

Progress Report on Steps Taken for Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada (October 2023 – March 2024)

June 2024

Canada

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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, 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. This approach is grounded in stronger multi-jurisdictional partnerships and engagement of all partners, notably with provinces and territories and Indigenous Peoples.

The Government of Canada has also prioritized biodiversity conservation on an international scale. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was adopted in December 2022 at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15). This landmark document builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and includes a set of goals, targets, and a partial set of indicators for Parties to address. A major focus of the KMGBF mission is halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 and restoring biological diversity levels by 2050. The KMGBF represents “an ambitious path forward for our planet” and gives countries “the tools to turn the tide” on biodiversity loss¹.

The Government of Canada has been collaborating with provinces², territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other conservation partners to implement the [Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada](#)³ (Pan-Canadian Approach) since 2018. Conservation efforts under the Pan-Canadian Approach are concentrated on shared priorities across Canada, focusing on sets 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.

¹ Government of Canada – Environment and Climate Change Canada (2022). “[Canada helps lead the world to agreement on the monumental Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework](#).”

² The Government of Quebec is not implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach and the Canada-Quebec agreement for the protection of species at risk in Quebec expired on March 31, 2022.

³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/species-risk/pan-canadian-approach/species-at-risk-conservation.html>

- 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). Within 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 Priority Places (CNPP), which were identified through an open call for applications. In 2018-2023, more than 34,000 ha were secured and more than 150 km of shoreline and 249,000 ha were stewarded for species at risk through actions implemented by partners in 11 priority places. In 2019-2023, more than 2,000 ha were secured and more than 950 km of shoreline and 23,000 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’ ranges cover over 576 million ha – roughly ~58% – of Canada including various federal protected areas. 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 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, and 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.

Nature Agreements between the federal and interested provincial and territorial governments include clear and strong commitments to nature conservation and protection. Agreements include mutually agreed upon actions and financial commitments that Canada and the province or

territory will take to reach their individual and collective conservation goals. Nature Agreements may include protecting critical habitat and adopting land use planning measures to improve outcomes for species at risk and migratory birds, including through Priority Places and Priority Species initiatives. For more information and current Nature Agreements, please refer to [Nature Agreements in Canada](#).

ECCC, along with PC, provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples and other partners, continues 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 habitat⁴ protection for all species at risk 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.

The Spring 2023 [Discretionary Powers to Protect Species at Risk](#) report by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the Parliament of Canada included recommendations to ECCC for providing more complete information in progress reports. The department agreed with these recommendations. As per the department's official response to these recommendations, by March 2025, ECCC will continue to improve the information reported on steps taken by provinces and territories to protect critical habitat. To date, related work has enabled adjustments to improve internal reporting processes, leading to technical efficiencies, improved process and role clarity, and enhanced communication between ECCC and the provinces and territories. ECCC will continue its work with provinces and territories to

⁴ 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).

identify approaches to determining the amount of critical habitat for at-risk species where there have been steps taken toward protection, and the amount where there have not been steps taken. The department continues its work to develop an appropriate framework within which provincial and territorial data can be presented in accessible ways. As this work advances, available elements will be incorporated in these progress reports.

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 12 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, provincial⁵ and territorial governments have been implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach since 2018. Now in its sixth 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, 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 270 terrestrial species at risk⁶ in Canada, with the identification of critical habitat for three new species since the previous report published in December 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 12 publications⁷, this report focuses on steps and actions that have been taken during the reporting period of October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Since the first multi-species report (June 2019), 481 steps and actions have been reported towards protection of identified critical habitat for species at risk.

⁵ With the exception of Quebec.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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 nine multi-species reports for all species with identified critical habitat ([Report on Steps Taken and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in Canada](#)).

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. Information was also solicited on other collaborative efforts as well as information on steps and actions taken on federal lands including input from PC.

Guided by the Pan-Canadian Approach, steps or actions are organized in this report based on whether they relate to a single species, 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 plan⁸.

