



The *Species at Risk Act* and Parks Canada

Working together to protect species

The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) is federal legislation designed to prevent the loss of wildlife species from Canada and promote the recovery of species at risk. Responsibility for implementation of SARA is shared by Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Parks Canada Agency. SARA, in combination with provincial and territorial legislation as described in the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada*, aims to protect the wildlife species listed under SARA, wherever they occur in Canada.

Parks Canada as land manager

Under SARA, Parks Canada has two key roles: supervising the planning of species recovery efforts and protecting species and their habitats located in areas managed by the Agency, i.e., in national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas.

Over half of the species at risk in Canada can be found on Parks Canada-managed sites during at least part of their life cycle. The *Species at Risk Act*, along with other legislation such as the *Canada National Parks Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, are tools that Parks Canada uses to protect species and their habitats.



Parks Canada as coordinator

Parks Canada supervises the development of recovery plans for a number of species at risk, and it leads the recovery process for species at risk that are significantly (but not exclusively) represented in Parks Canada-managed sites. The Agency carries out this role on behalf of the Government of Canada and for the benefit of all Canadians. Recovery planning activities include conducting research projects, carrying out species inventories, identifying critical habitat, and developing recovery plans in cooperation with land managers from various jurisdictions.

Environment Canada is responsible for habitat protection on lands not managed by Parks Canada, even in cases where Parks Canada supervises the planning of recovery efforts. This protection must be applied in consultation with the land managers concerned, including other federal departments, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, wildlife management boards and Aboriginal organizations.





Working in cooperation

Cooperation is the key to success for recovery efforts under the *Species at Risk Act*. The Act builds on and supports the many efforts already under way across the country to protect wildlife species and help them recover.

Cooperating in the recovery planning process is one of many opportunities for land managers and other stakeholders to become involved in species recovery. These opportunities include representation on recovery teams, participation in inventory fieldwork, special projects related to species at risk and stewardship efforts.

Parks Canada embraces this cooperative approach and strives to work effectively with Aboriginal organizations, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, as well as with industry, conservation organizations and private landowners towards the conservation and maintenance of healthy wildlife populations.

Get to know more about species at risk

To learn more about species at risk, visit Parks Canada's species at risk Web site and the Species at Risk Public Registry:

Parks Canada:

www.pc.gc.ca/speciesatrisk

Species at Risk Public Registry:

www.sararegistry.gc.ca



This information sheet has been prepared to provide information to the interested public on the *Species at Risk Act* and its implementation. The material has been prepared for informational purposes only and is not to be interpreted as legal advice. If there is a discrepancy between the information presented in this information sheet and the *Species at Risk Act*, the Act prevails.

