

Progress Report on Steps Taken for Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada (October 2022 – March 2023)

June 2023

Canada

Cat. No.: CW70-25E-PDF
ISBN: 2817-4577

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DEPARTMENTAL MESSAGE

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Parks Canada (PC) 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 PC 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. Consensus has emerged on the need for a prioritized, multi-species, stewardship-based approach to better focus on recovery outcomes and undertake needed actions in an effective and timely manner; one that is grounded in stronger multi-jurisdictional partnerships and engagement of all partners, notably Indigenous Peoples.

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) since 2018. Conservation efforts under the Pan-Canadian Approach 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.

- Eleven 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. To learn more about the Priority Places initiative and the work undertaken by our partners to recover species at risk within these priority places, please visit our [interactive website](#). These 11 priority places are complemented by a suite of Community-Nominated

¹ Although the Government of Quebec is not implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach, the province and the federal government have collaborated on joint actions in Quebec through the Canada-Quebec agreement for the protection of species at risk in Quebec, until March 31, 2022.

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

Priority Places (CNPP), which were identified through an open call for applications. In 2018-2022, more than 12,000 ha were secured and more than 150 km of shoreline and 65,000 ha were stewarded for species at risk through actions implemented by partners in the federal-provincial-territorial priority places. In 2019-2022, more than 1400 ha were secured and more than 950 km of shoreline and 15,000ha 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’ ranges cover over 576 million ha – roughly ~58% – of Canada. Bilateral or multilateral conservation agreements have been signed with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to support commitments towards recovery planning and on-the-ground actions. 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 PC, provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples and other partners, continue to advance biodiversity 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 ten reports prior to this publication 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, provincial⁴ and territorial governments have been implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach since 2018. Now in its fifth 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 266 terrestrial species at risk⁵ in Canada, an increase of 4 species since the previous report published in January 2023 (see Annex A). The report includes information related to species at risk critical habitat on federal and non-federal lands. Building on the previous ten publications⁶, this report focuses on

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 With the exception of Quebec.

⁵ 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 and federal lands.

⁶ Three reports are related to boreal 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 seven 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*](#)).

steps and actions that have been taken during the reporting period of October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Since the first multi-species report (June 2019), 403 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 Parks Canada.

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 plan⁷.

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 104 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, 2022 to March 31, 2023, critical habitat for two new species (Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger Beetle and Barn Owl, Western population) was identified on non-federal lands within BC. As this critical habitat is newly identified, no protection actions for these species occurred during this reporting period. No legislative changes were made during the reporting period; the summary of legislation is below.

The Government of BC 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

⁷ As of March 31, 2023.

Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* (now the *Energy Resources Activities Act (ERAA)*) and associated regulations include enforceable prohibitions, but the prohibitions only apply to forest harvesting 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.

Recently the province amended the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation under the FRPA to remove the limitation “without unduly reducing the supply of timber” from objectives set by government in the Act. This change enables forest stewardship plan holders and Ministry decision makers to fully balance forest values when managing for timber and non-timber objectives under the FRPA. This clause has not been removed from FRPA’s Government Actions Regulation at this time.

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 2023 - September 2023 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 new steps and actions were taken for specific species during this reporting period.

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

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Legislative or regulatory	Little Brown Myotis Northern Myotis Woodland Caribou	Incomappleux Conservancy, southeast of Revelstoke, was established January 30, 2023 by Order in Council resulting in the permanent protection of 58,654 ha of the Incomappleux Valley. The new conservancy contains rare inland rainforest, including stands of old growth and hundreds of species of lichen. Protection in this area was a result of a partnership between the province, Interfor and the Nature Conservancy of