⁸ As of March 31, 2024.

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 was recently signed (February 2024), for Nunavut. The federal government is working with the territorial governments, 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).

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 110 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A1). From October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, critical habitat for two new species (American Badger *jeffersonii* subspecies, Western population, American Badger *jeffersonii* subspecies, Eastern population) was identified 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, conservancies or provincial parks, and 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 *Energy Resources Activities Act* (ERAA), and associated regulations, include enforceable prohibitions, but these 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.

On February 13, 2023, 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 (BC Reg 36/2023). 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 now been removed from FRPA’s [Government Actions Regulation](#), which is the mechanism to establish wildlife habitat areas and ungulate winter ranges. For more information, please see [Removing limitations on objectives set by government - Province of British Columbia](#).

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](#).

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection on non-federal lands within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Protected areas	Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population)	During the reporting period, BC established two new Wildlife Habitat Areas overlapping with approximately 8,869 ha of critical habitat for Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population).

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

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Agreements or easements	Multiple species, including: Caribou (Boreal population) Spotted Owl caurina subspecies	On November 3, 2023, the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and the First Nations Leadership Council signed a first-of-its-kind, tripartite framework agreement to protect and conserve biodiversity, habitats, and species at risk in the province. The Framework Agreement enables action rooted in recognition of First Nations title and rights to reach BC and Canada’s goal of protecting 30 percent of lands in BC by 2030.

1.2 Alberta

Status Summary

In Alberta, there are 28 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A2). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified 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 13 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](#).

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection on non-federal lands within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Stewardship	Greater Sage-Grouse, <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies	The Alberta Conservation Association continues to promote and enhance stewardship of Species at Risk habitats, including long-term securement of critical habitat within Alberta. On December 1, 2023, the offer to purchase closed for a fee-simple purchase of the Manyberries Expansion Conservation Site (Phase 2) in South Eastern Alberta (Sec 09-006-05-W4M). This 259 ha parcel overlaps with critical habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse.
Securement Stewardship	Greater Sage-Grouse,	The Orphan Well Association (OWA) continues to conduct reclamation activities within Greater Sage-Grouse critical habitat, including pipeline abandonment, infrastructure

	<i>urophasianus</i> subspecies	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 2023 to March 2024), reclamation activities were completed at 43 sites, totaling about 60 ha of land within Greater Sage-Grouse range. The City of Medicine Hat also undertook a number of oil and gas reclamation activities in sage grouse habitat, including completing major reclamation activities at 61 sites, totaling about 81 ha of land within Greater Sage-Grouse range.
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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.

1.3 Saskatchewan

Status Summary

In Saskatchewan, there are 22 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A3). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified 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](#).

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection on non-federal lands within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Agreements or easements	Caribou (Boreal population)	In December 2023 and March 2024, Canada and Saskatchewan amended their current (2019-2023) SARA section 11 conservation agreement and contribution agreement, respectively, to extend to March 31, 2025. The amendments were to allow additional time to finalize negotiations for renewed five-year agreements. Both agreements support the continued development and implementation of habitat management strategies, identified through range plans, to achieve and maintain critical habitat.

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

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Agreements of easements	Multiple species	Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2023 – March 2024 period, a three-year contribution agreement between the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and ECCC titled "Conservation actions in the South of the Divide and Greater Sage-Grouse Critical Habitat" was signed in August 2023. The agreement supports work to enhance baseline information and on the ground presence for implementing conservation actions for both the Greater Sage-Grouse and the other 19 species listed in the South of the Divide area.
Stewardship	Chestnut-collared Longspur Greater Sage-Grouse,	Licensees that have reclaimed well or facility sites in accordance with The Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations, 2012, may submit an application to the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Energy and Resources for an Acknowledgement of Reclamation (AOR). Between October 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, a total of 11 gas wells

