

Progress Report on Steps Taken for Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada (October 2021 – March 2022)

June 2022

Canada

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEPARTMENTAL MESSAGE	1
INTRODUCTION.....	2
REPORT FRAMEWORK / CATEGORY DEFINITIONS	4
1 PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT IN THE PROVINCES.....	5
1.1 British Columbia	5
1.2 Alberta.....	8
1.3 Saskatchewan	11
1.4 Manitoba.....	13
1.5 Ontario.....	15
1.6 Quebec.....	18
1.7 New Brunswick.....	21
1.8 Prince Edward Island	23
1.9 Nova Scotia	24
1.10 Newfoundland and Labrador	25
2 PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT IN THE TERRITORIES.....	26
2.1 Yukon.....	26
2.2 Northwest Territories	27
2.3 Nunavut	29
3 OTHER COLLABORATIVE AND FEDERAL PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT	30
4 PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT ON FEDERAL LAND.....	31
ANNEX A – LISTS OF SPECIES WITH CRITICAL HABITAT IDENTIFIED ON NON-FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED LANDS BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY.....	33

DEPARTMENTAL MESSAGE

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Parks Canada Agency (PCA) have a core responsibility to protect, conserve and recover terrestrial species at risk and their critical habitat. This responsibility is shared with provincial and territorial governments. ECCC and PCA work cooperatively with provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, other federal departments and agencies, and other partners and stakeholders to undertake conservation measures to recover species at risk and protect biodiversity at large.

A key tool for the protection of species at risk in Canada is the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Listing species under SARA and producing the required recovery documents allows for the refinement of long-term recovery objectives and strategies for each species at risk and their habitats. However, as more species are listed under SARA, it has become evident that a species-by-species approach to recovery is highly resource-intensive and can lead to uncoordinated, siloed actions that do not enable us to meet our collective species at risk requirement to the greatest extent possible. To better focus on recovery outcomes and undertake needed actions in an effective and timely manner, consensus has emerged on the need for a prioritized, multi-species, stewardship-based approach; one that is grounded in stronger multi-jurisdictional partnerships and engagement of all partners, notably Indigenous Peoples.

Since 2018, the Government of Canada has been collaborating with provinces¹, territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other conservation partners to implement the [*Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada*](#)² (Pan-Canadian Approach). Under the Pan-Canadian Approach, conservation efforts are concentrated on shared priorities across Canada, focusing on a set of priority places, species, and sectors. These concerted efforts are bringing conservation partners together to collectively plan and implement stewardship actions on the ground to achieve better outcomes for species at risk.

- 11 federal-provincial-territorial priority places have been established that are hotspots for species at risk. These priority places cover nearly 30 million ha (including ~2 million ha of critical habitat for species at risk) with more than 320 species at risk (~147 of which have > 50% of their range included within the priority places). In the priority places, federal and provincial or territorial governments are working with Indigenous Peoples and stakeholders to develop conservation action plans that will identify key actions to address the greatest threats to species. These 11 priority places are complemented by a suite of Community-Nominated Priority Places (CNPP), which were identified through an open call for applications. In 2019-20, 1,262 ha were secured and 88 km of shoreline

¹ Although the Government of Quebec is not implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach, the province is working complementarily with the federal government in setting priorities for the recovery of species, within existing bilateral mechanisms.

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/species-risk/pan-canadian-approach/species-at-risk-conservation.html>

and 8,534 ha were stewarded for species at risk through actions implemented by partners in the federal-provincial-territorial priority places. In the same period, 697 ha were secured and 4,114 ha were stewarded for species at risk through actions implemented by partners through CNPP. Six priority places overlap with National Parks which broadens the collaboration between partners to maximize landscape-scale conservation benefits.

- Six priority species have been identified by federal-provincial-territorial governments: Greater Sage-Grouse; Wood Bison; Barren-ground Caribou; Peary Caribou; Caribou, Boreal population (“Boreal Caribou”); and Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population (“Southern Mountain Caribou”). Priority species have large geographic ranges, an important ecological role at the national or regional scale, and many have high cultural, traditional and spiritual meaning for Indigenous Peoples. Together, the priority species’ distributions cover over 576 million ha of Canada, ~58% of Canada. By delivering conservation outcomes for targeted priority species, it is expected that we can achieve significant co-benefits for other species at risk, wildlife in general, and related biodiversity values.
- Three priority sectors have been identified: agriculture, forest sector and urban development. The Priority Sectors initiative addresses each of these sectors through a three-pronged approach:
 - supporting innovative sector projects that can lead to the protection and recovery of species at risk (such as integrating species at risk into sectoral plans, testing of decision support tools, assessing financial incentives and mechanisms)
 - creating a mechanism for collaboration with sectors; and
 - developing conservation action plans for species at risk with sector partners and stakeholders.

ECCC, along with PCA, provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples and other partners continues to advance species at risk conservation through the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Approach and related policy and program improvements.

INTRODUCTION

The purposes of SARA are to prevent wildlife species from being extirpated or becoming extinct, to provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity, and to manage species of special concern to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered. The responsibility for conservation of species at risk in Canada is shared by different levels of government. The Government of Canada first looks to the provinces and territories for the protection of terrestrial species’ habitat on non-

federally administered lands. The federal government is responsible for critical habitat³ protection for all species on federal lands.

Species at risk are important elements of healthy ecosystems, and protecting them helps support biodiversity. The protection of critical habitat supports the Goal 15, Healthy Wildlife Populations under the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy to protect and recover species, and conserve Canadian biodiversity. Critical habitat protection also supports United Nations Sustainable Development Target 15.5 (of Goal 15) to take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2030, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

Under SARA, the Government of Canada is obliged to track and report on actions taken and measures put in place to protect identified critical habitat of species at risk. This responsibility is found under section 63 of the Act. The department has published eight reports to date on the measures taken. This report focuses on information related to the protection of critical habitat for terrestrial species at risk in Canada.

In addition to reporting on the implementation of SARA, federal, provincial and territorial governments have been implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach since 2018. Now in its fourth year of implementation, the Pan-Canadian Approach is enabling conservation partners to work together to achieve better outcomes for species at risk. The Pan-Canadian Approach is also renewing relationships and strengthening collaboration between our governments and Indigenous Peoples, and other partners, including industry and non-governmental organizations.

In the spirit of the Pan-Canadian Approach, and of section 63 of SARA, this report provides a summary of steps and actions taken and underway by provincial, territorial and federal governments to contribute towards the protection of identified critical habitat for 254 terrestrial species at risk⁴ in Canada, an increase of 6 species since the previous report published on December 2022 (see Annex A). The report includes information related to species at risk critical habitat on federal and non-federal lands. Building on the previous eight publications⁵, this report focuses on steps and actions that have been taken during the reporting period of October 1, 2021

³ Critical habitat means the 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 (S.C. 2002, e.29).

⁴ The report provides a summary only for species at risk that are listed as Endangered or Threatened under SARA with critical habitat identified on non-federal land.

⁵ Three reports are related to Woodland Caribou critical habitat protection ([*Progress report on unprotected critical habitat for the Woodland Caribou \(Rangifer tarandus caribou\), Boreal population, in Canada - April 2018: Progress Report on Steps Taken to Protect Critical Habitat for the Woodland Caribou \(Rangifer tarandus caribou\), Boreal Population, in Canada*](#); and [*Progress Report on Steps Taken to Protect Critical Habitat for the Woodland Caribou \(Rangifer tarandus caribou\), Boreal Population, in Canada - June 2019*](#)), and five multi-species reports for all other species with identified critical habitat on non-federal lands ([*Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada*](#)).

to March 31, 2022. Since the first multi-species report (June 2019), 313 steps and actions have been taken to protect identified critical habitat for species at risk.

