



January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**RE: Seeking your input on draft recovery documents for SARA listed species at risk in B.C.**

As you may be aware, Environment and Climate Change Canada has developed a three year work plan which includes completing recovery strategies and management plans for over 80 wildlife species at risk in B.C. For your reference, we have attached a document listing these species and the status of the associated recovery documents (i.e., drafts available, drafts in early development, and documents posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry). Whenever possible we aim to inform those who may be impacted by the development of these documents before they are made available to the general public for comment.

We currently have draft documents prepared for the following species found in Metro Vancouver:

- **Streambank Lupine** (Endangered) – a plant found in the lower Fraser valley and southern Vancouver Island. Draft critical habitat for this species has been identified in the municipalities of Delta, Port Coquitlam, Richmond, and Surrey.
- **Coastal Tailed Frog** (Special Concern) – a frog found in the Coast and Cascade mountain ranges of British Columbia.
- **Northern Red-legged Frog** (Special Concern) – a frog found on Vancouver Island and approximately the southern half British Columbia's coast.
- **Northern Rubber Boa** (Special Concern) – a snake found in roughly the southern third of mainland British Columbia.
- **Western Toad** (Special Concern) – a toad found throughout most of British Columbia.

Given the size of the documents, we have not included the full drafts with this letter. Please let us know if you would like us to provide these to you. We have included overviews for the species with draft documents available, and a questionnaire that you may find helpful in your review. To further aid you in your review, and to assist with your land use planning, we can provide digital spatial data for areas identified as critical habitat for several SARA listed species. If you would like to receive these data and you do not already have a confidentiality agreement with Environment Canada, please have a senior representative in your organization sign the attached 'Restricted Data Licensing Agreement' and mail the signed hard copy to the address found at the end of this letter.

While there are no deadlines for providing input on these draft recovery documents, we encourage you to contact us as soon as possible so that we may more fully incorporate your comments. We will also send an email notification at the start of the 60 day public comment period for each individual recovery document once posted to the public registry.

We would also like to inform you that, to the extent possible, we will notify private landowners that may have critical habitat identified on or near their property of the opportunity to provide comments on these draft documents. As effectively reaching landowners can be a challenge with the tools available to us, we would greatly appreciate it if you could notify your community members of the opportunity to



provide input by posting an announcement on your website, social media, or other communication tools you may use. Feel free to use the text from the attached materials.

As local governments you play a critical role in safeguarding the natural areas within your jurisdiction that species at risk depend on to recover or survive. Here are some ways you can be involved in recovery efforts:

- Provide us with information we can use to improve the recovery documents
- Continue to conserve species at risk using the tools unique to local governments such as bylaws, zoning, and permitting
- Utilize stewardship tools and resources such as covenants, easements, stewardship agreements, and apply to Environment Canada's various funding programs (e.g., the Habitat and Stewardship Fund for Species at Risk)
- Promote conservation of species at risk and help inform your constituents about the *Species at Risk Act* and its importance

Thank you in advance for your input. We understand that species at risk is one of many priorities for your communities and we appreciate the time you have invested in working with us.

We look forward to continuing to work together on species at risk recovery.

Respectfully,

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Enclosed:

- Fact sheet on recovery documents with a list of recovery documents on the three year work plan
- Overviews of species with draft recovery documents available for consultation
- Species at risk recovery planning questionnaire
- Restricted Data Licensing Agreement

## **Fact Sheet on Recovery Documents**

This fact sheet provides a brief description of each type of recovery document developed under the *Species at Risk Act*. Recovery documents can be developed in cooperation with aboriginal peoples and others who may be affected by a recovery document or have knowledge of the species.

Consultation on each document takes place, once a draft is available, with aboriginal peoples and others who may be directly affected by the recovery document. Consultation also takes place on the SARA Registry ([sararegistry.gc.ca](http://sararegistry.gc.ca)) for a 60 day public comment period. Following the comment period, all information received will be incorporated to the extent possible and the document will be posted as final to the SARA registry. Though posted as final, recovery documents can be updated any time new significant information becomes available.