	<i>urophasianus</i> subspecies Sprague's Pipit Swift Fox	received an AOR, impacting an area of 1 ha, which will benefit Chestnut-collared Longspur, Sprague's Pipit, Greater Sage-Grouse <i>urophasianus</i> subspecies and Swift Fox.
Control of activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat	Multiple species	The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture updated its internal database for agricultural Crown lands to include species-specific reservations for federally-designated critical habitat for species at risk from September 2023 to April 2024. This change will enable notification to agricultural Crown lessees and the ability to track critical habitat designations. The reservations are referenced by ministry staff when reviewing agricultural development applications through the Improvement Authorization process which includes authorization conditions specific to species at risk and critical habitat.
Control of activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat	Multiple species	The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment finalized landcover classification maps identifying native and tame grasslands across the Aspen Parkland, Boreal Transition, and Cypress Upland ecoregions as part of the Prairie Landscape Inventory (PLI) project. PLI maps inform guidelines to address and mitigate potential impacts on sensitive habitats and the species at risk that rely on these habitats (e.g., loss of habitat through grassland conversion and landscape fragmentation). PLI products are available publicly for download on the Government of Saskatchewan's GeoHub or for viewing on HABISask.

1.4 Manitoba

Status Summary

In Manitoba, there are 23 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A4). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024 no additional critical habitat was identified within Manitoba. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

The *Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act* (ESEA) covers 21 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* include 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](#).

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.

1.5 Ontario

Status Summary

In Ontario, there are 102 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A5). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified 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 190 species at risk in Ontario, 98 of which are part of the 101 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 the 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](#).

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection on non-federal lands within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Legislative or regulatory	Caribou (Boreal population)	Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2023 – March 2024 period, in February 2023, the Minister formed the opinion that some portions of boreal caribou critical habitat on non-federal lands in Ontario are not effectively protected under provincial laws. As required under subsection 61(4) of SARA, the Minister recommended the making of an order to protect all unprotected portions of boreal caribou critical habitat on non-federal lands in Ontario. The Government of Canada declined the making of a protection order, at this time. The Government of Canada will continue to pursue a collaborative approach with the Government of Ontario, including implementing the conservation agreement with Ontario. In appropriate circumstances, the Minister could make a new recommendation for a protection order to provide for the protection of boreal caribou critical habitat.
Range and management planning	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

		<p>Schedule, continued to be incorporated into forest management plans that intersect with boreal caribou ranges.</p> <p>The 2024-2034 Forest Management Plan for the Lac Seul Forest was approved in December 2023.</p> <p>The 2024-2034 Forest Management Plan for the Whiskey Jack Forest was approved in March 2024.</p>
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Steps and actions taken related to multiple species, priority places and priority sectors

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Stewardship	Multiple species	<p>The province of Ontario’s Species at Risk Stewardship Program (SARSP) cycles annually with a reporting period of March to February. From October 2023 – March 2024, SARSP supported 51 ongoing or new stewardship projects that contribute to 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 knowledge gaps through research and monitoring, and promote awareness through education and outreach initiatives.</p> <p>A Caribou Conservation Stewardship Program (CCSP) has been implemented as part of the SARSP to identify and support external projects that contribute to boreal caribou conservation. From June 2023 to March 2024 approximately \$6.8 million was invested in ongoing or new projects, including projects that include habitat management/restoration activities.</p>

1.6 Quebec

Status Summary

In Quebec, there are 38 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A6). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified within Quebec. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

In Quebec, among the species listed in Annex A6, 33 are designated as threatened or vulnerable under the *Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species* (LEMV).⁹ The legislation also provides for the creation of a *List of plant and wildlife species which are likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable*, primarily for preventive purposes. The list is an administrative and educational tool aimed at halting, or even reversing, the decline of species. Three of the species listed in Annex A6 are included on this list. However, there is no obligation to designate or protect habitats that are 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 Provincial Crown land, therefore limiting the protection of habitat for wildlife species at risk. However, steps are being taken 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 proportions 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](#).

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection on non-federal lands within the designated reporting period.