	(Southern Mountain population)	Canada. The conservancy contains critical habitat for three species: Little Brown Myotis (22,165.7 ha), Northern Myotis (22,165.7 ha), Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population) (58,652.3 ha).
Protected areas	Little Brown Myotis Marbled Murrelet Northern Goshawk, <i>laingi</i> subspecies Northern Myotis	During the reporting period, BC established 31 new Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA) overlapping with approximately 2,619.9 ha of critical habitat for Little Brown Myotis, Marbled Murrelet, Northern Goshawk and Northern Myotis.
Stewardship	Great Basin Spadefoot Lewis's Woodpecker Little Brown Myotis Northern Myotis Western Painted Turtle (Pacific Coast population) Western Rattlesnake Yellow-breasted Chat,	Wetland restoration activities are ongoing at Ginty's Pond in Cawston, BC. In 2022, now referred to as Phase 1, the project team: - deepened an estimated 1.2 ha of wetland to open water conditions - created about 0.8 ha of new (former cattail) shrub-thicket riparian habitat - added over 100 cubic metres of coarse woody debris to the enhanced wetland - planted about 1700 native trees and shrubs (900 rooted and 800 live stakes) in the newly created riparian area, and grass-seeded the area to help prevent weed growth Phase 2 restoration activities will focus on re-establishing up to an additional two ha of open water-cattail fringe wetland and creating a target of an additional 0.5 ha of new riparian shrub-woodland habitat immediately upstream of the initial two ha restored during Phase 1.

	<i>auricollis</i> subspecies (Southern Mountain population)	
Range and management planning	Great Basin Gophersnake Great Basin Spadefoot Lewis’s Woodpecker Western Painted Turtle (Pacific Coast population) Western Rattlesnake	A collaborative species at risk management project with Skeetchestn First Nation within their traditional territory is ongoing. The project was initiated by creating a living management plan document to guide the project and the initial focus has been on wetlands and associated species at risk with the intention to create a long-term partnership to manage species at risk in this area. Activities completed in 2022-2023 are as follows: - Species at Risk Management Plan was updated to reflect surveys and restoration activities completed in 2022-2023. - wetland restoration: two wetlands with high Great Basin Spadefoot values were identified in the 2021-22 management plan for restoration and fencing. Extensive fencing around both wetlands was installed to exclude cattle access, and off-channel watering sites for cattle were developed. Total fenced area was 675 m of wetland, stream, and spring for cattle exclusion at the two sites. Another three wetlands are identified for future work. - Western Painted Turtle: Twelve locations were surveyed with 106 Western Painted Turtles found at six locations. Information from these surveys was used to install turtle basking logs in early 2023.

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, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat 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 2023 - September 2023 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
Protected areas	Bank Swallow	Big Island Provincial Park was established on March 16, 2023. The establishment of Big Island as a Provincial Park represents a new protected area of approximately 79 ha in size, in a sensitive riparian area along the North Saskatchewan River. The park will be reported as a protected area in the next reporting cycle for the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD) (IUCN category II or V, TBD). It has a primary overriding objective for the conservation of nature, with compatible, low-impact, day-use recreational and cultural activities permitted. Industrial activities are prohibited. This new park will be cooperatively managed with Enoch Cree Nation and the City of Edmonton, ensuring that both current science and traditional ecological knowledge are incorporated into the management and protection of critical species at risk habitat.

Stewardship	Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies	Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) continues to promote and enhance stewardship of species at risk habitats, including long-term securement of critical habitat within Alberta. On March 1, 2023, the offer to purchase closed for an ACA (fee-simple purchase) of the Manyberries Expansion Conservation Site (Phase 1) in South Eastern Alberta (Sec 10-006-05-W4M). This 259 ha parcel overlaps with critical habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. Other species on site will be updated after completion of a wildlife inventory by MULTISAR in summer 2023. Phase 2 of the securement project (Sec 09-006-05-W4M) will be completed by December 31, 2023.
Securement Stewardship	Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies	The Orphan Well Association (OWA) continues to conduct reclamation activities within Greater Sage-Grouse critical habitat, including pipeline abandonment, infrastructure removal of buildings, powerlines and storage tanks as well as a number of well abandonments. Work is coordinated with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to prioritize sites that will have the largest benefits to Greater Sage-Grouse. During the most recent reporting period (October 2022 to March 2023), 21 well sites in Greater Sage-Grouse critical habitat underwent downhole abandonment, 6 major facilities were decommissioned via the removal of structures, and reclamation activities were completed at 17 sites. The City of Medicine Hat also undertook a number of reclamation activities in sage grouse habitat, including completing well abandonment at 138 of 148 sites; pipeline abandonment and facility decommissioning at all sites; 132 phase II environmental site assessments; and 9 soil remediation projects, including two near a Greater Sage-Grouse lek.
Stewardship	Piping Plover <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies	Grazing lease agreements around Little Fish Lake were renewed. The agreements cover ten quartersections around the lake and include provisions to exclude cattle grazing during the Piping Plover breeding period from May 1 to July 1.