REPORT FRAMEWORK / CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

ECCC contacted provinces and territories to request that they report on steps and actions taken to contribute towards the protection of critical habitat on non-federally administered land. This request began with critical habitat as identified in federal recovery strategies or action plans for federally listed terrestrial species at risk. The report also includes information on other collaborative efforts as well as information on steps and actions taken on federal lands including input from the Parks Canada Agency.

Guided by the Pan-Canadian Approach, steps or actions are organized in this report based on whether they relate to a single species, or relate to multi-species, priority places, or priority sectors. ECCC summarized the input and categorized it into the type of step or action taken. The key categories of steps or actions are defined as follows:

- **Legislative or regulatory:** Steps taken related to the development or implementation of a wildlife/species at risk legislation or a regulation under existing legislation.
- **Policy:** Steps linked to the development or approval of a policy to apply a species at risk legislation or consider wildlife and species at risk in decision making.
- **Protected areas:** Steps linked to the setting aside of land under an existing act or regulation for the purpose of regulating activities to reduce their adverse effects on habitat, or steps linked to the negotiation or establishment of a protected area.
- **Agreements or easements:** Steps linked to the negotiation or signature of a conservation agreement, under section 11 of SARA or under other applicable legislation (such as a *Conservation Easement Act*).
- **Securement:** Voluntary setting aside, sale or purchase of land for the purpose of conservation and protection by a private landowner or a government, without legal designation as a protected area.
- **Range and management planning:** Steps linked to the development and implementation of management plans and range plans.
- **Control of Activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat (ALTDs):** Any steps not already above captured which help control activities likely to result in the destruction of critical habitat for species at risk, when these activities are identified as such in the recovery strategy for the species.
- **Stewardship:** Habitat management actions that help maintain, restore or enhance the quality of habitat.

The list of species in each jurisdiction to which this report applies can be found in Annex A. This list represents all terrestrial species currently listed on Schedule 1 of SARA as threatened or

endangered for which critical habitat has been identified in a final federal recovery strategy or action plan⁶.

The Yukon and Northwest Territories devolution agreements have given administration and control of large portions of land to the Yukon and Northwest Territories governments. This type of agreement is under negotiation for Nunavut. The federal government is working with the governments of the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Indigenous governments and organizations, and northern Wildlife Management Boards to develop a path forward for protection of critical habitat on devolved lands (also known as territorial lands) and will also look to do so with its counterparts in Nunavut through the devolution process.

1 PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT IN THE PROVINCES

For critical habitat occurring on non-federally administered lands in the provinces, the Government of Canada first looks to the laws of the provinces for the protection of terrestrial species' habitat. In the following sections, a summary of the applicable legislation is provided, followed by the different actions and measures put in place which reduce the risk of destruction of critical habitat.

1.1 British Columbia

Status Summary

In British Columbia (BC), there are 97 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal land and three species with federally identified critical habitat only on federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A1). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within BC. No legislative changes were made during the reporting period; the summary of legislation is below.

The Government of British Columbia does not currently have stand-alone species at risk legislation. The purpose of most provincial land use legislation in BC is to manage industrial and commercial activities, including the environmental effects of those activities.

The *Ecological Reserve Act*, the *Park Act*, the *Wildlife Act*, the *Land Act* and their associated regulations include provisions that could, in some circumstances, result in an outcome that prohibits critical habitat destruction within ecological reserves, in conservancies or provincial parks, and in wildlife management areas respectively. However, the scope of lands covered by these Acts is limited, and, except within ecological reserves, there are discretions that may enable the authorization of activities likely to result in the destruction of critical habitat. The *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* and associated regulations include enforceable prohibitions, but the prohibitions only apply to forest harvesting

⁶ As of March 31, 2022.

activities, oil and gas activities, or range use practices under some circumstances, vary in their application depending on the specific land use designation, and have less restrictive provisions or exemptions for various types of operators.

On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of legislation in BC may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment, please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Legislative or Regulatory	Spotted Owl <i>caurina</i> subspecies	BC approved another one-year deferral (until March 2023) (interim protection) that defers timber harvesting in the Spuzzum and Utzlius creek drainages covering over 32,671 ha of provincial Crown land.
Protected Areas	Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population)	Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2021 – March 2022 period, on March 10, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in BC expanded Blue River Black Spruce Park by 59 ha. This addition will conserve an additional 59 ha of Southern Mountain Caribou critical habitat.
Legislative or Regulatory	Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population)	On December 16, 2021, the Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation under the BC <i>Wildlife Act</i> was amended, resulting in the closure of 13 snowmobile riding areas covering about 454,000 ha. These new closures help mitigate the impacts of winter motorized recreation on the central group of Southern Mountain Caribou. This adds to 1,903,915 ha of existing

		management actions ⁷ throughout Southern Mountain Caribou herds in BC.
Protected Areas	Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog Whitebark Pine Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population)	Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2021 – March 2022 period, the Minister of Forests, Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development established 20 WHAs for Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog by Order covering 13,017 ha in total. For a subset of these WHAs (nine), the core no harvest zone is 350 ha. These designations will also conserve 188 ha of proposed Whitebark Pine critical habitat and 2 ha of Southern Mountain Caribou critical habitat.
Protected Areas	Dun Skipper, <i>vestris</i> subspecies Little Brown Myotis Western Painted Turtle (Pacific Coast population)	On October 5th, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in BC established a Class A Provincial Park, Hwsalu-Utsum, covering 143 ha in total. This park overlaps with critical habitat of Dun Skipper (37 ha), Western Painted Turtle (2 ha), and Little Brown Myotis (143 ha).
Protected Areas	Desert Nightsnake Great Basin Gophersnake Lewis’s Woodpecker	Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2021 – March 2022 period, on March 10, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in BC expanded the following provincial parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaton Lake by 22 ha to include foreshore habitat. This Class A park overlaps with 363 ha of Little Brown Myotis critical habitat (CH);

⁷ Management actions in the scope of snowmobiling: “Areas where access is controlled as to when and under what conditions they may be used by snowmobiles for recreation. These areas may be open with conditions or closed.”

Little Brown Myotis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echo Lake by 65 ha to include foreshore habitat. This Class A overlaps with 218 ha of Great Basin Gopher snake CH; • Skaha Bluffs by 65 ha. This Class A park overlaps with 377 ha of Lewis’s Woodpecker CH, 219 ha of Western Tiger Salamander CH, 208 ha of Pallid Bat CH, 554 ha of Desert Nightsnake CH and 554 ha of Western Rattlesnake CH; • Edge Hills by 68 ha which will conserve an additional 5 ha of Lewis’s Woodpecker CH and 68 ha of Great Basin Gopher snake CH; • Okanagan by 21 ha which will conserve an additional 2.5 ha of Lewis’s Woodpecker CH and;
Pallid Bat	
Western Rattlesnake	
Western Tiger Salamander (Southern Mountain population)	

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No new steps and actions were taken for multiple species during this reporting period.

1.2 Alberta

Status Summary

In Alberta, there are 22 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands, and three species with federally identified critical habitat only on federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A2). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within Alberta. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

The Government of Alberta does not have stand-alone species at risk legislation. The *Wildlife Act* and its *Wildlife Regulation* cover 12 SARA listed species (see Annex A2 for details) and are the primary provincial legislative tools that address wildlife management in Alberta. The *Wildlife Act* does not contain prohibitions against the destruction of habitat, but it enables the Minister to make regulations respecting the protection of wildlife habitat and endangered species.

