

Annual Report 2002-2003

The Interdepartmental Recovery Fund



Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada Canada

Federal contribution to the National Species at Risk Program

SARA and federal lands

Notwithstanding its open and cooperative approach, SARA prohibits the killing, harming, harassment, capture or taking of species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened. As well, no one can destroy or damage their residence. These prohibitions are automatic for aquatic species, migratory birds and for all species on federal lands. The Minister of the Environment must make sure that the critical habitat of extirpated, endangered or threatened species is protected on federal land.

SARA also requires the development of strategies and action plans for extirpated, endangered or threatened species to guide and monitor recovery. The implementation of SARA on federal lands and waters and for species at risk under federal jurisdiction (aquatic species, migratory birds and all species on federal lands) is one of the main contributions of the federal government to the Accord. As of May 2003, there are 431 species classified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC¹) as being at risk in Canada, including 12 that are already extinct. To help reverse this trend, the federal government centers its actions on three complementary fronts:

Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk (the Accord)

In 1996, federal, provincial and territorial wildlife ministers agreed in principle to the Accord and committed to a national approach to protect and recover species at risk (SAR). The Accord outlines commitments to designate SAR, protect their habitat, and develop recovery plans. By endorsing its terms, governments acknowledged that no single jurisdiction can effectively protect SAR. They also agreed to partner to develop complementary legislation, regulations, policies and programs to identify and protect SAR and their critical habitat.

Habitat Stewardship

Canadians use a wide range of voluntary stewardship actions to take care of the environment - from monitoring and conserving wildlife species and their habitat, to protecting and improving the quality of soil, water, air, and other natural resources - while maintaining compatible land and resource uses. The federal Habitat Stewardship Program strongly promotes this approach, valued in all interventions involving land or resource users.

Species at Risk Act (SARA)

The new federal SARA aims to protect SAR from becoming extinct or lost, with the ultimate objective of species recovery. The Act is a cornerstone in the protection and recovery of species and their critical habitat. SARA has been developed with a spirit of cooperation and is based upon the premise that conservation of SAR is highly valued by all Canadians and that every-one can, and is encouraged to, play a role in that endeavour.

^{1.} Terms printed in orange are defined in the glossary on page 18.

The Interdepartmental Recovery Fund (IRF)

The IRF is one of the three² main federal funding mechanisms protecting and assisting the recovery of SAR, that add to the investments made by Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Parks Canada Agency and many other federal organizations in SAR recovery. The IRF supports projects by federal organizations to implement priority activities identified in recovery strategies or action plans for species designated by COSEWIC as nationally extirpated, endangered or threatened. More specifically, the IRF enhances:

■ ■ The ability of federal organizations to undertake, and carry out in a timely fashion, these priority recovery activities on their land and within their jurisdiction; and

■ ■ Cooperation among federal organizations and other Canadian stakeholders in the implementation of recovery projects, to achieve protection and conservation goals more efficiently, and minimize disruption of other land uses.

IRF Governance

The Ministers of Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Canadian Heritage are responsible for coordinating the federal contribution to the National Species at Risk Program, with a committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADMs) from these three departments ensuring a consistent and collaborative approach to the Program's implementation. The ADMs Committee oversees the IRF and approves recommendations for funding.

To access IRF funds, departments must sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with other participating departments to ensure cooperation and accountability, establish roles and commitments, and define the mechanism for the transfer of IRF funds and the reporting parameters. An Interdepartmental Review Committee (IRC), composed of one representative from each participating federal organization, steers the various activities of the fund, reviews proposals and makes funding recommendations to the ADMs Committee.

IRF Project Selection

There is an annual call for proposals between mid-September and mid-December. Applications are assessed by criteria that measure various aspects of the proposals, notably:

- ■ Whether the species is (are) found on federal lands;
- Whether the species' status and recovery needs warrant priority action; and
- ■ The intrinsic value, and quality of the management, of the project

Different sets of criteria are used for scientific, outreach and management projects. The IRC then submits a final selection of projects to the ADMs Committee for approval.

^{2.} The two other funds are the Habitat Stewardship Program targeted at landowners, land users and resource users, and the Endangered Species Recovery Fund, available to researchers and conservationists

During the first year of the IRF, six departments and one departmental corporation signed the MOU:

- ■ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- ■ Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Department of National Defence (DND)
- ■ Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)
- Parks Canada Agency (PCA)

In all, 61 projects, totaling \$4.9M, were submitted to the IRF and 42 projects, totaling \$1.9M, received approval and funding. They involved many other partners from various government agencies, research centers, stakeholders and conservation organizations across Canada. Organizations other than EC, DFO, and the PCA, responsible for the SAR Program, received 25% of the funds (figure 1). Now that SARA is in force, this share is expected to increase in the coming years. Funding was well distributed regionally (figure 2).