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

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
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Stewardship	Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies Western Spiderwort	Two properties in southeastern Alberta have signed up to participate in the MULTISAR Program. The first property , which is ~31,000 ha in size and contains 18,457 ha of Greater Sage Grouse critical habitat, will be assessed in 2023. The second property, which is also ~31,000 ha in size and contains 3,718 ha of Greater Sage Grouse critical habitat, will be assessed in 2024.
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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, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat 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 2023 - September 2023 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)	Consistent with commitments made in the conservation agreement under section 11 of SARA between Canada and Saskatchewan for boreal caribou, Saskatchewan continued ongoing engagement with stakeholders and rights holders to develop and implement range plans. Saskatchewan continues to engage with the industry regarding caribou range plan implementation and mitigation guidelines. Revisions are being completed for a Final SK2 East Range Plan to incorporate comments received during public review. In addition, approvals were completed during this reporting period to extend the current Canada-Saskatchewan contribution agreement for the 2023-24 fiscal period.
Stewardship	Caribou (Boreal population)	Between October 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, a total of 16 wells received the Acknowledgement of Reclamation, involving an approximate area of 1.9 acres. All the reclaimed stratigraphic wells occur in boreal caribou habitat.

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.

1.4 Manitoba

Status Summary

In Manitoba, there are 22 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A4). From October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat 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 20 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 2023, 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 2023 - September 2023 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)	Manitoba and Canada signed a three year SARA section 11 conservation agreement for boreal caribou, which was publicly posted on March 1, 2023, to support caribou conservation and recovery in the province. Manitoba committed to finalizing and begin implementing range plans by 2025, and undertaking measures such as caribou population and habitat monitoring.
Control of activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat	Caribou (Boreal population)	Manitoba imposed environmental licensing conditions on Alamos Gold to contribute to a caribou monitoring project in the Kamachawie boreal woodland caribou management unit and to prepare an action plan for caribou habitat management that will mitigate habitat loss that is expected under the project. The licensee is required (prior to construction) to enter into a collaborative collaring project and associated contribution agreement with Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development for the purpose of developing a monitoring, assessment and mitigation plan for caribou, for approval by the Director of

		Wildlife. The results will inform an Action Plan which is required by 2028.
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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.

1.5 Ontario

Status Summary

In Ontario, there are 100 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, 2022 to March 31, 2023, critical habitat for a new species (Hoptree Borer) was identified on non-federal lands within Ontario. As this critical habitat is newly identified, no protection actions for this species occurred during this reporting period. 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 190 species at risk in Ontario, 97 of which are part of the 100 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 Lakeside Daisy (currently listed Special Concern under the ESA) are the only three species with final critical habitat in Ontario that do not currently receive any direct habitat protection under the ESA.

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 2023 - September 2023 reporting period to coincide with the timing of project reporting.

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Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Control of activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat	Caribou (Boreal population)	Under the <i>Ontario 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. Within the reporting period, the Wabadowgang Noopming Forest Forest Management Plan was approved in March 2023.