The *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act*, the *Provincial Parks Act* and the *Willmore Wilderness Park Act* include provisions on critical habitat destruction in wilderness areas, ecological reserves, wildland provincial parks, and within Willmore Wilderness Park respectively. On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of

legislation, such as the *Public Lands Act* and the Public Lands Administration Regulation, may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Stewardship	Caribou (Boreal population)	Completion of all three Cold Lake Habitat Restoration projects, with 350,470 trees planted between October 2021 and March 2022, for a total of 457.6 km treated and a total of 537,470 trees planted.
Protected Areas	Caribou (Boreal population)	In February 2022, Alberta expanded Kitaskino Nuwenënë Wildland Provincial Park by 152,630 ha. The total area of the park is now 314,510 ha, making it the largest contiguous area of protected boreal forest in the world. Kitaskino Nuwenënë has extensive overlap with Boreal Caribou critical habitat (Red Earth and Richardson ranges), and this expansion increased the overlap from 82,506 ha to 232,158 ha.
Legislative or Regulatory	Caribou (Boreal population) Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population) Little Brown Myotis	Alberta has restricted coal exploration and development in the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains until direction on coal activities has been embedded in completed or updated land-use plans. Restrictions were expanded during this reporting period to include category 3 and 4 lands (as defined by the 1976 coal policy). Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2021 – March 2022 period, coal exploration and development became restricted on Category 2 lands as of April 2021, and has never been permitted on Category 1 lands. These areas (Category 1, 2, 3, and 4 lands) include critical habitat for Caribou (Boreal population), Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population), Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, and Porsild's Bryum.

	Northern Myotis Porsild's Bryum	
Stewardship	Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies	Multiple habitat management actions were taken by a private landowner in collaboration with the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) at a ranch to maintain and enhance the quality of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on the property. These activities included improving cattle watering equipment and sites, to limit access to grazing and sensitive riparian areas in Greater Sage-Grouse critical habitat.
Stewardship	Tiny Cryptantha	The 2F&G trail was completed in the Fall of 2021 and runs through the City of Medicine Hat's Ranchlands 2F&G residential subdivision, which is currently protected for Tiny Cryptantha. The subdivision was made into a park by the city prior to Tiny Cryptantha critical habitat designated. The trail includes interpretive signage to educate trail users and will promote environmental conditions in the area.

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Securement Stewardship	Multiple species (including: Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies, Soapweed, Greater Short-horned Lizard and, Loggerhead Shrike,	The ACA has undertaken a number of actions to promote and enhance stewardship of Species at Risk habitats, including long-term securement of critical habitat within Alberta. On January 21, 2022, the offer to purchase closed for an ACA (fee-simple) purchase of the Milk River Badlands Conservation Site in southeastern Alberta. The entire 64.7 ha parcel is identified as critical habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse, and is within Soapweed range. Other species expected to be present on the site are Greater Short-horned Lizard and Loggerhead Shrike.

	Prairie subspecies)	
Stewardship	Multiple Species	<p>ACA’s Multiple Species at Risk (MULTISAR) program collaborates with producers to create Habitat Conservation Strategies on the following amount of critical habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tiny Cryptantha: 185 ha - Western Spiderwort: 525 ha - Smooth Goosefoot: 171 ha - Small-flowered Sand Verbena: 92 ha - Soapweed and Yucca moths (Yucca Moth, Non-pollinating Yucca Moth, Five-spotted Bogus Yucca Moth): 177 ha - Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies: 18,8 ha - Greater Short-horned Lizard: 721 ha - Dusky Dune Moth: 127 ha - Gold-edged Gem: 129 ha
Stewardship	Multiple Species	<p>Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2021 – March 2022 period, in 2019 Alberta developed provincially standardized criteria outlining requirements for grazing disposition holders on public lands to qualify for extended tenure. Since the implementation of the program in 2019, 40% of the grazing lease area reviewed (118,934 ha) has been recommended for extended tenure. Over 25% of inspected southern Alberta grazing leases have been recommended for extended tenure. Broadly speaking, this measure provides benefits to CH by encouraging responsible grazing practices that promote range health and improve or maintain critical habitat on grazing leases for multiple grassland-dependent Species at Risk.</p>

1.3 Saskatchewan

Status Summary

In Saskatchewan, there are 21 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A3). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within Saskatchewan. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

The Government of Saskatchewan does not have stand-alone species at risk legislation. Rather, *The Wildlife Act, 1998* and its *Wild Species at Risk Regulations*, covering nine SARA listed species (see Annex A3) are the primary provincial legislative tools that can address wildlife habitat and species at risk in the province. *The Wildlife Act, 1998* allows for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations that designate an area of the province for protection of wildlife and their habitat, however, it also includes provisions to authorize activities in these areas. *The Wild Species at Risk Regulations* is the only regulation that includes provisions regarding species at risk; however, the prohibitions are limited.

The Provincial Lands Act, 2016 and *The Conservation Easement Act* include provisions on critical habitat destruction in Ecological Reserves, Representative Area Ecological Reserves and on land that is under a crown conservation easement, respectively. However, the scope of lands covered under these Acts is limited and there are specific provisions associated with each designated reserve and easement. On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of legislation may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment, please refer to the 2019 [*Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada*](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Policy	Caribou (Boreal population)	The Saskatchewan’s Forest Service Branch has proposed an amendment to the Forest operating Plan Standard (currently adopted under the Saskatchewan Environmental Code) that will require all license holders (for the harvest of a cumulative annual volume $\geq 50,000 \text{ m}^3$) to include Caribou Habitat Management Areas or other habitat areas designated within a recovery plan for species at risk, as part of the spatial information to be included in the said licence holder’s operating plan. Pending endorsement of all of the proposed amendments by the Standard Working Group (comprised of both Forest Service Branch staff and Forest Industry representatives), the Forest Service Branch is anticipating

		that a revised version of the Forest Operating Plan standard will be published by the end of the fiscal year 2021-2022.
Range and Management Planning	Caribou (Boreal population)	Consistent with commitments made in the conservation agreement under section 11 of SARA between Canada and Saskatchewan for Boreal Caribou, in October 2021, Saskatchewan finalized the SK2 West range plan, and posted the SK2 East draft range plan for a 60 day public comment period. ECCC has assessed the range plans for consistency with ECCC's <i>Range Plan Guidance or Woodland Caribou, Boreal population</i> . Following finalization of the SK2 East plan, ECCC will assess the three final SK2 sub-range plans together to determine whether, at the range-level, they outline a clear, credible path to achieving 65% undisturbed habitat to support a self-sustaining local population.
Stewardship	Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies	During this reporting period, 11 gas wells were reclaimed, and an Acknowledgement of Reclamation was received. Seven wells had an area of 25m ² reclaimed each, benefiting Chestnut-collared Longspur, Swift Fox, Burrowing Owl, Greater Sage-Grouse and Sprague's Pipit. Four of them were 200m ² each, benefiting Chestnut-collared Longspur, Swift Fox and Sprague's Pipit.

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Policy	Bats	A Bat Exclusion policy was approved which prevents the destruction of occupied residences during critical windows of use by these species. An educational component on living with bats is included.

1.4 Manitoba

Status Summary

In Manitoba, there are 20 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A4). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within Manitoba. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

The *Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act* (ESEA) covers 19 SARA listed species with critical habitat identified on non-federal lands (see Annex A4) and is the primary provincial legislative tool to protect species at risk and their habitat on non-federal lands. In general, the

ESEA includes prohibitions against destroying, disturbing or interfering with the habitat of listed endangered or threatened species. However, the ESEA includes exemptions for developments and licenses under *The Environment Act*. Manitoba has not required proponents to apply for exemption under the ESEA for development projects licensed under *The Environment Act*. The ESEA also includes provisions for designating endangered or threatened ecosystems as protected through ecosystem preservation zones, which would apply to any overlapping critical habitat. However, as of March 2022, no ecosystem preservation zones had been designated.