The Canada-Quebec agreement for the protection of species at risk in Quebec expired on March 31, 2022. Since then, the province has shared very little data with ECCC, including updated information on the measures and actions taken to protect the critical habitat of species at risk on non-federal lands.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Legislative or regulatory	Caribou (Boreal population)	Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2023 – March 2024 period, in January 2023, the Minister formed the opinion that almost all portions of boreal caribou critical habitat on non-federal lands in

⁹ These numbers come from the *Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable wildlife species and their habitats*, as published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on June 21, 2023.

		Quebec are not effectively protected under provincial laws. As required under subsection 61(4) of SARA, the Minister recommended the making of an order to protect all unprotected portions of boreal caribou critical habitat on non-federal lands in Quebec. The Government of Canada declined the making of a protection order, at this time. The Government of Canada will continue to pursue a collaborative approach with the Government of Quebec, including encouraging Quebec to release its Caribou Strategy. In appropriate circumstances, the Minister could make a new recommendation for a protection order to provide for the protection of boreal caribou critical habitat.
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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.

1.7 New Brunswick

Status Summary

In New Brunswick, there are 17 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A7). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified 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 17 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 apply¹⁰. Section 28 of the NB SARA

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

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](#).

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.

1.8 Prince Edward Island

Status Summary

In Prince Edward Island (PEI), there are six species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A8). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified 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 PEI 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](#).

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.

1.9 Nova Scotia

Status Summary

In Nova Scotia, there are 23 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A9). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, critical habitat for one new species (Black-foam Lichen) was identified 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 NS 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](#).

The following section highlights the actions taken for species at risk critical habitat protection on non-federal lands within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Legislative or regulatory	Black-foam Lichen	The SARA Recovery Strategy for Black-foam Lichen was provincially adopted, including critical habitat as core habitat under the NS <i>Endangered Species Act</i> , on February 5, 2024.

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

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Protected areas	Multiple species	Twenty-three new protected areas designations (or expansions to existing protected areas) were announced on December 20, 2023, totaling approximately 13,848 ha. Several of these designations involve critical habitat; however, exact amounts of overlap are not currently available.
Control of activities likely to result in destruction	Bank Swallow Bicknell’s Thrush	Nova Scotia reviews land-use applications for species at risk through Endangered Species Act Permits, Crown Land applications, Wetland Alteration Permit applications, Mineral Exploration applications and Environmental Assessments. The following summary highlights a minimum

of critical habitat	<p>Blanding's Turtle (Nova Scotia population)</p> <p>Boreal Felt Lichen (Atlantic population)</p> <p>Chimney Swift</p> <p>Eastern Baccharis</p> <p>Eastern Ribbonsnake (Atlantic population)</p> <p>Eastern Waterfan</p> <p>Little Brown Myotis</p> <p>Northern Myotis</p> <p>Pink Coreopsis</p> <p>Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies</p> <p>Roseate Tern</p> <p>Tri-coloured Bat</p> <p>Wood Turtle</p>	<p>number of applications for which mitigation was requested or that were rejected during the specified reporting period:</p> <p>Bank Swallow: 8</p> <p>Bicknell's Thrush: 3</p> <p>Blanding's Turtle: 4</p> <p>Boreal Felt Lichen: 1</p> <p>Chimney Swift: 1</p> <p>Eastern Baccharis: 2</p> <p>Eastern Ribbonsnake: 6</p> <p>Eastern Waterfan: 2</p> <p>Little Brown Myotis: 12</p> <p>Northern Myotis: 13</p> <p>Pink Coreopsis: 1</p> <p>Piping Plover: 2</p> <p>Roseate Tern: 1</p> <p>Tri-coloured Bat: 12</p> <p>Wood Turtle: 6</p>
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Agreements or easements	Multiple species	On October 10, 2023, the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia signed a nature agreement to conserve biodiversity, habitats, and species at risk in the province. The Framework Agreement enables action rooted in recognition of Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia leadership in conservation and aims to support the provincial goal of conserving 20 percent of lands in Nova Scotia by 2030 and Canada’s goal of conserving 30 percent of lands in Canada by 2030.
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1.10 Newfoundland and Labrador

Status Summary

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are 11 species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A10). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified 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* (NL ESA) covers 10 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 NL 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 NL 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.

