



## Species at Risk and your Woodlot

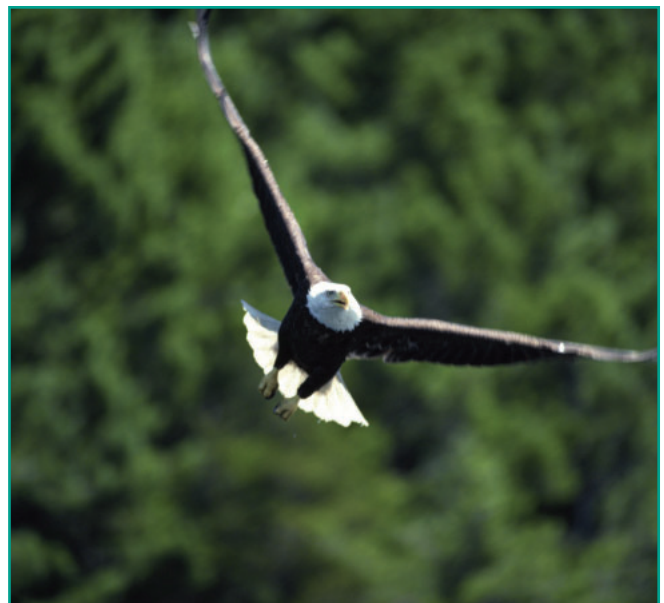
*Question: What do the bald eagle, the yellow lady's slipper and the Garry oak all have in common?*

*Answer: Each of these has been identified as a species at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Depending on which province or territory you live in, you could find one of these species living in your woodlot!*

Approximately 80 % of the species identified by COSEWIC are at risk due to loss of habitat. We can all understand how clearing land for farms, or draining wetlands for housing developments, can take large tracts of land away from wildlife. Harvesting woodlots, if not carried out with great care, may damage or destroy habitat for some species. When animals, plants, insects, and other life forms can no longer find the food, clean water, shelter from predators, breeding sites and climate that they need, their numbers decline. Some species may disappear completely.

Canada has a new piece of legislation that is designed to protect all species at risk and the ecosystems in which they live. **The Species at Risk Act, Bill C-5** is designed to prevent a species from becoming extinct; to help recover extirpated, endangered or threatened species, and to ensure that species of special concern do not become endangered. It identifies each step in the assessment, listing and recovery processes for species at risk. At the same time, the Act seeks to engage all Canadians in stewardship activities to preserve species and their critical habitat. Those responsible for forest management activities are encouraged to avoid damaging wildlife species and plant communities that are at risk.

What about your woodlot? You should do your best to be aware of the needs of the wildlife species on your land. Although detailed stewardship activities are mandated for large forest companies in their forest management plans for Crown Land, the smaller scale stewardship activities carried out by interested landowners and individuals are just as important. These kinds of voluntary activities include everything from installing nest boxes for Prothonotary Warblers in Ontario, to enhancing your woodlot to provide better habitat for Loggerhead Shrikes near the





grasslands of Saskatchewan. If you're planning on doing some harvesting, make sure to leave den trees or nut bearing trees. Work with your neighbors whose properties may adjoin your own to conserve habitat conditions in a larger area of forest.

Land stewardship is promoted through a host of national and provincial programs. More importantly for you, a variety of incentives are available to encourage landowners to manage their lands for the benefit of any species at risk. The federal government, in concert with the provinces and many non-government groups, provides landowners with information and resources for a variety of conservation projects. Each year, the Canada Habitat Stewardship Program provides \$2 million to conservation organizations to help landowners with projects that protect species at risk and their habitats.

**Question:** Where do I go for information about species at risk?

**Answer:** No matter where you live in this country, there are people who can help you. The following websites can be a guide to help you find out what you need to know:

**HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:**  
[www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca)

**SPECIES AT RISK ACT:**  
[www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)

**ALBERTA:**  
<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/speciesatrisk/>

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:**  
<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/>

**MANITOBA:**  
[http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/managing/species\\_at\\_risk.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/managing/species_at_risk.html)

**NEW BRUNSWICK:**  
<http://www.gnb.ca/0078/index-e.asp>

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR:**  
<http://www.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/wildatrisk/policy.htm>

**NOVA SCOTIA:**  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/endngrd/endg.htm>

**ONTARIO:**  
[www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/sar/designation-e.html](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/sar/designation-e.html)

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:**  
[www.gov.pe.ca/roundtable/](http://www.gov.pe.ca/roundtable/)

**QUEBEC:**  
[http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/etu\\_rec/esp\\_mena\\_vuln/index.htm](http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/etu_rec/esp_mena_vuln/index.htm)

or <http://www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/en/index1.htm>

**SASKATCHEWAN:**  
<http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/ecosystem/speciesatrisk/>

*This information has been provided by the Private Woodlot Strategic Initiative, a collaboration between the Canadian Model Forest Network and the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners. For more information, please visit [www.woodlotscanada.ca](http://www.woodlotscanada.ca) or [www.modelforest.net](http://www.modelforest.net)*