Additionally, the *Ecological Reserves Act* and the *Provincial Parks Act* includes provisions on critical habitat destruction in ecological reserves, and certain zones within provincial parks. On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of legislation may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Stewardship	Caribou (Boreal population)	Manitoba mitigated forest harvesting activities’ impact on Boreal Caribou habitat by reviewing forest operating plans and incorporating known information about Boreal Caribou important areas to avoid and/or incorporate mitigation measures. Forest harvest mitigation actions include access changes, harvest block size changes, harvest blocks that were not approved for harvesting, retaining residual patches to reduce line of sight. Core caribou habitats (i.e. calving areas, winter areas, post calving areas) defined by home range analysis have been avoided.
Stewardship	Caribou (Boreal population)	Manitoba continues to undertake extensive review and detailed assessments of development proposals for potential effects on boreal caribou habitat (i.e. calving, winter areas, post-calving areas) and has denied permits for activities such

		<p>as blasting for quarry development and has limited mining exploration activities during critical timing windows.</p> <p>Additionally, this reporting period, Manitoba has denied access proposals and recommended alternative access to avoid impacts on important caribou habitat. As it relates to forestry activities, Manitoba has deferred decisions to ensure caribou habitat protections can be incorporated and have denied harvest in important caribou areas. With respect to mitigations, Manitoba has implemented reduced footprint size and timing restrictions as methods to reduce impacts to important caribou areas. This work is a continuation of ongoing efforts not previously reported.</p>
Agreements or Easements	Caribou (Boreal population)	Canada and Manitoba have completed negotiations on a draft conservation agreement under section 11 of SARA. Preparations are underway to proceed with public engagement on the draft agreement.

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No new steps and actions were taken for multiple species or priority sectors during this reporting period.

1.5 Ontario

Status Summary

In Ontario, there are 99 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands and two species with federally identified critical habitat only on federal land to which this report relates (see Annex A5). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, four new species (Cerulean Warbler, Northern Dusky Salamander (Carolinian population), Riverine Clubtail (Great Lakes Plains population), and Showy Goldenrod (Boreal population)) had critical habitat identified on non-federal lands within Ontario. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

Habitat protection under Ontario’s *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) is in place for 184 species at risk in Ontario, 96 of which are part of the 99 terrestrial species with critical habitat identified on non-federal lands in the province (see Annex A5). Under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* (CFSA), forest operations in Crown forests are exempt from certain prohibitions of the ESA

provided the forest operations are conducted in accordance with an approved forest management plan. Impacts to species at risk as a result of forest operations are managed through requirements under the CFSA framework. Western Chorus Frog (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence - Canadian Shield population) (not currently listed under ESA), Golden-winged Warbler (currently listed Special Concern under the ESA) and Goldenseal (currently listed Special Concern under the ESA⁸) are the only three species with final critical habitat in Ontario that do not currently receive any direct habitat protection under the ESA. Habitat protection for the Red-Headed Woodpecker has been in place under the ESA since the species was uplisted from Special Concern to Endangered on the Species at Risk in Ontario List in January 2022.

On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of legislation may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment, please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Agreements or easements	Caribou (Boreal population)	Ontario and Canada have been working together to identify outcomes, conservation measures and actions for inclusion in a bilateral conservation agreement for Boreal Caribou under sections 10 and 11 of the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> . A proposal regarding a conservation agreement for Boreal Caribou that includes specific measures for habitat restoration and protection, including commitments to exploring the potential for new and expanded protected areas, was posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario for public consultation from February 4, 2022 to March 21, 2022. Ontario and Canada collaboratively hosted engagement sessions with a range of stakeholder groups and

⁸ Goldenseal was downlisted from Threatened to Special Concern on the Species at Risk in Ontario List under the ESA in January 2022 and therefore no longer receives habitat protection under the Act. While the species is currently still listed Threatened under Schedule 1 of SARA, COSEWIC reassessed the species as Special Concern in 2019, and GIC decision regarding the downlisting under SARA is pending.

		Indigenous communities and organizations to discuss and seek input on this proposal.
Policy Range and management planning	Caribou (Boreal population)	Under the Ontario <i>Forest Management Guide for Boreal Landscapes</i> , the requirements for the management of Boreal Caribou habitat through space and time, including through the development of a Dynamic Caribou Habitat Schedule, continued to be incorporated into forest management plans that intersect with Boreal Caribou ranges. Individual management plans are at various stages of completion depending on plan renewal schedules. Within the reporting period, the following forest management plans were approved: 1) Abitibi River Forest 2) Kenora Forest 3) Whitefeather Forest

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Protected Areas	Blanding's Turtle (Great Lakes/St. Lawrence population), Eastern Whip-poor-will, Least Bittern	On January 26, 2022, Ontario sent notice to local Indigenous communities and posted a notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) to seek input related to the proposal to designate Ostrander Crown Land Block and Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area as a Conservation Reserve under the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act</i> . The comment period on the ERO was 45 days (January 26 to March 12, 2022). Following the consultation period, Ontario will consider comments from local Indigenous communities, stakeholders and the public to inform a decision on the proposal. Once regulation occurs, additional protections of the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act</i> will apply, and development activities outside of infrastructure for sustainable outdoor recreation would be prohibited.
Legislative or Regulatory	Multiple species.	The province of Ontario has taken further steps during this reporting period towards enabling the use of the Species at Risk Conservation Fund (Fund) that was introduced through changes to the ESA in 2019. Habitat protection under s. 10

	<p>Two of the species to which it applies currently have final critical habitat: Blanding’s Turtle (Great Lakes/St. Lawrence population) and Eastern Whip-poor-will</p>	<p>of the ESA will remain in place for conservation fund species. The Fund will provide a new option for proponents that are authorized to undertake activities that impact select species at risk. Instead of completing beneficial actions for species impacted by those activities, proponents will have the option of contributing to a fund that allows the agency to pool the resources and determine how best to implement long-term, large-scale and strategic protection and recovery activities that benefit eligible species. Under this approach, proponents would still be required to take action to avoid and minimize impacts on species at risk and their habitats.</p> <p>On December 10, 2021, a regulation was made to designate six species at risk as conservation fund species: Barn Swallow, Blanding's Turtle (populations occurring within the Ontario Shield ecozone), Bobolink, Butternut, Eastern Meadowlark and Eastern Whip-poor-will. The regulation also prescribes the associated species conservation charge formulae and administrative requirements for the purposes of the Fund. On the same date, a regulation was made to enable the use of the Fund option under three conditional exemptions that are applicable to four of the designated conservation fund species (Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Butternut, Eastern Meadowlark). The option for proponents to pay charges to the Species at Risk Conservation Fund will be available starting on April 29, 2022.</p>
Stewardship	Multiple Species	<p>During this reporting period, the provincial Species at Risk Stewardship Program supported 83 ongoing or new stewardship projects that support the protection and recovery of the Province's species at risk. Since October 2021, those projects have reported the restoration or enhancement of 630 ha of species at risk habitat and, through outreach and education initiatives, were able to create over 300,000 outreach impressions on the public.</p>

1.6 Quebec

Status Summary

In Quebec, there are 37 species at risk⁹ with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A6). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, three new species (Cerulean Warbler, Eastern Waterfan, and Skillet Clubtail) had critical habitat identified on non-federal lands within Quebec. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

In Quebec, the *Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species* (LEMV) covers 33 SARA listed species (see Annex A6) and designates species as threatened or vulnerable. Additionally, LEMV has a List of Species Likely to be Designated Threatened or Vulnerable that, essentially preventive in nature, is an administrative and educational tool aimed at halting, or even reversing, the decline of species. However, there is no legislative obligation to designate or protect habitats necessary for the survival or recovery of a species. In addition, although the LEMV and the *Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife* (LCMVF) apply in principle to both private and public lands, the *Regulation respecting wildlife habitats* (RHF) limits the designation of wildlife habitats to land in the domain of the State, therefore limiting protection of habitat of at-risk wildlife species. However, efforts are continuing to modernize the RHF and review these provisions.