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 are two species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A11). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified 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.

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 on non-federal lands 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
Control of activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat	Bank Swallow	The Yukon used existing <i>Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act</i> development assessment processes to review applications potentially affecting Bank Swallow habitat. During the reporting period, two projects were proposed that overlap with Bank Swallow critical habitat which did not previously identify the presence of said critical habitat. The Yukon Department of Environment provided mitigations and follow-up monitoring requirements for proponents to prevent project related impacts.

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

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Agreements or easements	Multiple species	Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2023 – March 2024 period, on December 14, 2022, the governments of Canada and Yukon, signed a nature agreement to conserve biodiversity, habitats, and species at risk in the territory. The Framework Agreement enables advancements in Indigenous leadership in conservation and aims to support conserving additional lands to support Canada’s goal of protecting 30 percent of lands by 2030. ECCC will work with Yukon, Indigenous governments and northern wildlife management boards to protect critical habitat in a manner that respects the Devolution Transfer Agreement (DTA) and Yukon’s authority to administer and control public lands and rights in respect of waters under the DTA.

2.2 Northwest Territories

Status Summary

In Northwest Territories (NWT) there are five species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A12). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified within NWT. There have been no modifications to species at risk legislation within this reporting period.

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), Hairy Braya, Little

Brown Myotis, and Peary Caribou. The NWT SARA has the authority to make regulations to protect critical habitat (which, under the NWT SARA Act could be protected as Designated 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*.

In the Northwest Territories, there are four comprehensive land claim agreements, and associated settlement areas: the Inuvialuit, Gwich’in, Sahtu and Tłı̨chǫ. Within these areas, wildlife and land management, is coordinated through designated Indigenous organizations and/or wildlife management boards under these agreements.

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 on non-federal lands within the designated reporting period.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
Range and management planning	Caribou (Boreal population)	Range planning updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wek’èezhìi: Work is ongoing to complete a final Wek’èezhìi boreal caribou range plan, with the most recent working group meeting held in March 2024. A final management class map for the full Wek’èezhìi range plan was developed, incorporating additional local and Traditional knowledge. • Gwich’in: An Indigenous habitat classification and boreal caribou knowledge study was completed in the summer of 2023 by the Gwich’in Tribal Council, with support from GNWT and federal funding. • Inuvialuit: Work has begun to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into the Inuvialuit range plan, and to design habitat classification studies.

Stewardship	Caribou (Boreal population)	<p>The work plan “Healthy Land, Healthy People: GNWT Priorities for the Northwest Territories Conservation Network 2023-2028” was finalized in October 2023 and is being implemented. It will guide the Government of Northwest Territories’ work on the establishment, planning, management, and operation of the Northwest Territories conservation network, and associated conservation initiatives, from 2023 to 2028.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the Ts’udé Niljné Tuyeta Management Board continued working with the parties to develop the first management plan for Ts’udé Niljné Tuyeta Indigenous and Territorial Protected Area.</p>
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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 four¹¹ species at risk with federally identified critical habitat to which this report relates (see Annex A13). From October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, no additional critical habitat was identified 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

¹¹ Not previously reported, although it did not occur within this reporting period, Porsild’s Bryum was added to the Annex A13 following the identification of critical habitat on federal land.

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 2023, the Nunavut Planning Commission provided the Recommended NLUP to the signatories for approval. Currently the signatories are reviewing the Recommended NLUP and working towards a decision on whether or not to approve the Plan.

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.

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
All	Multiple species	Grants and Contributions (G&C) program funding to support the protection of critical habitat is reported once annually in the April to September reporting periods. This best reflects ECCC’s internal processes and the reporting cycle of G&C recipients.

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 to 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 2023 to March 2024.