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	During this reporting period, the province of Ontario has made significant progress to designate Ostrander Crown Land Block and Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area, two ecologically significant areas along the southern shore of Prince Edward County, as a conservation reserve under the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserve Act</i> . The Land Use Amendment to redesignate the lands as a "Recommended Conservation Reserve" was approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The Environmental Assessment associated with the project has also been completed.
Stewardship	Multiple species	The province of Ontario's Species at Risk Stewardship Program (SARSP) cycles annually with a reporting period of March to February. From March 2022 – February 2023, SARSP supported 67 ongoing or new stewardship projects that support the protection and recovery of the province of Ontario's species at risk. SARSP projects contribute to the restoration of important habitat, mitigate threats, fill

		<p>knowledge gaps through research and monitoring, and promote awareness through education and outreach initiatives. Specific measures, including information on hectares restored or enhanced, and outreach impressions for the March 2022 – February 2023 SARSP cycle will be available in the next progress report.</p>
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1.6 Quebec

Status Summary

In Quebec, there are 38 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A6). From October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat was 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 27 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 (7 of which are listed under SARA) 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 2023 - September 2023 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.

1.7 New Brunswick

Status Summary

In New Brunswick, there are 16 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A7). From October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat 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 16 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat in New Brunswick, 10 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 apply⁸. 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

⁸ For more information, please refer to the Act: <http://laws.gnb.ca/en/showfulldoc/cs/2012-c.6//20210621>

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 2023 - September 2023 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 new steps and actions were taken for specific species during this reporting period.

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

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Protected areas	Bank Swallow Bicknell’s Thrush Eastern Whip-poor-will Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster	The Government of New Brunswick has led a provincial initiative since 2019 to double the amount of protected land in New Brunswick and has, as of December 13, 2022, achieved the target of 10% protection. Areas selected for conservation had a specific biodiversity focus, such as: old forests, areas of high biodiversity, and unique ecosystem types. The following summary highlights the amount of critical habitat that is now protected within Nature Legacy Protected Areas.

	Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies Van Brunt's Jacob's-ladder Wood Turtle	Bicknell's Thrush: 2,4903.2 ha Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster: 9.2 ha Piping Plover <i>melodus</i> subspecies: 871.9 ha Van Brunt's Jacob's-ladder: 0.5 ha Eastern Whip-poor-will: 230.6 ha Wood Turtle: 2,167.3 ha Bank Swallow: 1,971.6 ha
Control of activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat	Bank Swallow Bats Bicknell's Thrush Eastern Waterfan Eastern Whip-poor-will Maritime Ringlet Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies	In New Brunswick, reviewing land-use applications for Species at Risk concerns is standard practice. These include Crown Land applications, Watercourse and Wetland Alteration applications, Mineral Exploration applications and Environmental Impact Analysis applications. The following summary highlights the number of applications for which mitigation was requested or that were rejected. Bank Swallow: 23 Bicknell's Thrush: 11 Eastern Whip-poor-will: 2 Maritime Ringlet: 1 Piping Plover: 9 Bats: 10 Wood Turtle: 16 Eastern Waterfan: 1

1.8 Prince Edward Island

Status Summary

In Prince Edward Island (PEI), there are two species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands and three species with federally identified critical habitat only on federal land to which this report relates (see Annex A8). From October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat 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 2023 - September 2023 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 new steps and actions were taken for specific species during this reporting period.

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.

1.9 Nova Scotia

Status Summary

In Nova Scotia, there are 20 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, 2022 to March 31, 2023, critical habitat for three new species (Eastern Baccharis, Sweet Pepperbush and Tall Beakrush) was identified on non-federal lands within Nova Scotia. As this critical habitat is newly identified, no protection actions for these species occurred during this reporting period. There have been no modifications to legislation which applies to species at risk within this reporting period.

The *Endangered Species Act* (NS ESA) covers 20 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 2023 - September 2023 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 new steps and actions were taken for specific species during this reporting period.

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

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Stewardship	All Annex A9 species	Nova Scotia partnered and supported Clean Annapolis River Project and the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association on their Nova Scotia Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool that allow landowners to confidentially enter their property information to generate a report outlining beneficial management practices most relevant to their farm.