In addition, Quebec has several tools available to create different types of protected areas. The designation of protected areas is an element of the Quebec Government’s strategy to promote sustainable development and the protection of biodiversity, including species at risk. However, with few exceptions, the areas of critical habitat covered by protected areas are generally very small except for the Green-scaled Willow for which 100% of the critical habitat is in the Gaspésie National Park established under the *Parks Act*. On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of legislation may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment please refer to 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
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⁹ Not previously reported, although it did not occur within this reporting period, Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern subspecies was added to the Annex A6 following the identification of critical habitat on non-federal land.

Recovery action	Caribou (Atlantic - Gaspésie population)	In fall 2021, a project to dismantle approximately 49 km of road was completed within the Caribou (Atlantic-Gaspésie population) range on the Chic-Chocs wildlife reserve. Vehicle access is no longer possible on the sections of dismantled road. Since 2018, 113 km of road have been dismantled, contributing to the restoration of this species' habitat.
Recovery action	Caribou (Boreal population)	In fall 2021, 35 km of road were dismantled within the Caribou (Boreal population) range on the caribou wildlife site south of Val d'Or. Since 2017, 157 km of road have been dismantled by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) in Caribou (Boreal population) habitat. The project is expected to continue into summer 2022.

Federal steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
SARA ss. 80 Emergency Order (Legislative or Regulatory)	Western Chorus Frog (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence – Canadian Shield population)	In December 2021, Governor in Council made one emergency order to protect 20 ha of critical habitat for Western Chorus Frog (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence – Canadian Shield population) in Longueuil, pursuant to section 80 of SARA.

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Stewardship	White Wood Aster False Hop Sedge American Ginseng Bicknell's Thrush	The administrative agreement concerning the protection of threatened or vulnerable plant and animal species and other biodiversity elements in Quebec's forests has updated its mapping of protection sites for the period between October 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022. This update came into effect on February 18, 2022, and includes the number of protection sites on public forest lands in Quebec. The following wildlife species are subject to protective measures, including multiple terms and conditions, to

	<p>Wood Turtle</p> <p>Blunt-lobed Woodsia</p>	<p>ensure the maintenance of features that are important for species at the protection sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicknell’s Thrush: 571 protection sites; • Wood Turtle: 242 protection sites. <p>The following plant species are subject to a general protective measure prohibiting any forest development activities in the area to which the measure applies, which generally corresponds to the forest stands where the target species is found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Wood Aster: a single occurrence, on public forest lands in Quebec, under the protection of a protected area (Mont-Orford National Park; expanded portion); • False Hop Sedge: eight occurrences, on public forest lands in Quebec located in protection areas; • American Ginseng: 37 known occurrences, on public forest lands in Quebec, protected by 16 administrative protection sites, 2 classified exceptional forest ecosystems, and 7 exceptional forest ecosystem projects; • Blunt-lobed Woodsia: a single occurrence in Gatineau Park.
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1.7 New Brunswick

Status Summary

In New Brunswick, there are 13 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A7). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within New Brunswick. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

The *Species at Risk Act* (NB SARA) is the primary provincial legislative tool that can protect critical habitat for species at risk on non-federal lands. It replaced the New Brunswick *Endangered Species Act* (NB ESA) in 2013. Schedule A of the NB SARA contains the species that were transferred from the NB ESA and kept the status they had under the NB ESA, including species that were listed as Endangered. Of the 13 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat in New Brunswick, eight species of Schedule A may receive habitat

protection through transitional provisions of the NB SARA up until they are removed from Schedule A (see Annex A7). To be removed from Schedule A, the species must be listed and regulations provide that the prohibitions under section 28 apply¹⁰. Section 28 of the NB SARA states that no person shall kill, harm, harass, take, possess, buy, sell or trade an individual of a listed species at risk. Section 28 only applies to listed extirpated, endangered, or threatened species. Once listed, the NB SARA provides the Government of New Brunswick with the power to protect species at risk critical habitat by regulation or by order but only at the discretion of the Minister. To date no species has been listed under the NB SARA, and therefore no regulations have been made or orders issued in respect to the designation or protection of species at risk critical habitat under the NB SARA.

The NB SARA and the *Protected Natural Areas Act* include provisions for species at risk critical habitat within Protected Natural Areas. Additionally, the *Parks Act* includes prohibitions against activities that could result in the destruction of species at risk critical habitat, though limited.

Under the *Conservation Easements Act*, individual easements could include prohibitions against activities likely to result in the destruction of species at risk critical habitat. On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of legislation may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Legislative or Regulatory	Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies	During this reporting period, the province did not support development activities at a site within the critical habitat of Piping Plover within a land-use review.

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
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¹⁰ For more information, please refer to the Act: <http://laws.gnb.ca/en/showfulldoc/cs/2012-c.6//20210621>

All	Multiple species	No new steps and actions were taken for multiple species during this reporting period.
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1.8 Prince Edward Island

Status Summary

In Prince Edward Island (PEI), there is one species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A8). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within PEI. There have been no modifications to legislation which applies to species at risk within this reporting period.

The *Wildlife Conservation Act* is the primary provincial legislative tool that can protect critical habitat for species at risk on non-federal lands. The *Wildlife Conservation Act* provides the Government of Prince Edward Island with the power to protect the critical habitat of species at risk that have been designated (at the discretion Lieutenant Governor in Council) as a threatened or endangered species. To date, no regulations have been made under the *Wildlife Conservation Act* to designate a species at risk. Species at risk critical habitat could also, potentially, be protected on private land under an agreement with a private landowner which may impose a covenant or easement on the private landowner's land. Unlike stand-alone easement legislation, which tends to be enforced under common law, such an agreement appears to be enforceable under the *Wildlife Conservation Act*.

The *Natural Areas Protection Act* includes provisions for species at risk critical habitat that occurs within natural areas designated under the Act. On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of legislation, such as the *Planning Act*, may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
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All	Multiple species	No content on the steps and actions taken for specific species was provided for this reporting period.
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Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No content on the steps and actions taken for multiple species was provided for this reporting period.

1.9 Nova Scotia

Status Summary

In Nova Scotia, there are 15 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands and one species with federally identified critical habitat only on federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A9). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within Nova Scotia.

The *Endangered Species Act* (NS ESA) covers all 15 SARA listed species (see Annex A9) and is the primary provincial legislative tool that can protect habitat for species at risk on non-federal lands. The NS ESA has prohibitions against the destruction of residence such as nests or hibernacula, including dwellings that are anthropogenic structures. The NS ESA also provides the mechanism (through regulation or an order) to list prohibitions against the destruction of species at risk critical habitat on non-federal lands. However, no regulations or orders protecting species at risk critical habitat have been issued under the NB ESA.