Due to the need to learn more about the ecology of many SAR to make progress in their recovery, 67% of IRF investments supported research projects. These mostly will lead to direct recovery actions (figure 3): surveys to locate individuals and identify suitable habitat; genetic studies to differentiate populations; monitoring and reproduction studies to understand factors affecting population growth; and studies to mitigate threats from invasive species, land use practices or gear causing by-catch. A number of projects were testing different techniques and approaches to study survival and recovery habitat that could support critical habitat identification in the future.

Roughly 22% of IRF funding supported SAR management activities that had or could have a direct effect on the species or its habitat (figure 4), such as population restoration, development of best-practices guidelines, and impact of various land uses. In all, IRF funded direct recovery activities for 44 species, and one outreach project involving a large number of species. Projects dealing with birds, marine mammals, molluscs and fish received 70% of all funds (figure 5).

Funds allocated to projects	\$1,858,668	(92%)
Development and administration costs	\$171,827	(8%)
Total IRF budget	\$2,030,495	

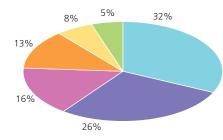
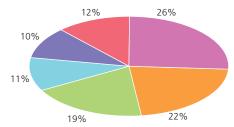


Figure 1: IRF Funding by Federal Organization

- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Parks Canada Agency
- Natural Resources Canada
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Department of National Defence

Figure 2: IRF Funding by Environment Canada Region



9%

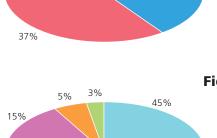
14%

32%

- Pacific and Yukon
 Prairies and Northern
- Atlantic
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Multiregion

Figure 3: IRF Funding on Research Activities (\$1,252,678)

- Research on habitat
- Research on populations
- Research on threats
- Monitoring



40%

Figure 4: IRF Funding on Management Activities (\$415,490)

- Miscellaneous
- Population restoration
- Mitigation of threats
- Recovery/survival habitat identification
- Habitat restoration

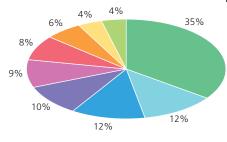


Figure 5: IRF Funding by Taxonomic Type

- Birds
- Marine mammals
- Molluscs
- Fishes
- Ecosystems
- Mammals
- Plants
- Multi species
- Amphibians/reptiles

Description of a Selection of Year 1 Projects

Ginseng Conservation Plans in Protected Areas in Quebec

ENVIRONMENT CANADA, Quebec



Wild American Ginseng populations in Quebec have been declining rapidly over the last decade, due to harvesting, as well as habitat degradation and loss. This project has developed and implemented conservation plans for this species on three protected areas in Quebec, in close collaboration with local land managers, and has implemented any action deemed urgent to protect the species.

The project's objectives were to:

 Synthesize available data on wild American Ginseng populations and their habitat on the selected sites;
 Identify gaps in the data required to evaluate the status of each site;

- 3. Make surveys and gather associated data;
- 4. Analyze the status of the species to identify current and potential threats;

5. Propose concrete measures to ensure the protection and recovery of key wild populations; and

6. Develop an implementation plan for these measures.

These objectives have all been met. The exploration of potential habitat around known colonies also led to the discovery of new sub-populations of exceptional size at one of the sites.

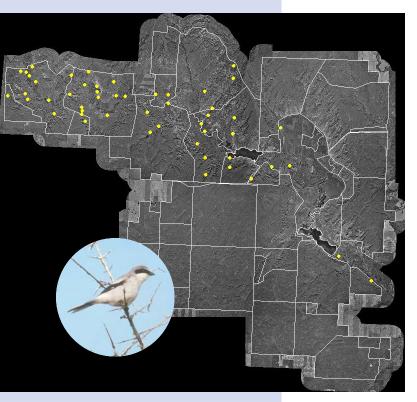


Assessment of Critical Habitat and Relative Abundance of Prairie Loggerhead Shrikes on Federal Lands in the Canadian Prairies

ENVIRONMENT CANADA, Prairies

The Prairie Loggerhead Shrike has been declining over the last 30 years, with the greatest declines noted in southwest Manitoba and southeast Saskatchewan. There are very large areas of native grassland habitat on federal lands, but little information to assess the occurrence, distribution and abundance of shrikes, the amount and distribution of nesting habitat, productivity, and limitations and opportunities for management on these lands. The relative importance of large grassland areas to Prairie Loggerhead Shrike populations, compared to areas dominated by cropland, is unknown.