1.10 Newfoundland and Labrador

Status Summary

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are 11 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A10). From October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat 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 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
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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 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 are two species at risk with identified critical habitat on non-federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A11). From October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat was identified on non-federal lands within 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.

Protected areas in the Yukon can prevent some disturbance due to human activity in certain critical habitat, while areas that have not yet been designated may have interim protection through land withdrawals via land use plans or Yukon First Nation Final Agreements. Moreover, regional land use plans contribute to conservation of species at risk habitat in the Yukon in certain areas. Approved land use plans are implemented through Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment 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*](#).

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 Priority Place within this territory.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

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

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 are three species at risk with federally identified critical habitat on non-federal lands and three species with critical habitat identified only on federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A12). From October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat 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 Priority Place 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
Agreements or easements	Caribou (Boreal population)	The interim Wek'èezhìi Boreal Caribou Range Plan is being implemented. Work to support the development of the final Wek'èezhìi, Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, Sahtú and Southern NWT boreal caribou range plans continues. The Wek'èezhìi management class map, updated to better reflect Indigenous Knowledge, has been completed. A draft management class map was developed for the Southern NWT and is currently under review by the working group.
Protected areas	Caribou (Boreal population)	At the 15 th United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (COP15) in December 2022, the Déłìnè Got'ìnè Government, NWT and Canada signed a Letter of Intent to advance the Sahtú K'aowe Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) and enhance the conservation and stewardship of the Great Bear Lake watershed.

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 and one species with critical habitat identified only on federal lands to which this report relates (see Annex A13). From October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, no additional critical habitat 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 Priority Place 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 new steps and actions were taken for specific species during this reporting period.

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.

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 published a statement under s. 58(5.2)(b) of SARA in December 2022, describing how critical habitat identified for species (A14) that are both a migratory bird protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (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.

PC 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, PC has a range of legislative tools that protect species at risk and their critical habitat. For example, in national parks, PC uses the *Canada National Parks Act* and other legislation like the *Impact Assessment Act* and their associated regulations provide 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 PC for the protection of critical habitat for terrestrial species at risk. This section includes information for the reporting period of October 2022 to March 2023.

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>Barn Owl, Western population Caribou (Boreal population) Desert Nightsnake Great Basin Gophersnake Okanagan Efferia Olive Clubtail Peary Caribou Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies Western Rattlesnake</p>	<p>During this reporting period, ECCC led the completion of seven descriptions of critical habitat for Barn Owl, Western population, Caribou (Boreal population), Desert Nightsnake, Great Basin Gophersnake, Okanagan Efferia, Olive Clubtail, Peary Caribou, Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies and Western Rattlesnake 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>Hoptree Borer Peary Caribou Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies</p>	<p>During this reporting period, Parks Canada led the completion of three descriptions of critical habitat for Hoptree Borer, Peary Caribou and Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies published in the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i>.</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

Audouin’s Night-stalking Tiger Beetle	Nugget Moss
Bank Swallow	Okanagan Efferia
Barn Owl, Western population	Olive Clubtail
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	Roell's Brotherella Moss
Coastal Scouler’s Catchfly	Rosy Owl-clover
Coastal Vesper Sparrow	Rusty Cord-moss
Contorted-pod Evening-primrose	Sage Thrasher
Crumpled Tarpaper Lichen	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
	Stoloniferous Pussytoes

Great Basin Spadefoot	Streambank Lupine
Half-moon Hairstreak	Tall Bugbane
Haller's Apple Moss	Tall Woolly-heads
Howell's Triteleia	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	

**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*
Bank Swallow	Porsild's Bryum*
Bolander's Quillwort**	Red Knot, <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)
Caribou (Boreal population)*	Slender Mouse-ear-cress*
Dusky Dune Moth	Small-flowered Sand-verbena*
Five-spotted Bogus Yucca Moth	Smooth Goosefoot
Gold-edged Gem	Soapweed*
Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies*	Tiny Cryptantha*
Little Brown Myotis	Western Harvest Mouse <i>dychiei</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