### **Recovery Strategies**

Recovery strategies are required for species that are listed on SARA Schedule 1 *as threatened, endangered, or extirpated*. A recovery strategy identifies threats to the species and establishes population and distribution objectives. If enough information is available, a recovery strategy also identifies critical habitat. Critical habitat is the habitat needed for the survival or recovery of a species. Critical habitat is identified by describing the area that a species uses and (within that area) the particular environmental features (e.g., amount of moisture) the species needs to live and reproduce. These features are often called “biophysical attributes” in the recovery strategy.

Note that digital geospatial data outlining critical habitat identified in recovery strategies posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry can be downloaded from: <http://donnees.ec.gc.ca/data/species/developplans/critical-habitat-for-species-at-risk-british-columbia/?lang=en>.

### **Management Plans**

Management plans are required for species listed as *special concern* on SARA Schedule 1. Management plans describe measures to be taken for the conservation of the species, but it does not identify specific areas of habitat critical to the survival of the species.

### **Action Plans**

Actions plans may be developed for a single species or multiple species. Action plans outline the projects or activities required to meet the goals and objectives identified in recovery strategies. An action plan includes information on the species habitat, protection measures, and an evaluation of the socio-economic costs and benefits.

# Update on Environment Canada's Three-Year Recovery Document Posting Plan for species in British Columbia – As of January 22, 2016.

In the list below, you will find the current stage of development for each document, the names and types of species, as well as the general areas in which the species are found in British Columbia.

## Draft documents available for consultation

### *Endangered*

- ⇒ **Blue-grey Taildropper Slug** - a slug found in a few locations on southern Vancouver Island.
- ⇒ **Edwards' Beach Moth** - a moth found in a few locations on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.
- ⇒ **Northern Leopard Frog, Rocky Mountain population** - a frog found in the southeastern corner of B.C.
- ⇒ **Sharp-tailed Snake** - a snake found in southeastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and on the mainland near Pemberton, B.C.
- ⇒ **Streambank Lupine** - a plant found in the lower Fraser valley and on southern Vancouver Island.
- ⇒ **Tall Bugbane** - a plant found in the Cultus Lake and Chilliwack River area of southwestern B.C.
- ⇒ **Wallis' Dark Saltflat Tiger Beetle** - a beetle found in south-central B.C.
- ⇒ **Whitebark Pine** - a tree found in the interior of B.C.

### *Threatened*

- ⇒ **Cliff Paintbrush** - a plant found in the southern Coast Mountains of B.C.
- ⇒ **Lyall's Mariposa Lily (COSEWIC assessed as Special Concern)** - a plant found in the southern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Mountain Holly Fern** - a plant found in a small area outside of Princeton in B.C.'s southern interior.
- ⇒ **Red Knot *roselaari* type** - a bird that travels along the coast of B.C.
- ⇒ **Seaside Bone Lichen** - a lichen found on the southern tip of Vancouver Island.

### *Special Concern*

- ⇒ **Band-tailed Pigeon** - a bird found mostly on the southern coast and islands of B.C. with smaller numbers stretching eastward.
- ⇒ **Coastal Tailed Frog** - a frog found in the Coast and Cascade mountain ranges of B.C.
- ⇒ **Coeur d'Alene Salamander** - a salamander found in southeastern B.C.
- ⇒ **Great Blue Heron, *fannini* subspecies** - a subspecies of heron found in the lower Fraser River valley, along the coast, and on most islands of B.C.
- ⇒ **Northern Red-legged Frog** - a frog found on Vancouver Island and approximately the southern half B.C.'s coast.
- ⇒ **Oldgrowth Specklebelly Lichen** - a lichen found on the coast and islands of B.C.
- ⇒ **Western Toad** - a toad found throughout most of B.C.

## Draft documents in early development

### *Extirpated*

- ⇒ **Greater Sage-Grouse *phaeos* subspecies** - a bird previously found in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys.
- ⇒ **Pacific Gophersnake** - a snake previously found in southwestern British Columbia.
- ⇒ **Pygmy Short-horned Lizard** - a lizard previously found in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys in British Columbia.