The objectives of this initiative were to:



Locations of nesting pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes at Val Marie PFRA pasture in southwestern Saskatchewan. Assess the relative importance of large grasslands on federal lands, compared to other portions of the breeding range, as habitat for shrikes;
 Identify any differences in productivity which may indicate large grassland areas on federal lands are areas that contribute to population recruitment;
 Identify locations suitable for the establishment of monitoring areas; and
 Identify opportunities for protection, enhancement or restoration of critical habitat.

In 2002, work was carried out in 12 Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) pastures, some National Defence bases (Dundurn, Suffield), and in Grasslands National Park. In all, a total of over 95,000 hectares, including 431 grazing fields, were identified and mapped. Three areas were identified as potential critical habitat by the recovery team. Furthermore, the recovery team was able to confirm that some large grassland areas, which do not provide suitable nesting habitat, offer limited potential for enhancement. The team did however determine what habitat enhancement and recovery actions are needed and feasible.

Garry Oak Endangered Species Demography

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA, British Columbia

In 2002, COSEWIC had listed 21 SAR that are often associated with the Garry Oak ecosystems in British Columbia. Very little is known about the phenology or population processes of three of these species: the Golden

Paintbrush, the Seaside Birds-foot Lotus and the Bear's-foot Sanicle. The Canadian Forest Service, with the support of the

Plants at Risk Recovery Action Group of the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, conducted research into population stability and limiting factors for these three species. The study covered spatial distribution, seasonal development, rates of germination, establishment, survivorship, flower and fruit production, and potential for dispersal and establishment on unoccupied sites on federal lands to assist in

revitalization of weak populations. Similar information was gathered for five other potentially endangered species (Dense-flowered Lupine, Dwarf Sandwort, Rosy Owls-clover, Scouler's Catchfly, Paintbrush Owls-clover) that occur in the immediate vicinity of these plants.

Finally, the initiative has provided federal employees with extension and training resources to assist in the management of these target plant species on federal lands through a workshop and a layperson's guide to COSEWIC-listed species that occur on federal lands.

Studying Bear-foot Sanicle and a meadow in Uplands Park, BC.



Recovery Activities Benefiting the Oregon Spotted Frog

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, British Columbia

The Oregon Spotted Frog is critically imperiled and was designated by COSEWIC as endangered in an unprecedented emergency listing in 1999. This initiative implemented several high priority activities at the National

Defence – Naval Radio Receiver Site in Aldergrove that were identified in the management plan and that are also listed as "priority 1" activities in the recovery plan.

Construction plans for a 15 000 m² habitat restoration project were prepared to address the threat of habitat loss due to the invasive and exotic Reed Canary Grass, and to anthropogenic changes to the site. Preliminary on-the-ground works to restore the hydrological regime to that described in a year 2000 hydrology study and management plan have been implemented.

The wetland vegetation was mapped to help define critical habitat and recovery criteria, and the project related radio telemetry data for the frog to the biological and physical conditions of the site. A capture-markrecapture program, fecundity study, and demographic sensitivity analysis were also initiated to identify at what developmental stage captively reared frogs can be most

effectively released into the wild. Bullfrogs, a predator of the Oregon Spotted Frog, were removed from the site in summer and their stomachs' contents were analyzed for Oregon Spotted Frog prey.

Moreover, this initiative has used state-of-the-art remote sensing techniques to track the rate of incursion of Reed Canary Grass, allowing the team to formulate projections of habitat losses at other sites occupied by this species.





Oregon Spotted Frog near an egg mass and technician recording dissolved oxygen.

Strutting male and Sage Grouse habitat.



Sustainable Grazing and Sage Grouse on Federal Lands

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA, Saskatchewan

The estimated Sage Grouse population in prairie Canada declined by 80% between 1987 and 1997, but rebounded slightly in 1998 and 1999. This species occurs in only two Canadian provinces, namely Alberta and Saskatchewan. There are 19 known active leks (breeding grounds), 11 of which are located in Saskatchewan (down from 40 in the 1960s), and eight in Alberta. Loss of native grass-sagebrush habitat has reduced the range and population density of Sage Grouse and the species is currently listed as endangered by COSEWIC. Livestock grazing remains the most common use of rangelands utilized by Sage Grouse.