The NS ESA, the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*, the *Brothers Islands Wildlife Management Regulations* (under the *Wildlife Act*), the *Provincial Parks Act*, the *Conservation Easements Act* and the *Special Places Protection Act* include provisions for species at risk critical habitat. On non-federal lands, some provisions in other pieces of legislation may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

Work within priority places is ongoing and detailed information on actions carried out for each project will be included in the April 2022 - September 2022 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No content on the steps and actions taken for specific species was provided for this reporting period.

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No content on the steps and actions taken for multiple species was provided for this reporting period.

1.10 Newfoundland and Labrador

Status Summary

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are ten species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A10). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within Newfoundland and Labrador. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

The Newfoundland and Labrador *Endangered Species Act* (NFL ESA) covers ten SARA listed species (see Annex A10) and is the primary provincial legislative tool that can protect critical habitat for species at risk on non-federal lands. The NFL ESA enables the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to make an order to set aside an area of land to be protected as species at risk critical habitat. However, no orders have been issued for species at risk under the NFL ESA.

The *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act* and the *Provincial Parks Act* both include provisions for species at risk critical habitat within Ecological Reserves and Provincial Parks respectively. On non-federal land, some provisions in other pieces of legislation may be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the provincial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

There are no Pan-Canadian Approach Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Priority Places within this province.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No content on the steps and actions taken for specific species was provided for this reporting period.

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No content on the steps and actions taken for multiple species was provided for this reporting period.

2 PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT IN THE TERRITORIES

For critical habitat occurring on non-federally administered lands and in respect of the spirit of devolution agreements in the territories, the Government of Canada first looks to the laws of the territory for the protection of terrestrial species' habitat. In the following sections, a summary of the applicable legislation is provided followed by the different actions and measures put in place which reduce the risk of destruction of critical habitat, as reported by the territorial governments.

2.1 Yukon

Status Summary

In the Yukon, there is one species at risk with identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A11). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within the Yukon. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

The Yukon has no stand-alone legislation protecting species at risk; however, certain activities impacting individuals of wildlife species are regulated under the *Wildlife Act*. On territorial lands, some provisions in various territorial acts can be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

For more details on the territorial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [*Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada*](#).

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

There is no critical habitat on non-federal land in this Pan-Canadian Approach FPT Priority Places within this territory.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Agreements or Easements	Caribou (Boreal population)	Consistent with commitments made in the conservation agreement under section 11 of SARA between Canada, Yukon, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Gwinch'in Tribal Council for Boreal Caribou, the two phase abundance survey was conducted in March 2022 out of Eagle Plains, Yukon. The study area covered suitable late winter habitat within Yukon and some portions of NorthWest Territories. Broad scale lichen habitat modeling was completed to identify high priority areas for critical habitat protection and local scale modeling is currently being evaluated.

Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No new steps and actions were taken for multiple species during this reporting period.

2.2 Northwest Territories

Status Summary

In Northwest Territories (NWT) there is one species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands and two species with critical habitat identified only on federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A12). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within NWT.

The Government of NWT's primary legislation for protecting species at risk, their *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (NWT SARA), applies to Caribou (Boreal population). The NWT SARA has the authority to make regulations to protect critical habitat, however no such regulations have been put in place.

Protected areas in NWT can prevent some disturbance due to human activity in certain critical habitat, while 'candidate areas' may have interim protection through land withdrawals or land use plans. Moreover, regional land use plans contribute to conservation of species at risk habitat in the NWT in certain areas. Approved land use plans are implemented through comprehensive land claim agreements and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

For more details on the territorial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

There are no Pan-Canadian Approach FPT Priority Places within this territory.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Range & Management Planning	Caribou (Boreal population)	<p>Following the October 2021 completion of the public review period for the interim Wek’èezhì Boreal Caribou range, the Wek’èezhì Renewable Resources Board approved the interim range plan in accordance with Section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement in December 2021. The Government of NWT finalized and published the interim range plan in March 2022. The interim Wek’èezhì Boreal Caribou range plan covers 49,505 km² of Boreal Caribou distribution in the NWT.</p> <p>In January 2022, funding was provided to North Slave Métis Alliance for verification and additional collection of Indigenous Knowledge about Boreal Caribou and their habitat, in support of range planning.</p> <p>Work towards the development of the Southern NWT Boreal Caribou range plan continued. A second round of community meetings to review and verify Indigenous Knowledge mapping of Boreal Caribou habitat was completed.</p>
Protected Areas	Caribou (Boreal population)	The establishment of Ts’udé Niljné Tuyeta Territorial Protected Area was completed with the publication of regulations under the <i>Protected Areas Act</i> in January 2022.
Stewardship	Caribou (Boreal population)	Phase 1 of a two-year project to develop an inventory of candidate Boreal Caribou habitat restoration offset sites was initiated in early 2022. Phase 2 of this project is expected to be the design of a habitat restoration trial project.
Legislative or Regulatory	Caribou (Boreal population)	The Government of NWT is developing new guidance for industry to address current best practices for mitigating the impacts of development on Boreal Caribou habitat. In March 2022, the GNWT released the draft “Guidelines for

		Exploration and Development in NWT Boreal Caribou Habitat” for public review until April 30, 2022.
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Steps and actions taken related to multiple species and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No new steps and actions were taken for multiple species during this reporting period.

2.3 Nunavut

Status Summary

In Nunavut, there are two species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A13). From October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no additional critical habitat for species was identified on non-federal lands within Nunavut. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

The *Wildlife Act* is the main legislative tool that can specifically protect habitat for species at risk. In general, the *Wildlife Act* provides prohibitions against the destruction of species at risk critical habitat on public lands. However so far, no species are listed under the Nunavut *Wildlife Act*. On public lands the *Territorial Parks Act* includes prohibitions against activities on critical habitat, and some provisions in various territorial acts can be used to prohibit specific activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.

In addition, the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) leads the development of the Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP), an obligation under the Nunavut Agreement. Through its provisions, the NLUP is another legislative tool that could support the protection of critical habitat if the three approving Parties (Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated) came to agreement. In July 2021, NPC released a new version of the draft NLUP.

For more details on the territorial legislative assessment please refer to the 2019 [Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#).

There is no Pan-Canadian Approach FPT Priority Places within this territory.

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS

All	Multiple species	No content on the steps and actions taken for specific species was provided for this reporting period.
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Steps and actions taken related to multiple species and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
All	Multiple species	No content on the steps and actions taken for multiple species was provided for this reporting period.

3 OTHER COLLABORATIVE AND FEDERAL PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT

Other collaborative efforts for steps and actions related to multiple species.

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Legislative or Regulatory	Migratory Birds	The Minister of Environment issued a statement under s. 58(5.2)(b) of SARA describing how critical habitat identified for species (A14) that are both a migratory bird protected under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i> (MBCA) and listed on Schedule 1 of SARA as endangered, threatened or extirpated are protected on non-federal lands in Canada.

4 PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT ON FEDERAL LAND

The Government of Canada relies on provisions of SARA to legally protect critical habitat on federal lands. There are three tools available for use under SARA: description in the *Canada Gazette* [s.58(2)]; protection statements [s.58(5)(b)]; and, orders [s.58(5)(a)]. A description of critical habitat in the *Canada Gazette* applies to species at risk found in federally protected areas (including National Wildlife Areas, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, National Parks, and Rouge National Urban Park). A protection statement included in the public registry can also be used to describe how critical habitat is protected. The government can also make use of orders under specific sections of SARA for the protection of critical habitat not legally protected by provisions in, or measures under, this or any other Act of Parliament. In addition to regulatory tools mentioned above, ECCC also takes a stewardship approach to support critical habitat protection on federal lands. The Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program (CHIP), established in 2020, is managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of ECCC. This program provides funding to federal departments, agencies, and Crown corporations for projects aimed at the recovery of Canada's species at risk through the restoration and conservation of their critical habitat on federally owned or administered lands.

