consultation Analyst
Canadian Wildlife Service
(604) 940-4700
Kira.furman@ec.gc.ca

or

Coral deShield
Head, Program and Planning Coordination
Canadian Wildlife Service
(604) 940-4700
Coral.deshield@ec.gc.ca

Please note that to inform the Minister's listing decision, we request your comments by March 1st, 2010. Following that there will also be an opportunity to provide comments during the 30-day public consultation period associated with pre-publication in Canada Gazette Part I. This is expected to occur in June 2010. All BC species, with the exception of the Horned Grebe (Western population), follow normal consultation timelines. Due to extended timelines for the Horned Grebe (Western population), comments for this species are requested by March 1st, 2011. Please also be assured that all comments received by the submission deadline will be considered before the Federal Government makes a final decision on whether or not to list each of these species.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to review the recommended species, seek information from our staff, and offer your input on potential impacts related to the listing or recovery of these species. We very much appreciate your participation in this process. It is with your help that Environment Canada can arrive at the best possible solution for the protection of species at risk in Canada.

Yours Sincerely,

Coral deShield
Head, Program and Planning Coordination
Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific and Yukon

**2009 Species Proposed for Listing or a Status Change
on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act***

Common Name	Species Description	COSEWIC Status	General location in BC
Edwards' Beach Moth	Arthropod	Endangered	Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands
Horned Grebe – Western Population	Bird	Special Concern	Found throughout B.C.
Band-tailed Pigeon	Bird	Special Concern	Coastal BC and Vancouver Island
Oregon Lupine	Vascular Plant	Extirpated	Southern Vancouver Island
Bent Spike-rush – Southern Mountain Population	Vascular Plant	Endangered	South Okanagan
California Buttercup	Vascular Plant	Endangered	Southern Vancouver Island
Gray's Desert-parsley	Vascular Plant	Threatened	Gulf Islands
Slender Popcornflower	Vascular Plant	Threatened	Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands
White-top Aster	Vascular Plant	Special Concern ¹	Southern Vancouver Island

Species whose Status was Reassessed and Confirmed

Common Name	Species Description	COSEWIC Status	General location in BC
Northern Leopard Frog –Rocky Mountain Population	Amphibian	Endangered	South-eastern BC and the Okanagan
Deltoid Balsamroot	Vascular Plant	Endangered	South-eastern Vancouver Island
Prairie Lupine	Vascular Plant	Endangered	South-eastern Vancouver Island
Water-plantain Buttercup	Vascular Plant	Endangered	South-eastern Vancouver Island
Mexican Mosquito-fern	Vascular Plant	Threatened	Water bodies throughout BC

¹ The White-top aster is currently listed on Schedule 1 as Threatened, but it is now proposed to move it into a lower risk category of Special Concern.