



Species at Risk – Fact Sheet

Canada has robust measures in place to protect and ensure the recovery of species at risk.

- Through the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), **Canada protects its wildlife species that are threatened, endangered, or extirpated** in Canada (meaning species at risk of local extinction although populations may exist elsewhere).
- Depending on the level of risk, **the federal government can enact a series of measures that include a recovery strategy and an action plan.** The recovery strategy provides direction to arrest or reverse the decline of a species.
- All recovery documents are **prepared in collaboration** with federal, provincial, and territorial ministers, as well as Aboriginal organizations, landowners, and others who may be impacted.

The government ensures that critical habitat for species at risk is protected.


- The federal, provincial and territorial governments have a shared responsibility to manage species at risk.
- “Critical habitat” is defined as **habitat necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species.**

- Once critical habitat has been identified for a given species, **the *Species at Risk Act* requires that it be protected.**
- To date, critical habitat has been identified for 105 listed species in Canada.
- When critical habitat is identified on non-federal lands, the federal government turns to provinces to manage and protect this habitat, such as the majority of critical habitat for woodland boreal caribou.

Canada is committed to the conservation of Canada’s woodland boreal caribou.

- The Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy was published in 2012. The goal of the strategy is to achieve self-sustaining local populations in all boreal caribou ranges across Canada to the extent possible.
- Provinces and territories are in the process of developing range plans to describe how critical habitat will be managed and protected. Range plans will be completed by 2017.
- Stewardship activities also play a key role under SARA and in caribou recovery.





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