### *Endangered*

- ⇒ **American Badger *jeffersonii* subspecies** - a mammal found in the southern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Bent Spike-rush, Southern Mountain population** - a plant found in a small area near Osoyoos Lake.
- ⇒ **Desert Nightsnake** - a snake found in the southern Okanagan and Similkameen valleys of BC.
- ⇒ **Mormon Metalmark, Southern Mountain population** - a butterfly found in the Similkameen valley of British Columbia's southern interior.
- ⇒ **Small-flowered Lipocarpa** - a plant found in south-central B.C.
- ⇒ **Spalding's Campion** - a plant found in southeastern B.C.
- ⇒ **Tiger Salamander, Southern Mountain population** - a salamander found in a small area in the southern Okanagan in B.C.
- ⇒ **Vancouver Island Marmot** - a rodent found on Vancouver Island.
- ⇒ **Victoria's Owl-clover** - a plant found in a small area on the coast of southeast Vancouver Island.
- ⇒ **Western Screech-Owl *macfarlanei* subspecies** – an owl found in the southern interior of British Columbia.

### *Threatened*

- ⇒ **Alkaline Wing-nerved Moss** - a moss found in south-central and south-eastern B.C.
- ⇒ **Great Basin Gophersnake** - a snake found in the southern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Great\_Basin Spadefoot** - a frog found in south-central British Columbia.
- ⇒ **Showy Phlox** - a plant found in south-central British Columbia.
- ⇒ **Western Rattlesnake** - a snake found in the southern interior of British Columbia.
- ⇒ **Coastal Giant Salamander** - a salamander found in the Chilliwack River valley.
- ⇒ **Mexican Mosquito-fern** - a plant found in a small area in the southern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Pallid Bat** - a bat found in a small area of the Okanagan valley in southern B.C.
- ⇒ **Phantom Orchid** - a flower found in the extreme southwest of B.C.
- ⇒ **Wood Bison** - a large mammal found in northeastern B.C.

### *Special Concern*

- ⇒ **Barn Owl, Western population (COSEWIC assessed as Threatened)** - an owl found in southwestern B.C.
- ⇒ **Peregrine Falcon, *pealei* subspecies** - a bird found on the central coast and islands of B.C.
- ⇒ **Threaded Vertigo** - a plant found on the Sunshine Coast, southern Vancouver Island, and in the southern Gulf Islands of B.C.
- ⇒ **Western Painted Turtle, Intermountain, Rocky Mountain population** - a turtle found in B.C.'s southern interior.
- ⇒ **Western Painted Turtle, Pacific Coast population** - a turtle found in the lower Fraser valley and on the south coast of B.C. including southern Vancouver Island and some of the Gulf Islands.
- ⇒ **Western Screech-Owl *kennicottii* subspecies** - an owl found on Vancouver Island along the mainland coast of B.C.

## Documents posted as proposed on the Species at Risk Public Registry

### *Endangered*

- ⇒ **Halfmoon Hairstreak** - a butterfly found in the southern Okanagan valley.
- ⇒ **Little Brown Myotis** - a bat found throughout most of B.C.
- ⇒ **Northern Myotis** - a bat found in northeastern B.C.
- ⇒ **Oregon Forestsnail** - a snail found in the lower Fraser valley in southwestern B.C.
- ⇒ **Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog** - a frog found in southeastern B.C.
- ⇒ **Townsend's Mole** - a mammal found in a small area of B.C.'s Fraser valley.
- ⇒ **Yellow-breasted Chat *auricollis* subspecies, Southern Mountain population** - a bird found in the southern interior of B.C.

### *Threatened*

- ⇒ **Behr's (Columbia) Hairstreak** - a butterfly found in the southern Okanagan valley.
- ⇒ **Canada Warbler** - a bird found in the northeastern corner of B.C.
- ⇒ **Common Nighthawk** - a bird found throughout most of B.C.
- ⇒ **Lewis's Woodpecker** - a bird found in the southern half of B.C.'s interior.
- ⇒ **Olive-sided Flycatcher** - a bird found throughout most of B.C., with the exception of Haida Gwaii.
- ⇒ **Smooth Goosefoot** - a plant found in southeastern B.C.