Bank Swallow	Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies*
Black-footed Ferret*	Red-headed Woodpecker
Burrowing Owl*	Red Knot, <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)
Caribou (Boreal population)	Slender Mouse-ear-cress*
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Small-flowered Sand-verbena*
Dusky Dune Moth	Smooth Goosefoot
Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer	Sprague's Pipit
Gold-edged Gem	Swift Fox*
Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies*	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

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

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

A5 – Species with critical habitat identified in Ontario

Acadian Flycatcher*	Juniper Sedge*
Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander (Carolinian population)*	Kentucky Coffee-tree*
American Badger, <i>jacksoni</i> subspecies*	Kirtland's Warbler**
American Chestnut*	Lakeside Daisy
American Columbo*	Large Whorled Pogonia*
	Least Bittern*

American Gingseng*	Little Brown Myotis*
American Water-willow*	Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern subspecies*
Bank Swallow*	Massasauga (Carolinian population)*
Bashful Bulrush*	Massasauga (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*
Bent Spike-rush (Great Lakes Plains population)*	Nodding Pogonia*
Bird's-foot Violet*	Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle*
Blanding's Turtle (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*	Northern Dusky Salamander (Carolinian population)*
Bluehearts*	Northern Myotis*
Blue Racer*	Pale-bellied Frost Lichen*
Blunt-lobed Woodsia*	Pink Milkwort*
Bogbean Buckmoth*	Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies*
Branched Bartonnia*	Prothonotary Warbler*
Butler's Gartersnake*	Purple Twayblade*
Caribou (Boreal population)*	Queensnake*
Cerulean Warbler*	Rapids Clubtail*
Cherry Birch*	Red-headed Woodpecker*
Colicroot*	Red Knot, <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)*
Cucumber Tree*	Red Mulberry*
Deerberry*	Riverine Clubtail (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Dense Blazing Star*	Round-leaved Greenbrier (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Drooping Trillium*	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee*
Dwarf Hackberry*	Scarlett Ammannia*
Eastern Flowering Dogwood*	Showy Goldenrod (Boreal population)*
Eastern Foxsnake (Carolinian population)*	Slender Bush-clover*
Eastern Foxsnake (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*	Small-flowered Lipocarpha*
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid*	Small-mouthed Salamander*
Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus*	Small White Lady's-slipper*
Eastern Whip-poor-will*	Small Whorled Pogonia*
Engelmann's Quillwort*	Spiny Softshell*
False Hop Sedge*	Spoon-leaved Moss*
False Rue-anemone*	Spotted Turtle*
Five-lined Skink (Carolinian population)*	Spotted Wintergreen*
Forked Three-awned Grass*	Toothcup (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Fowler's Toad*	Tri-coloured Bat*
Gattinger's Agalinis*	Virginia Goat's-rue*
Golden-winged Warbler	
Gray Ratsnake (Carolinian population)*	

Gray Ratsnake (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*
 Grey Fox*
 Heart-leaved Plantain*
 Hill's Thistle*
 Hine's Emerald*
 Hoary Mountain-mint*
 Hoptree Borer*
 Horsetail Spike-rush**
 Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle*
 Jefferson Salamander*

Virginia Mallow*
 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*
 Bank Swallow
 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

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

* 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

Bank Swallow	Northern Myotis**
Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster**	Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies
Little Brown Myotis**	

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

A9 – Species with critical habitat identified in Nova Scotia

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

* 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)*	Little Brown Myotis*
Bank Swallow	Long’s Braya*
Barrens Willow*	Northern Myotis*
Caribou (Boreal population)*	Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies*
Fernald’s Braya*	Porsild’s Bryum*
	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

Bank Swallow	Caribou (Boreal population)
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A12 – Species with critical habitat identified in the Northwest Territories

Bank Swallow	Little Brown Myotis**
Caribou (Boreal population)	Peary Caribou**
Hairy Braya	Whooping Crane**

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

A13 – Species with critical habitat identified in the Nunavut

Ivory Gull	Red Knot, <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)
Peary Caribou**	

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