This project has studied whether livestock grazing on federal lands (PFRA pastures) in southwest Saskatchewan has positively or negatively impacted Sage Grouse and its habitat. Current and historic PFRA grazing

records were compared for livestock stocking rates and grazing intensity. Current range conditions near Sage Grouse lek sites were assessed for effective cover and species composition. The information was used to determine potential grazing management practices that will benefit this endangered species.

Operational Guidelines for Dredging in Piping Plover Habitat on the East Coast of New Brunswick

PARKS CANADA AGENCY - PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA, **New Brunswick**



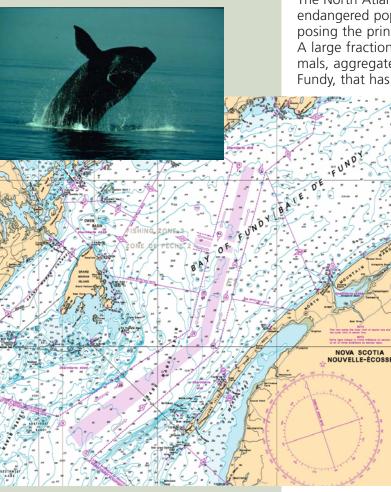
Human disturbance has been identified as the most serious threat to Piping Plovers in Canada. Recreational use of beaches is the most important disturbance factor, but dredging activities near Piping Plover breeding habitat have also been identified as having potential impacts on this species.

Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, PWGSC must address this issue through a rigorous environmental impact assessment prior to any dredging activity. To date, there are no standardized guidelines available to PWGSC to guide them through this process. The Canadian Wildlife Service evaluates each environmental assessment on a site-by-site basis. Provincial departments are also involved. PWGSC is responsible for the coordination of over 28 dredging sites along the East Coast of New Brunswick and faces recurrent annual concerns and problems related to the Piping Plover or its habitat. Under the leadership of the

Parks Canada Agency, this project has developed a comprehensive approach to dredging near Piping Plover habitat along the East Coast of New Brunswick to improve conservation measures for the species. Situations where problems have arisen in the past have been reviewed, leading to recommendations on more environmentally-responsible dredging practices, and to the production of operational guidelines. A laptop interactive tool that helps following the application process for the various permits has also been developed.



Description of a Selection of Year 1 Projects



New shipping lanes in the Bay of Fundy.

Revision of Navigational Charts to Protect the North Atlantic Right Whale

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA, New Brunswick/Nova Scotia

The North Atlantic Right Whale is recognized as one of the most critically endangered populations of large animals in the world, with ship strikes posing the principal immediate threat in the western North Atlantic. A large fraction of the total population, numbering only about 300 animals, aggregates during summer in a relatively small area of the Bay of Fundy, that has been declared one of five critical Right Whale habitats.

The major outbound traffic lane in the Bay of Fundy crosses this area, and a plan had been put forward to move both the inbound and outbound traffic lanes so as to minimize overlap. Implementation of this proposal required revision of navigational charts.

After approval was received from the regulatory agencies to move the shipping lanes, Transport Canada officially declared the new Traffic Separation Scheme for the Bay of Fundy. IRF supported the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) in updating both the printed and electronic charts. The methodology for updating and printing new charts is clearly identified in the CHS ISO 9001 documentation. The primary steps included planning & research, specification approval, production process, print process and product release. New editons of Canadian Hydrographic Service charts 4010, 4011 and 4012 are now in use by mariners. Charts 4011 and 4012 feature supplemental information concerning the North Atlantic Right Whale printed on the backside of the paper chart.



Riparian Inventory and Sediment/Nutrient

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA, Ontario

The Sydenham River Recovery Strategy has identified the high levels of nutrients and sediments in the waterway as a principal threat affecting fish and mussel SAR in the river. Riparian (streamside) vegetation is very important in reducing nutrients and sediments that enter waterways from agricultural runoff.

This project conducted a riparian inventory that identified and mapped the quality and extent of riparian vegetation throughout the watershed using existing satellite and aerial photography in a Geographic Information System. This database allows the identification of sites that should be targeted for restoration and will serve as a baseline for monitoring changes in the quantity and quality of riparian vegetation. The mapping of known habitat of terrestrial SAR within 100 meters of the river will ensure that habitat improvement projects will not inadvertently affect habitat of other SAR.