Steps and actions taken for specific species

CATEGORY	SPECIES	DETAILS
<p>SARA SS.58(3) Description in the <i>Canada Gazette</i> (Legislative or Regulatory)</p>	<p>American Badger <i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Western population American Badger <i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Eastern population</p>	<p>During this reporting period, ECCC led the completion of one description of critical habitat in federally protected areas for American Badger <i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Western population and American Badger <i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Eastern population published in the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i>.</p>
<p>SARA SS.58(3) Description in the <i>Canada Gazette</i> (Legislative or Regulatory)</p>	<p>American Badger <i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Eastern population Black-foam Lichen Golden- winged Warbler</p>	<p>During this reporting period, PC led the completion of three descriptions of critical habitat in federally protected areas for American Badger <i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Eastern population, Black-foam Lichen and Golden-winged Warbler published in the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i>.</p>
<p>SARA SS.58(3) Description in the <i>Canada Gazette</i> (Legislative or Regulatory)</p>	<p>Behr's Hairstreak Bent Spike- rush (Great Lakes Plains population) Cucumber Tree</p>	<p>Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2023 – March 2024 period, ECCC led the completion of 24 descriptions of critical habitat in federally protected areas for Behr's Hairstreak, Bent Spike-rush (Great Lakes Plains population), Cucumber Tree, Dusky Dune Moth, Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid, Gold-edged Gem, Horned Grebe (Magdalen Islands population), Horsetail spike-rush, Ivory Gull, Least Bittern, Lewis's Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie subspecies, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Pacific Water Shrew, Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies, Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies, Prothonotary</p>

Dusky Dune Moth	Warbler, Queensnake, Roseate Tern, Slender Mouse-ear-cress, Small-flowered Sand-verbena, Smooth Goosefoot , Swift Fox, Tiny Cryptantha, Western Harvest Mouse, <i>dychei</i> subspecies and Yellow-breasted Chat, <i>auricollis</i> subspecies (Southern Mountain population) published in the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i> .
Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid	
Gold-edged Gem	
Horned Grebe (Magdalen Islands population)	
Horsetail spike-rush	
Ivory Gull	
Least Bittern	
Lewis's Woodpecker	
Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie subspecies	
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	
Pacific Water Shrew	
Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies	
Piping Plover, <i>melodus</i> subspecies	

	Prothonotary Warbler Queensnake Roseate Tern Slender Mouse-ear- cress Small- flowered Sand- verbena Smooth Goosefoot Swift Fox Tiny Cryptantha Western Harvest Mouse, <i>dychei</i> subspecies Yellow-breasted Chat, <i>auricollis</i> subspecies (Southern Mountain population)	
SARA SS.58(3) Description in the Canada Gazette	Chimney Swift	Not previously reported, although it did not occur within the October 2023 – March 2024 period, PC led the completion of a description of critical habitat in a federally protected area for Chimney Swift published in the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i> .

(Legislative or Regulatory)		
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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

American Badger <i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Western population	Northern Saw-whet Owl, <i>brooksi</i> subspecies
American Badger <i>jeffersonii</i> subspecies, Eastern population	Nugget Moss
Audouin’s Night-stalking Tiger Beetle	Okanagan Efferia
Bank Swallow	Olive Clubtail
Barn Owl, Western population	Oregon Forestsnail
Batwing Vinyl Lichen	Oregon Spotted Frog
Bear’s-foot Sanicle	Pacific Water Shrew
Bearded Owl-clover	Pallid Bat
Behr’s Hairstreak	Phantom Orchid
Blue-grey Taildropper	Poor Pocket Moss
Bog Bird’s-foot Trefoil	Porsild’s Bryum
Branched Phacelia	Prairie Lupine
Brook Spike-primrose	Purple Sanicle
California Buttercup	Rayless Goldfields
Caribou (Boreal population)	Rigid Aple Moss
Cliff Paintbrush	Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog
Coast Microseris	Roell's Brotherella Moss
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
Crumpled Tarpaper Lichen	Scarlett Ammannia
Deltoid Balsamroot	Seaside Birds-foot Lotus**
Dense-flowered Lupine	Seaside Bone Lichen
Dense Spike-primrose	Seaside Centipede Lichen**
Desert Nightsnake	Sharp-tailed Snake
Dromedary Jumping-slug	Short-rayed Alkali Aster
Dun Skipper, <i>vestris</i> subspecies	Showy Phlox
Dwarf Sandwort**	Slender Collomia
Dwarf Woolly-heads (Southern Mountain population)	Slender Popcornflower
Edwards’ Beach Moth	Small-flowered Lipocarpha
Foothill Sedge	Small-flowered Tonella
Fragrant Popcornflower	Smooth Goosefoot
	Southern Maidenhair Fern
	Spalding’s Champion
	Spotted Owl, <i>caurina</i> subspecies

