

## ABOUT CANADA'S SPECIES AT RISK

Species at risk are plants and animals that are in danger of disappearing from the wild. The survival of a species can be jeopardized by a variety of factors. Determining the cause and solution is often a complex scientific process.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is a national committee of experts, who annually assess and designate what wildlife species (plants and animals) are in danger of disappearing from Canada. Established in 1977, the committee members represent federal, provincial and territorial agencies responsible for managing wildlife, experts from the scientific community and traditional knowledge from Indigenous communities. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has participated on COSEWIC and several of its sub-committees.

Currently, there are more than 770 wildlife species listed in COSEWIC risk categories.

## HOW WE PROTECT HABITAT FOR SPECIES AT RISK

NCC's on-the-ground work is led by a team of conservation science professionals, who work to identify, plan and execute the protection of Canada's most important natural spaces and manage them for the long term. This process ensures that our conservation actions, such as protecting the habitat of species at risk, are efficient and effective.

One of the first steps in this process is to work with Conservation Data Centres, which collect and share important biodiversity information, local naturalists and academics to identify the species at risk and their habitats that occur in the natural areas where NCC works. From there, we identify where our conservation actions could support their protection and recovery.

## CONSERVATION NEEDS

NCC staff and partners throughout Canada play a key role in the protection of habitat for our country's species at risk. We are working together to gather information and develop strategies that will help ensure the recovery of Canada's species at risk.

NCC supports species at risk recovery through actions such as securing critical habitat, monitoring species and managing their habitat, researching their habitat needs and participating in the development of species at risk recovery strategies.



Western prairie white-fringed orchid (Photo by NCC)

## 5 FACTS ABOUT SPECIES AT RISK

**1.** There are seven designations that COSEWIC uses to determine the level of risk for a species. The seven designations are: data deficient (information not available), not at risk, special concern, threatened, endangered, extirpated and extinct.

**2.** The *Species at Risk Act* was passed by the federal government in 2002 to protect species at risk in Canada. This act aims to prevent Canadian species from becoming extinct and provides recovery strategies for at-risk wildlife.

**3.** Currently, there are more than 770 wildlife species considered at risk in Canada.

**4.** NCC has protected habitat for more than 190 at-risk species in Canada.

**5.** The global status of species is assessed by NatureServe and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. According to a report by NatureServe Canada, 517 species that live in Canada are classified as at risk.



Burrowing owl (Photo by Andy Teucher)

To learn more about species at risk, visit [natureconservancy.ca/SAR](https://natureconservancy.ca/SAR).

# NCC-PROTECTED HABITAT FOR SPECIES AT RISK ACROSS CANADA

Across Canada, NCC is protecting more than one million acres (439,386 hectares) for species at risk.

**NCC-protected properties with habitat for species at risk**  
**Propriétés protégées par CNC abritant des espèces en péril**

Number of species at risk present  
 Nombre d'espèces en péril