Tile drainage, which is used to remove excess water from agricultural lands throughout the watershed, has been identified as a potentially significant source of nutrients and sediments, since it bypasses riparian vegetation. This project evaluated the contributions made by tile drainage and municipal sewage treatment plants (STP) to the nutrient and sediment load in the river. A number of tile outlets were sampled following major rainfall events during spring and summer. Information about the state of treatment (primary, secondary, tertiary) and the concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus and suspended solids in the STP effluents in the Sydenham River watershed were collected and used to assess the relative contributions of nutrients from these STP to the watershed.

These results will be used to make recommendations to the recovery team on the most effective actions required to reduce sediment and nutrient loading in the river.

Stream in the Sydenham river watershed and a flow measuring device from a tile.



Full List of Funded Projects – By Lead Organization

			Environment Canada
Description	Location	Funding	Species
Conservation plan in protected areas	QC	\$20,000	American Ginseng
Research and monitoring for the recovery of endangered freshwater mussels in the Sydenham River	ON	\$64,000	Mudpuppy Mussel Northern Riffleshell Rayed Bean Snuffbox
Captive breeding and release program	ON	\$25,000	Eastern Loggerhead Shrike
Productivity, predation, nesting, as well as survival and distribution on wintering grounds at Lake Diefenbaker	SK	\$53,500	Piping Plover
Assessment of critical habitat, and relative species abundance and distribution on federal prairie lands	SK	\$83,000	Prairie Loggerhead Shrike
Development and testing of best-prac- tice guidelines to assess conservation projects on Aboriginal lands in Canada	Many	\$11,000	Wood Bison
Critical habitat protection outside of Wood Buffalo National Park	NW	\$7,000	Whooping Crane
Habitat suitability modelling, critical habitat assessment and incorporation of socio-economic methods for critical habitat delineation	ALL	\$200,000	Acadian Flycatcher Hooded Warbler Whooping Crane Banff Springs Snail Yellow-breasted Chat (BC pop.) Prothonotary Warbler
Impact of land use and features on nesting	AB, SK	\$32,500	Burrowing Owl
Community awareness of, and participation in, COSEWIC endangered species conservation in the South Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys	BC	\$46,000	White-headed Woodpecker Western Yellow-breasted Chat Sage Thrasher
Assessment of population size, breeding habitat, and nest productivity and parasitism	BC	\$20,000	Western Yellow-breasted Chat
Assessment of SAR populations, habitat inventory and protection/recovery activ- ities on Osoyoos Indian Band Lands	BC	\$18,000	Western Yellow-breasted Chat Several others

		Agricult	ure and Agri-Food Canada
Description	Location	Funding	Species
Propagation for <i>inter situ</i> conservation and reproductive biology of endangered species inhabiting Garry oak ecosystems	BC	\$30,000	Deltoid Balsamroot Yellow Montane Violet White-top Aster
Increasing rural public awareness of SAR and landowner adoption of Beneficial Management Practices in the prairie ecozone	sk, ab, ma	\$72,000	Several
Habitat status, grazing history and impact of grazing management on selected PFRA pastures	SK	\$15,113	Sage Grouse
Enhancement of nesting and rearing habitat through limited livestock access, and landowner awareness building	SK	\$41,000	Piping Plover
			National Defence
Description	Location	Funding	Species

Description	Location	Funding	Species
Restoration of a beneficial hydrological regime, habitat mapping, and impact assessment of exotic and other species	BC	\$51,490	Oregon Spotted Frog
Surveys to assess population status and distribution at Canadian Forces Base-Suffield	AB	\$40,500	Burrowing Owl Swift Fox

			Natural Resources Canada
Description	Location	Funding	Species
Development of phenological and demographic information for Garry Oak Endangered Species, and production of extension and training material	BC	\$49,200	Bear's-foot Sanicle Golden Paintbrush Seaside Birds-foot Lotus
Exotic species (Daphne and English lvy) control	BC	\$98,150	Garry Oak Ecosystem
Identification of alternative snares to minimize accidental Marten mortality, and habitat supply analysis model development in National Parks and Heritage River Areas	NF	\$99,215	Newfoundland Marten