Golden Paintbrush
 Grand Coulee Owl-clover
 Gray's Desert-parsley
 Great Basin Gophersnake
 Great Basin Spadefoot
 Half-moon Hairstreak
 Haller's Apple Moss
 Howell's Triteleia
 Kellogg's Rush
 Lemmon's Holly Fern
 Lewis's Woodpecker
 Lindley's False Silverpuffs
 Little Brown Myotis
 Macoun's Meadowfoam
 Marbled Murrelet
 Mexican Mosquito-fern
 Mormon Metalmark (Southern Mountain population)
 Mountain Holly Fern
 Muhlenberg's Centaury
 Northern Goshawk, *laingi* subspecies
 Northern Leopard Frog (Rocky Mountain population)
 Northern Myotis

Stoloniferous Pussytoes
 Streambank Lupine
 Tall Bugbane
 Tall Woolly-heads
 Taylor's Checkerspot
 Toothcup (Southern Mountain population)
 Townsend's Mole
 Tweedy's Lewisia
 Vancouver Island Marmot
 Victoria's Owl-clover
 Water-plantain Buttercup
 Western Painted Turtle (Pacific Coast population)
 Western Rattlesnake
 Western Tiger Salamander (Southern Mountain population)
 White Meconella
 Williamson's Sapsucker
 Woodland Caribou (Southern Mountain population)
 Yellow-breasted Chat, *auricollis* subspecies (Southern Mountain population)
 Yellow Montane Violet, *praemorsa* subspecies

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

A2 – Species with critical habitat identified in Alberta

Banff Springs Snail**
 Bank Swallow
 Bolander's Quillwort**
 Caribou (Boreal population)*
 Dusky Dune Moth
 Five-spotted Bogus Yucca Moth
 Gold-edged Gem
 Greater Sage-Grouse, *urophasianus* subspecies*
 Half-moon Hairstreak**
 Haller's Apple Moss**
 Little Brown Myotis*
 Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie subspecies

Piping Plover, *circumcinctus* subspecies*
 Porsild's Bryum*
 Red Knot, *rufa* subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)
 Slender Mouse-ear-cress*
 Small-flowered Sand-verbena*
 Smooth Goosefoot
 Soapweed*
 Tiny Cryptantha*
 Western Harvest Mouse *dychiei* subspecies**
 Western Spiderwort*
 Whooping Crane**

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 or threatened species.

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

A3 – Species with critical habitat identified in Saskatchewan

Bank Swallow	Mountain Plover
Black-footed Ferret*	Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies*
Black-tailed Prairie Dog	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*

* 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	Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies*
Caribou (Boreal population)*	Poweshiek Skipperling*
Chimney Swift*	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*	

* Species listed provincially as endangered or threatened species under Manitoba's *Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act* regulations.

