

**APPENDIX 1**  
**SPECIES CONSERVATION STATUS DEFINITIONS**

## **British Columbia Conservation Status**

### **Red List**

Includes any ecological community, and indigenous species and subspecies that is extirpated, endangered, or threatened in British Columbia. Extirpated elements no longer exist in the wild in British Columbia but do occur elsewhere. Endangered elements are facing imminent extirpation or extinction. Threatened elements are likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed. Red-listed species and sub-species may be legally designated as, or maybe considered candidates for legal designation as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened under the *Wildlife Act*. Not all Red-listed taxa will necessarily become formally designated. Placing taxa on these lists flags them as being at risk and requiring investigation.

### **Blue List**

Includes any ecological community, and indigenous species and subspecies considered to be of special concern (formerly vulnerable) in British Columbia. Elements are of special concern because of characteristics that make them particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events. Blue-listed elements are at risk, but are not Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened.

The red- and blue-lists serve two purposes:

1. To provide a list of species for consideration for more formal designation as Endangered or Threatened, either provincially under the British Columbia *Wildlife Act*, or nationally by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).
2. The rankings highlight species and ecological communities that have threats, declining population trends, or restricted distributions that indicate that they require special attention. These lists serve as a practical method to assist in making conservation and land-use decisions and prioritize research, inventory, management, and protection activities. For example, species designated as high-priority wildlife, which include species designated as a "category of species" under the *Government Action Regulations (Forest and Range Practices Act)* and *Government's Environmental Objectives (Oil and Gas Activities Act)* require specific management and/or protection. "Category of species" includes species-at-risk, which would consider those that appear on the red- and blue-lists for this formal designation.

## **Species at Risk Definitions used by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada**

Extinct (X) – No longer in existence

Extirpated (XT) – No longer existing in the wild in a jurisdiction (e.g., country, province, state), but existing elsewhere.

Endangered (E) – Facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

Threatened (T) – Likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.

Special Concern (SC) – Particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events but not yet endangered or threatened.

## **Legal Designations**

### **Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA):**

SARA is Federal legislation that aims to protect species at risk from becoming extinct or lost from the wild. It covers all wildlife species listed as being at risk nationally (and their critical habitats).

The values for SARA Schedule numbers are as follows:

1 = Schedule 1 - the official list of wildlife species at risk

2 = Schedule 2 - species that had been designated by COSEWIC prior to the adoption of the new criteria as endangered or threatened, and that as of the end of 2001 had not been reassessed by COSEWIC

3 = Schedule 3 - species previously designated by COSEWIC in the Special Concern category that have not yet been reassessed using the new criteria

### **Provincial Identified Wildlife**

Under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) of British Columbia, species at risk can be designated as Identified Wildlife by the Deputy Minister of Environment, if the species requires special management to address the impacts of forest and range activities. The terms "wildlife" and "species at risk" have been defined in the Act so that endangered, threatened, or vulnerable species of vertebrates and invertebrates, endangered or threatened plants and plant communities, and regionally important vertebrates may be designated as Identified Wildlife.

The Identified Wildlife Management Strategy is a component of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* of British Columbia. Its goals are to minimize the effects of forest and range practices on Identified Wildlife, and to maintain their limiting habitats throughout their current ranges and, where appropriate, their historic ranges. Identified Wildlife are managed through the establishment of wildlife habitat areas (WHAs) and implementation of general wildlife measures (GWMs), or through other management practices specified in strategic or landscape level plans.

### **Provincial Wildlife Act**

British Columbia has no stand-alone endangered species act. The *Provincial Wildlife Act* protects virtually all vertebrate animals from direct harm, except as allowed by regulation (e.g., hunting or trapping). Legal designation as Endangered or Threatened under the Act increases the penalties for harming a species and enables the protection of habitat in a Critical Wildlife Management Area.