PCA administers more than 464,000 km² of lands and waters in Canada and protects species at risk in these places. In addition to implementing SARA, PCA has a range of legislative tools that protect species at risk and their critical habitat. For example, in national parks, PCA uses the *Canada National Parks Act* other legislation like the *Impact Assessment Act* and associated regulations give special protection to species at risk through mechanisms like zoning, designation of “Environmentally Sensitive Areas” and seasonal closures. Ecological integrity is the first priority in managing national parks which includes the protection of species at risk and their critical habitat.

The following section summarizes the actions and measures taken by both ECCC and PCA for the protection of critical habitat for terrestrial species at risk. This section includes information for the reporting period of October 2021 to March 2022.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
<p>SARA SS.58(2) Description in the <i>Canada Gazette</i> (Legislative or Regulatory)</p>	<p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog Eastern Waterfan</p>	<p>In October 2021 and February 2022, Parks Canada Agency led the completion of one description of critical habitat for Black-tailed Prairie Dog and for one Eastern Waterfan published in the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i>.</p>
<p>SARA SS.58(2) Description in the <i>Canada Gazette</i> (Legislative or Regulatory)</p>	<p>Dense- flowered Lupine Victoria’s Owl-clover Cerulean Warbler</p>	<p>In January 2022 and March 2022, ECCC led the completion of one description of critical habitat for Dense-flowered Lupine and Victoria’s Owl-clover and for one Cerulean Warbler published in the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i>.</p>
<p>SARA ss. 58(5)(b) Ministerial Order (Legislative or Regulatory)</p>	<p>Gattinger’s Agalinis</p>	<p>In February 2022, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada made one order to protect the critical habitat of Gattinger’s Agalinis on federally administered lands, pursuant to section 58 of SARA.</p>

ANNEX A – LISTS OF SPECIES WITH CRITICAL HABITAT IDENTIFIED ON NON-FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED LANDS BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY

A1 – Species with critical habitat identified in British Columbia

Batwing Vinyl Lichen	Oregon Forestsnail
Bear's-foot Sanicle	Oregon Spotted Frog
Bearded Owl-clover	Pacific Water Shrew
Behr's Hairstreak	Pallid Bat
Blue-grey Taildropper	Phantom Orchid
Bog Bird's-foot Trefoil	Poor Pocket Moss
Branched Phacelia	Porsild's Bryum
Brook Spike-primrose	Prairie Lupine
California Buttercup	Purple Sanicle
Caribou (Boreal population)	Rayless Goldfields
Cliff Paintbrush	Rigid Aple Moss
Coast Microseris	Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog
Coastal Giant Salamander	Rosy Owl-clover
Coastal Scouler's Catchfly	Rusty Cord-moss
Coastal Vesper Sparrow	Sage Thrasher
Contorted-pod Evening-primrose	Sand-verbena Moth
Deltoid Balsamroot	Scarlett Ammannia
Dense-flowered Lupine	Seaside Birds-foot Lotus**
Dense Spike-primrose	Seaside Bone Lichen
Desert Nightsnake	Seaside Centipede Lichen**
Dromedary Jumping-slug	Sharp-tailed Snake
Dun Skipper, <i>vestris</i> subspecies	Short-rayed Alkali Aster
Dwarf Sandwort**	Showy Phlox
Dwarf Woolly-heads (Southern Mountain population)	Slender Collomia
Edwards' Beach Moth	Slender Popcornflower
Foothill Sedge	Small-flowered Lipocarpha
Fragrant Popcornflower	Small-flowered Tonella
Golden Paintbrush	Smooth Goosefoot
Grand Coulee Owl-clover	Southern Maidenhair Fern
Gray's Desert-parsley	Spalding's Champion
Great Basin Gophersnake	Spotted Owl, <i>caurina</i> subspecies
Great Basin Spadefoot	Stoloniferous Pussytoes
Half-moon Hairstreak	Streambank Lupine
Haller's Apple Moss	Tall Bugbane
Howell's Triteleia	Tall Woolly-heads
	Taylor's Checkerspot

Kellogg's Rush	Toothcup (Southern Mountain population)
Lemmon's Holly Fern	Townsend's Mole
Lewis's Woodpecker	Vancouver Island Marmot
Lindley's False Silverpuffs	Victoria's Owl-clover
Little Brown Myotis	Water-plantain Buttercup
Macoun's Meadowfoam	Western Painted Turtle (Pacific Coast population)
Marbled Murrelet	Western Rattlesnake
Mexican Mosquito-fern	Western Tiger Salamander (Southern Mountain population)
Mormon Metalmark (Southern Mountain population)	White Meconella
Mountain Holly Fern	Williamson's Sapsucker
Muhlenberg's Centaury	Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population)
Northern Goshawk, <i>laingi</i> subspecies	Yellow-breasted Chat, <i>auricollis</i> subspecies (Southern Mountain population)
Northern Leopard Frog (Rocky Mountain population)	Yellow Montane Violet, <i>praemorsa</i> subspecies
Northern Myotis	
Northern Saw-whet Owl, <i>brooksi</i> subspecies	
Nugget Moss	

**Species with critical habitat identified only on federal lands.

A2 – Species with critical habitat identified in Alberta

Banff Springs Snail**	Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies*
Bolander's Quillwort**	Porsild's Bryum*
Caribou (Boreal population)*	Red Knot, <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)
Dusky Dune Moth	Slender Mouse-ear-cress*
Five-spotted Bogus Yucca Moth	Small-flowered Sand-verbena*
Gold-edged Gem	Smooth Goosefoot
Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies*	Soapweed*
Greater Short-horned Lizard*	Tiny Cryptantha*
Little Brown Myotis	Western Harvest Mouse <i>dychei</i> subspecies**
Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie subspecies	Western Spiderwort*
Non-pollinating Yucca Moth	Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population)*
Northern Myotis	Yucca Moth
Ord's Kangaroo Rat*	

* Species listed provincially under Alberta's *Wildlife Regulations*, prescribed as endangered species.

**Species with critical habitat identified only on federal lands.

A3 – Species with critical habitat identified in Saskatchewan

Black-footed Ferret*	Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies*
Burrowing Owl*	Red-headed Woodpecker
Caribou (Boreal population)	Red Knot, <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Tierra del
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Fuego/Patagonia population)
Dusky Dune Moth	Slender Mouse-ear-creep*
Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer	Small-flowered Sand-verbena*
Gold-edged Gem	Smooth Goosefoot
Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i>	Sprague’s Pipit
subspecies*	Swift Fox*
Greater Short-horned Lizard	Tiny Cryptantha*
Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie subspecies	Western Spiderwort*
Mountain Plover	

* Species listed provincially under the Saskatchewan *Wild Species at Risk Regulations* as threatened, endangered or extirpated wild species at risk.

A4 – Species with critical habitat identified in Manitoba

Caribou (Boreal population)*	Red-headed Woodpecker*
Dusky Dune Moth*	Red Knot, <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Tierra del
Eastern Whip-poor-will*	Fuego/Patagonia population)*
Gattinger's Agalinis*	Rough Agalinis*
Gold-edged Gem*	Small White Lady's-slipper*
Golden-winged Warbler*	Smooth Goosefoot*
Least Bittern*	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid*
Little Brown Myotis*	Western Silvery Aster*
Northern Myotis*	Western Spiderwort*
Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies	White Flower Moth*
Poweshiek Skipperling*	

* Species listed provincially as endangered or threatened species under the ESEA regulations.