A5 – Species with critical habitat identified in Ontario

Acadian Flycatcher*	Jefferson Salamander*
Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander (Carolinian population)*	Juniper Sedge*
American Badger, <i>jacksoni</i> subspecies*	Kentucky Coffee-tree*
American Chestnut*	Kirtland's Warbler**
American Columbo*	Lakeside Daisy
American Ginseng*	Large Whorled Pogonia*
American Water-willow*	Least Bittern*
Bank Swallow*	Little Brown Myotis*
Bashful Bulrush*	Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern subspecies*
Bent Spike-rush (Great Lakes Plains population)*	Massasauga (Carolinian population)*
Bird's-foot Violet*	Massasauga (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*
Blanding's Turtle (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*	Nodding Pogonia*
Bluehearts*	Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle*
Blue Racer*	Northern Dusky Salamander (Carolinian population)*
Blunt-lobed Woodsia*	Northern Myotis*
Bogbean Buckmoth*	Pale-bellied Frost Lichen*
Branched Bartonian*	Pink Milkwort*
Butler's Gartersnake*	Piping Plover, <i>circumcinctus</i> subspecies*
Caribou (Boreal population)*	Prothonotary Warbler*
Cerulean Warbler*	Purple Twayblade*
Cherry Birch*	Queensnake*
Chimney Swift*	Rapids Clubtail*
Colicroot*	Red-headed Woodpecker*
Cucumber Tree*	Red Knot, <i>rufa</i> subspecies (Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia population)*
Deerberry*	Red Mulberry*
Dense Blazing Star*	Riverine Clubtail (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Drooping Trillium*	Round-leaved Greenbrier (Great Lakes Plains population)*
Dwarf Hackberry*	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee*
Eastern Flowering Dogwood*	Scarlett Ammannia*
Eastern Foxsnake (Carolinian population)*	Showy Goldenrod (Boreal population)*
Eastern Foxsnake (Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population)*	Slender Bush-clover*
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid*	Small-flowered Lipocarpha*
Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus*	Small-mouthed Salamander*
Eastern Whip-poor-will*	Small White Lady's-slipper*
Engelmann's Quillwort*	

False Hop Sedge*
 False Rue-anemone*
 Five-lined Skink (Carolinian population)*
 Forked Three-awned Grass*
 Fowler's Toad*
 Gattinger's Agalinis*
 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*

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*
 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 Ginseng*
 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*
 Chimney Swift*
 Eastern Waterfan
 Eastern Whip-poor-will*
 False Hop Sedge*

Least Bittern*
 Little Brown Myotis
 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*

Forked Three-awned Grass*
 Golden-winged Warbler*
 Green-scaled Willow*
 Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster*
 Horned Grebe (Magdalen Islands
 population)*

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*
 Bicknell's Thrush
 Chimney Swift*
 Cobblestone Tiger Beetle*
 Eastern Waterfan
 Eastern Whip-poor-will
 Furbish's Lousewort*
 Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster*
 Least Bittern

Little Brown Myotis*
 Maritime Ringlet*
 Northern Myotis*
 Piping Plover, *melodus* subspecies*
 Skillet Clubtail*
 Tri-coloured Bat*
 Van Brunt's Jacob's-ladder
 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
 Chimney Swift
 Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster**

Little Brown Myotis**
 Northern Myotis**
 Piping Plover, *melodus* subspecies

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

A9 – Species with critical habitat identified in Nova Scotia

Bank Swallow*
 Bicknell's Thrush*
 Black-foam Lichen
 Blanding's Turtle (Nova Scotia population)*
 Boreal Felt Lichen (Atlantic population)*
 Chimney Swift*
 Eastern Baccharis*
 Eastern Mountain Avens*
 Eastern Ribbonsnake (Atlantic population)*
 Eastern Waterfan*

Pink Coreopsis*
 Piping Plover, *melodus* subspecies*
 Plymouth Gentian*
 Roseate Tern*
 Sable Island Sweat Bee**
 Sweet Pepperbush
 Tall Beakrush*
 Thread-leaved Sundew*
 Tri-coloured Bat*
 Vole Ears lichen*

Little Brown Myotis*		Wood Turtle*
Northern Myotis*		

* 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 territorially listed under the Northwest Territories *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

**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**		
Porsild’s Bryum**		

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