			Parks Canada Agency
Description	Location	Funding	Species
Critical habitat distribution and density in southwest Saskatchewan	SK	\$45,000	Sage Grouse
Evaluation of population vulnerability, critical habitat, and reserve design options	ON	\$12,000	Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake
Description and mapping of critical marine foraging habitat in the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve	BC	\$50,000	Marbled Murrelet
Critical habitat assessment and establishment of minimum population targets in two rivers	NB	\$30,000	Atlantic Salmon (Inner Bay of Fundy)
Ecological carrying capacity in Wood Buffalo National Park	AB, NW	\$16,500	Wood Bison
Increasing awareness of the impor- tance of the Vianney-Legendre fish ladder for SAR at the Saint-Ours Canal National Historic Site of Canada	QC	\$30,000	Copper Redhorse
Genetic distinctiveness and historic variation of three North American sub-species	ALL	\$30,000	Peregrine Falcon
Assessment of habitat requirements and population health, and identifica- tion of potential habitat at Port au Choix National Historic Site	NF	\$20,000	Fernald's Braya
Assessing the importance of larval dispersal in population recovery	BC	\$40,000	Northern Abalone
Development and transfer of opera- tional guidelines for dredging operations along the east coast	NB	\$25,000	Piping Plover

			Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Description	Location	Funding	Species
Testing stock rebuilding methods in southern B.C.	BC	\$76,000	Northern Abalone
Marine migration, and timing, location, causes and extent of post-smolt mortality	NB,NS	\$75,000	Atlantic Salmon (Inner Bay of Fundy)
Migration monitoring and population assessment in three rivers	NB	\$30,000	Atlantic Salmon (Inner Bay of Fundy)
Revision of nautical and navigation charts for the species' protection	NB,NS	\$79,000	Right Whale
Mortality and diseases threatening recovery in the St. Lawrence River	QC	\$30,000	Beluga Whale
Noise exposure of St Lawrence Beluga Whales in their critical habitat	QC	\$40,000	Beluga Whale
Presence of persistent organic pollutants in the St. Lawrence populations (2002-2005)	QC	\$30,000	Beluga Whale
Participation of Inuit hunters in clarifying stock boundaries	QC	\$25,000	Beluga Whale (Ungava Bay and Eastern Hudson Bay populations)
Inuit outreach and education to ensure respect of hunting quotas	QC	\$17,500	Beluga Whale (Ungava Bay and Eastern Hudson Bay populations)
Assessment of population distribution, demographics and genetic structure, and of the impacts of dams	ON	\$26,000	Grand River Black Redhorse
Riparian inventory and sediment/nutrient loading from tile drainage and sewage plants in the Sydenham River	ON	\$55,000	Sydenham River Ecosystem

Glossary

Photographic credits

Cover

Maple forest: Andrée Nault North Atlantic Right Whale: Moira Brown Plant survey: Nicole Ayotte Bear-foot Sanicle: Hans Roemer Piping plover: J. Paul Goossen Page 2 Sydenham River: Andrew Doolittle Page 6 Ginseng: Andrée Nault Page 7 Prairie Loggerhead Shrike: Bird: Henk Killian Nest: Guillermo Perez Page 8 Bear-foot Sanicle: Matthew Fairbarns Meadow in Uplands Park: Chris Junk Page 9 Oregon spotted frog and technician: Russ Haycock Page 10 Sage Grouse: L. Baschak (Saskatchewan Conservation Data Center) Sage Grouse Habitat : Ted W. Weins Page 11 Piping plover: J. Paul Goossen Page 12 North Atlantic Right Whale: Moira Brown Page 13 Stream: Andrew Doolittle Measuring device: Bonnie Ball Coelho Design and layout France Tardif design Interdepartmental Recovery Fund:

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COSEWIC

National scientific committee, at arm's length from governments, that assesses the level of extinction risk for wildlife species based on the best available scientific, Aboriginal traditional and community knowledge on the status of these species.

Critical habitat

Habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species and that is identified as the species' critical habitat in the recovery strategy or in an action plan for the species.

Federal land

1. Land that belongs to Her Majesty in right of Canada, or that Her Majesty in right of Canada has the power to dispose of, and all waters on and airspace above that land;

2. The internal waters of Canada and the territorial sea of Canada; and 3. Reserves and any other lands that are set apart for the use and benefit of a band under the *Indian Act*, and all waters on and airspace above those reserves and lands.

Residence

Dwelling-place, such as a den, nest or other similar area or place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more individuals during all or part of their life cycles, including breeding, rearing, staging, wintering, feeding or hibernating.

The IRF annual call for proposals takes place between mid-September and mid-December. Applications must be submitted electronically through the IRF web site, at <u>www.irf-fir.gc.ca</u>. For additional descriptions of projects funded during the program's first year, please consult the project database, located at <u>www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/irf-fir/</u>.

For more information, please contact:

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