A5 – Species with critical habitat identified in Ontario

Acadian Flycatcher*	Kirtland’s Warbler**
Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander	Lakeside Daisy *
(Carolinian population)*	Large Whorled Pogonia*
American Badger, <i>jacksoni</i> subspecies*	Least Bittern*
American Chestnut*	Little Brown Myotis*
American Columbo*	Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern subspecies*
American Gingseng*	Hungerford’s Crawling Water Beetle*
American Water-willow*	Jefferson Salamander*

Bashful Bulrush*
Bent Spike-rush (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Bird's-foot Violet*
Blanding's Turtle (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*
Bluehearts*
Blue Racer*
Blunt-lobed Woodsia*
Bogbean Buckmoth*
Branched Bartonnia*
Butler's Gartersnake*
Caribou (Boreal population)*
Cerulean Warbler*
Cherry Birch*
Colicroot*
Cucumber Tree*
Deerberry*
Dense Blazing Star*
Drooping Trillium*
Dwarf Hackberry*
Eastern Flowering Dogwood*
Eastern Foxsnake (Carolinian population)*
Eastern Foxsnake (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid*
Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus*
Eastern Whip-poor-will*
Engelmann's Quillwort*
False Hop Sedge*
False Rue-anemone*
Five-lined Skink (Carolinian population)*
Forked Three-awned Grass*
Fowler's Toad*
Gattinger's Agalinis*
Goldenseal
Golden-winged Warbler
Gray Ratsnake (Carolinian population)*
Gray Ratsnake (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*

Massasauga (Carolinian population)*
Massasauga (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*
Nodding Pogonia*
Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle*
Northern Dusky Salamander (Carolinian population)*
Northern Myotis*
Pale-bellied Frost Lichen*
Pink Milkwort*
Piping Plover, *circumcinctus* subspecies*
Prothonotary Warbler*
Purple Twayblade*
Queensnake*
Rapids Clubtail*
Red-headed Woodpecker*
Red Knot, *rufa* subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)*
Red Mulberry*
Riverine Clubtail (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Round-leaved Greenbrier (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Rusty-patched Bumble Bee*
Scarlett Ammannia*
Showy Goldenrod (Boreal population)*
Slender Bush-clover*
Small-flowered Lipocarpha*
Small-mouthed Salamander*
Small White Lady's-slipper*
Small Whorled Pogonia*
Spiny Softshell*
Spoon-leaved Moss*
Spotted Turtle*
Spotted Wintergreen*
Toothcup (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Tri-coloured Bat*
Virginia Goat's-rue*
Virginia Mallow*

Grey Fox*
 Heart-leaved Plantain*
 Hill's Thistle*
 Hine's Emerald*
 Hoary Mountain-mint*
 Horsetail Spike-rush**
 Juniper Sedge*
 Kentucky Coffee-tree*

Western Chorus Frog (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence - Canadian Shield population)
 Western Silvery Aster*
 White Wood Aster*
 Wild Hyacinth*
 Willowleaf Aster*
 Wood Poppy*
 Wood Turtle*
 Yellow-breasted Chat, *virens* subspecies*

* Species provincially listed as endangered or threatened, and receiving some habitat protection under the Ontario ESA.

**Species with critical habitat identified only on federal lands.

A6 – Species with critical habitat identified in Quebec

Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander (Appalachian population)
 American Gingseng*
 American Water-willow*
 Bicknell's Thrush*
 Blanding's Turtle (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*
 Blunt-lobed Woodsia*
 Caribou (Atlantic-Gaspésie population)*
 Caribou (Boreal population)*
 Cerulean Warbler*
 Eastern Waterfan*
 Eastern Whip-poor-will*
 False Hop Sedge*
 Forked Three-awned Grass*
 Golden-winged Warbler*
 Green-scaled Willow*
 Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster*
 Horned Grebe (Magdalen Islands population)*
 Least Bittern*

Little Brown Myotis
 Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern subspecies*
 Maritime Ringlet*
 Mountain Holly Fern*
 Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle*
 Northern Myotis
 Piping Plover, *melodus* subspecies*
 Purple Twayblade
 Red-headed Woodpecker*
 Red Knot, *rufa* subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)*
 Roseate Tern*
 Skillet Clubtail*
 Spiny Softshell*
 Tri-coloured Bat*
 Van Brunt's Jacob's ladder*
 Victorin's Gentian*
 Western Chorus frog (Great Lakes St. Lawrence - Canadian Shield population)*
 White Wood Aster*
 Wood Turtle*

* Species designated as Threatened or Vulnerable under the *Act respecting Threatened or Vulnerable Species* (LEMV) or listed as a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable under the LEMV.

A7 – Species with critical habitat identified in New Brunswick

Bicknell’s Thrush	Maritime Ringlet*
Cobblestone Tiger Beetle*	Northern Myotis*
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies*
Furbish's Lousewort*	Tri-coloured Bat*
Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster*	Van Brunt’s Jacob’s-ladder
Least Bittern	Wood Turtle
Little Brown Myotis*	

* Species provincially listed as endangered in Schedule A of the *New Brunswick Species at Risk Act*.

A8 – Species with critical habitat identified in Prince Edward Island

Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies	
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A9 – Species with critical habitat identified in Nova Scotia

Bicknell’s Thrush*	Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies*
Blanding's Turtle (Nova Scotia population)*	Plymouth Gentian*
Boreal Felt Lichen (Atlantic population)*	Roseate Tern*
Eastern Mountain Avens*	Sable Island Sweat Bee**
Eastern Ribbonsnake (Atlantic population)*	Thread-leaved Sundew*
Little Brown Myotis*	Tri-coloured Bat*
Northern Myotis*	Vole Ears lichen*
Pink Coreopsis*	Wood Turtle*

* Species provincially listed as endangered or threatened wildlife species under the *Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act*.

**Species with critical habitat identified only on federal lands.

A10 – Species with critical habitat identified in Newfoundland and Labrador

American Marten (Newfoundland population)*	Long’s Braya*
Barrens Willow*	Northern Myotis*
Caribou (Boreal population)*	Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies*
Fernald’s Braya*	Porsild’s Bryum*
Little Brown Myotis*	Vole Ears lichen*

* Species provincially listed as endangered or threatened under the *Newfoundland and Labrador Endangered Species Act*.

A11 – Species with critical habitat identified in Yukon

Caribou (Boreal population)

A12 – Species with critical habitat identified in the Northwest Territories

Caribou (Boreal population)

Little Brown Myotis**

Whooping Crane**

**Species with critical habitat identified only on federal lands.

A13 – Species with critical habitat identified in the Nunavut

Ivory Gull

Red Knot, *rufa* subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)

A14 – Migratory birds species with federal protection in place for critical habitat identified on non-federal land under SARA s.58(5.2)

Acadian Flycatcher

Bicknell's Thrush

Cerulean Warbler

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Coastal Vesper Sparrow

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Golden-winged Warbler

Horned Grebe (Magdalen Islands population)

Least Bittern

Lewis's Woodpecker

Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie subspecies

Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern subspecies

Marbled Murrelet

Piping Plover, *circumcinctus* subspecies

Piping Plover, *melodus* subspecies

Prothonotary Warbler

Red-headed Woodpecker

Red Knot *rufa* subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)

Roseate Tern

Sage Trasher

Sprague's Pipit

Williamson's Sapsucker

Yellow-breasted Chat, *auricollis* subspecies (Southern Mountain population)