

# **Canadian Legal Listing of Whitebark Pine: What's Next?**

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# The SAR Process

- **Status Assessment:** COSEWIC - Endangered (November 2010)
- **Legal Listing:** Species at Risk Act (SARA) - June 2012
- **Recovery:** Recovery Strategy/ Action Plan - June 2013, will not be met

# SARA Legal Listing

- **Protection:** "no person shall kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell or trade"
- **Residence:** not applicable to plants
- **Applies to:** Federal lands (e.g. national parks, National Wildlife Areas, military bases)

# Protection

- **Provinces/Territories:** provide "effective protection and enforcement"
- **AB:** WBP listed under Wildlife Act but no regulations to protect; policy & planning guidelines; Recovery Strategy in prep
- **BC:** WBP not listed; policy & planning guidelines, effectiveness not clear

# Recovery Strategy

- **Recovery Team:** led by EC, possibly w/ AB, BC, CFS & Parks Canada members
- **Objective:** downlisting from Endangered to Special Concern or Not-at-Risk
- If not possible, ensure long term persistence, as best possible

# Recovery Strategy

1. Determine if recovery is "technically and biologically feasible"
  - Can reasons for listing be remedied?
2. If not feasible, prepare RS/AP w/ reasons why not feasible
  - identify Critical Habitat (survival)
3. If feasible, prepare Recovery Strategy/Action Plan

# Recovery Strategy

- *Recovery Goal*: population & distribution goals re COSEWIC assessment criteria
- *Recovery Objectives*: measurable objectives for next 5 years

# Critical Habitat

- "habitat necessary for survival or recovery & is identified in the recovery strategy or action plan"
- Critical Habitat is a means to meet population & distribution goals/objectives



# Recovery Strategy Contents

1. identify **threats** to survival & habitat consistent w/ COSEWIC assessment
2. identify **Critical Habitat** (to extent possible) w/ examples of destructive activities
  - if info inadequate, schedule of studies, do in Action Plan (w/ completion date)

# Ministerial Permit (SARA)

- “authorizing an activity affecting a listed species, or its critical habitat”

*when:*

- research on conservation by qualified persons
- activity benefits or enhances survival

*and Minister is of the opinion that:*

- all reasonable alternatives considered, use best
- all feasible measures taken to reduce impact on species or Critical Habitat
- activity will not jeopardize survival or recovery

# Restoration Activities

- Prescribed fire: habitat restoration
- Plant: rust-resistant seedlings
- Research: genetic resistance, seed/gene banking
- Research: assisted migration (climate change)

# QUESTIONS?