### *Special Concern*

- ⇒ **Ancient Murrelet** - a bird that travels along the coast of B.C. and breeds in Haida Gwaii.
- ⇒ **Black-footed Albatross** - a seabird found off the coast of B.C.
- ⇒ **Monarch** - a butterfly found in southern B.C.
- ⇒ **Northern Rubber Boa** - a snake found in roughly the southern third of mainland B.C.
- ⇒ **Peregrine Falcon, *anatum/tundrius* subspecies** - a subspecies of bird found in the lower Fraser valley, the south coast, and southern islands of B.C.

## Documents posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry

### *Extirpated*

- ⇒ **Pacific Pond Turtle** - a turtle previously found in southwestern B.C.

### *Endangered*

- ⇒ **Oregon Spotted Frog** - a frog found in the lower Fraser valley in southwestern B.C.
- ⇒ **Pacific Water Shrew** - a small mammal found in the lower Fraser River valley region of southwestern B.C.
- ⇒ **Sage Thrasher** - a bird found in the southern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Scarlet Ammannia** - a plant found in the Osoyoos Lake area of B.C.'s southern interior.
- ⇒ **Toothcup** - a plant found in a few locations near Osoyoos and Kamloops, B.C.

### *Threatened*

- ⇒ **Porsild's Bryum** - a moss found in northern B.C.

### *Special Concern*

- ⇒ **Mountain Beaver** - a rodent found in the southwestern part of mainland B.C.
- ⇒ **Nuttall's Cottontail *nuttallii* subspecies** – a rabbit found in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys of south-central B.C.
- ⇒ **Rusty Blackbird** - a bird found in the central and northern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Short-eared Owl** - an owl found in the Fraser River delta, the Fraser valley, and into a wide area of B.C.'s interior.
- ⇒ **Sonora Skipper** - a butterfly found in the southern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Spotted Bat** - a bat found in the Fraser valley and the central and southern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Vancouver Island Beggarticks** - a plant found in the lower Fraser valley, southern Vancouver Island, and possibly the central coast of B.C.
- ⇒ **Warty Jumping-slug** - a slug found on southern Vancouver Island.
- ⇒ **Western Harvest Mouse *megalotis* subspecies** - a mouse found in the southern interior of B.C.
- ⇒ **Western Skink** - a lizard found in the extreme southern portion of B.C.
- ⇒ **Western Yellow-bellied Racer** - a snake found in the southern and central interior of B.C.



# Coastal Tailed Frog

## (Special Concern)



This frog is specialized for fast waters. Adults' front feet have toes that are like claws and tadpoles have a sticky sucker. It can be tan, brown, olive green or red, and can have a reddish stripe between its eyes and snout. Coastal tailed frog tadpoles scrape algae off rocks with their rows of small teeth. Juvenile and adult frogs eat spiders, snails and insects.

### HABITAT

- Cold, clear, swift mountain streams that have large, smooth stones and cobbles, and are bordered by forest
- Mountainous, damp older forest with lots of ground cover

### THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Increased sand and gravel in streams (e.g., sediment from building roads along rivers and streams)
- Habitat loss, disturbance, and fragmentation from some forestry practices
- Changes or loss in stream flow and stability
- A fungal disease spreading in frogs and salamanders



# Northern Red-legged Frog

## (Special Concern)



Its back is brown, grey, olive, or reddish with small black spots and flecks and two ridges down each side. The underside of its lower belly and legs are bright red, and it has gold eyes. Females can reach 10 cm (~4") long, and males less than 7 cm (~3"). Adult and juvenile Northern Red-legged Frogs eat insects and other invertebrates. Tadpoles eat mostly green algae.

### HABITAT

- Slow-flowing, cool streams, ponds, marshes, or lake margins
- Aquatic plants to attach eggs to and also warmer water for tadpoles
- Mature, damp forests far from open water
- Under fallen logs, woody debris, and leaf litter to stay cool and damp

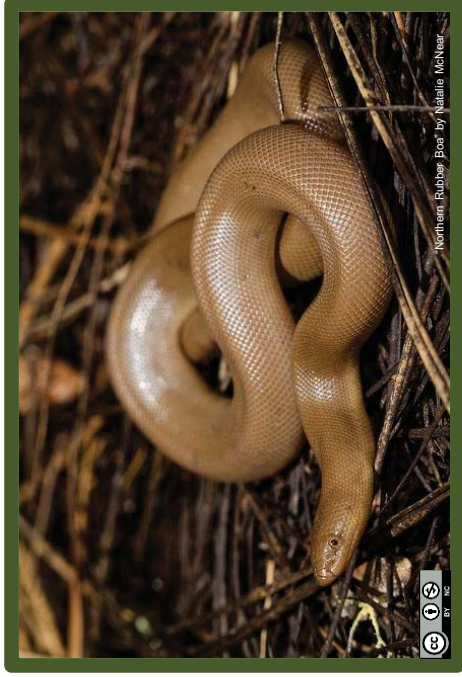
### THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss from development
- Introduced, invasive Bullfrogs and fish that take away habitat and eat Red-legged Frogs



# Northern Rubber Boa

## (Special Concern)



This small snake reaches a maximum length of 75 cm (30") and is the only boa in Canada. It is reddish-brown to yellow-brown on top and yellowish underneath. It looks wrinkled but has smooth scales giving it a rubbery appearance. The female Rubber Boa is on average 20% longer and almost twice as heavy as the male.

### **HABITAT**

- Mostly rocky outcrops in forest clearings, but also stream banks, thickets, and grasslands
- Underground in rock crevices and rodent burrows where it may find prey such as rodents, rabbits, lizards and lizard eggs
- Large wood and rock cover to hide from predators and to maintain its body temperature

### **THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY**

- Habitat loss from urban development, and some agriculture and forestry practices that remove large wood
- Being stuck by vehicles as they sun themselves on roads

# Western Toad

## (Special Concern)



It has bumpy skin that varies in colour from olive-green, to reddish-brown, to almost black. Its belly is usually pale with black splotches. Their body is stocky and they tend to walk instead of hop. Its gold-flecked eyes have horizontal pupils.

### HABITAT

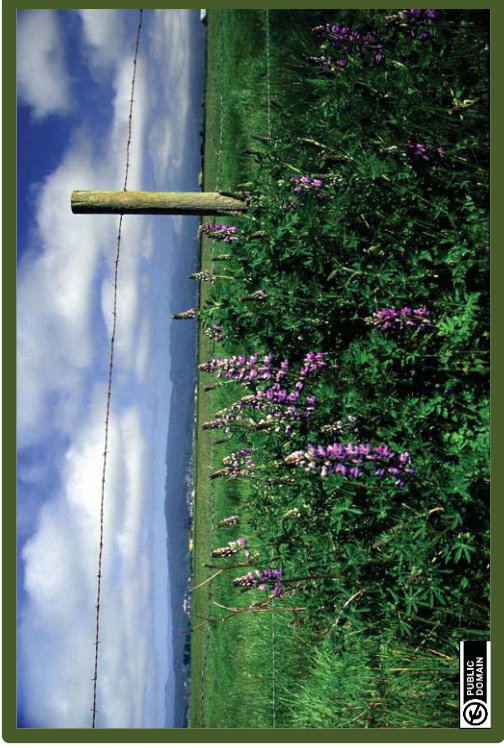
- Aquatic, spring breeding habitat: ponds and shallow areas of lakes, usually with a sandy or silty bottom
- Terrestrial, summer habitat: adults and juveniles use forests and forest openings, shrub and marsh areas and may be found long distances from water bodies
- Over-wintering habitat: Western Toads hibernate on land, typically in coniferous forests, in used cavities (e.g., rodent burrows) below the frost line

### THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Habitat loss and being run over by vehicles
- Expanding residential development
- A fungal disease spreading in frog and salamander species

# Streambank Lupine

## (Endangered)



The Streambank Lupine is a plant with light, bluish-purple pea-like flowers. It ranges in height from 0.3-1 m (~1-3'). Each leaf is made up of a ring of leaflets. It can only be found on the west coast of North America, from southwestern British Columbia to northwestern California.

### HABITAT

- Open sandy or gravelly river or creek banks in areas with little ground cover
- Areas with seasonal flooding

### THREATS TO SURVIVAL OR RECOVERY

- Introduction of invasive, non-native species
- Some agricultural and forestry practices
- Spraying herbicides, mowing, and removing brush along right-of-ways

\*Note: See the recovery strategy for population and distribution objectives, a full description and maps of critical habitat, and a list of the activities likely to result in the destruction of critical habitat.