



Parks
Canada

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Canada

Canada

Species at Risk and their Habitats



What is a Species at Risk?

What is a species at risk?

A plant or animal that is at risk of extinction because of threats caused by humans such as building golf courses and roads and cultivating native prairie.



Some species in Canada have already disappeared



Plains Grizzly Bear



Black-footed Ferret

Levels of Risk

Special Concern - a species that may become threatened because of certain biological characteristics and identified threats

Threatened – a species that may become endangered unless actions are taken to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation

Endangered – at imminent threat of extirpation

Extirpated – gone from the wild in Canada, but not other parts of the world

Extinct – no longer exist anywhere

What is a Habitat?

What is a habitat?

The space that a species needs to live and grow

- Food
- Water
- Living space
- Shelter



Where does Parks Canada fit into the efforts to save Species at Risk?

Where does Parks Canada fit in?

Parks Canada manages National Parks, National Historic Sites, National Marine Conservation Areas and the Pingo Canadian Landmark (NWT).

Many species at risk live in these areas managed by Parks Canada.

Parks Canada has a responsibility to protect and conserve species at risk.

For more information check out this website:

http://www.pc.gc.ca/nature/eep-sar/index_e.asp

Parks Canada has taken the lead on developing recovery plans for these species (and others):

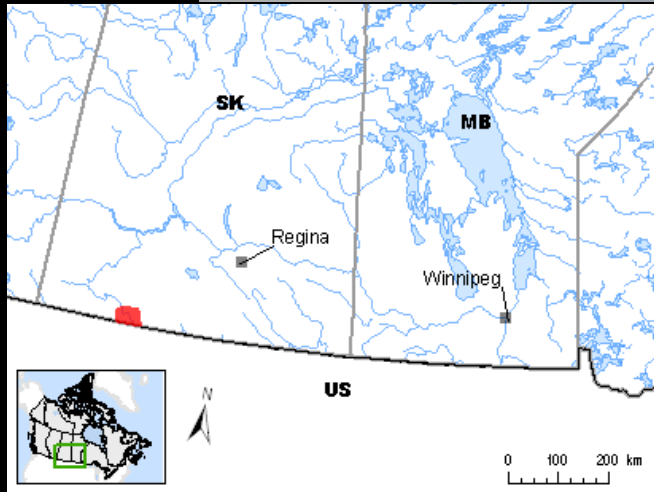
- **Swift Fox**
- Greater Sage Grouse
- **Banff Springs Snail**
- Mormon Metalmark
- **Black-footed Ferret**
- American Badger
- **Dromedary Jumping Slug**
- Seaside Centipede Lichen

Parks Canada participates on teams to write plans for many other species across the country.

Examples of Species at Risk in Canada and their Habitats:

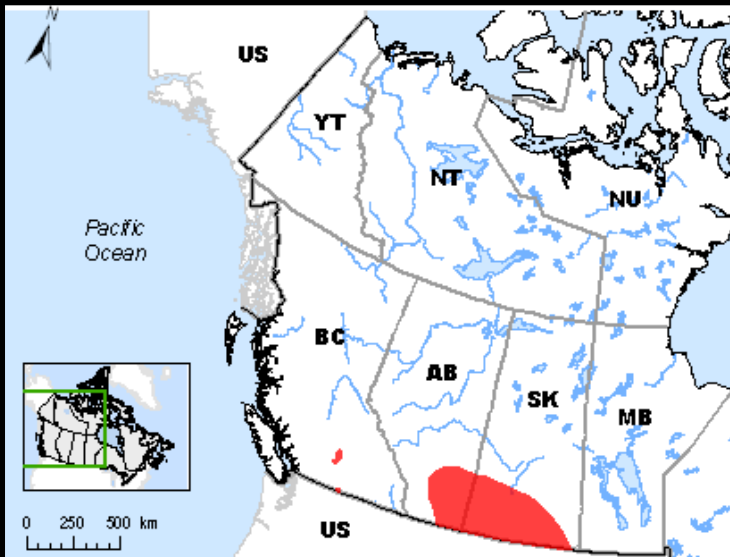
Black-tailed Prairie Dog (special concern)

Broad flat river valleys and upland grasses:



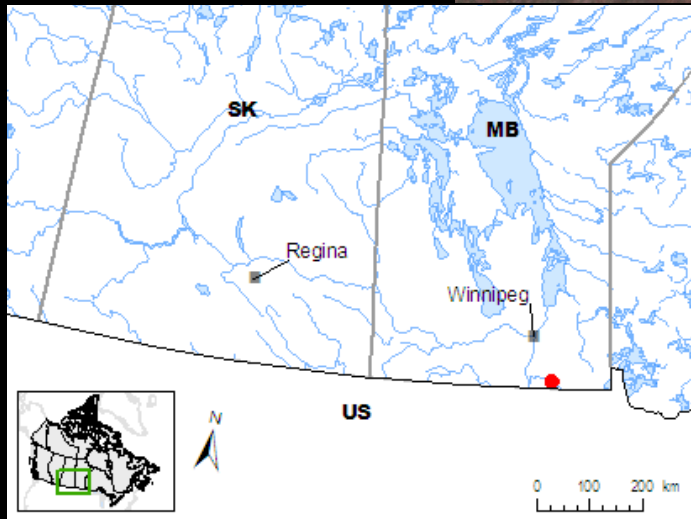
Burrowing Owl Habitat (endangered)

Grazed grasslands and on black-tailed prairie dog towns in Grasslands National Park of Canada:



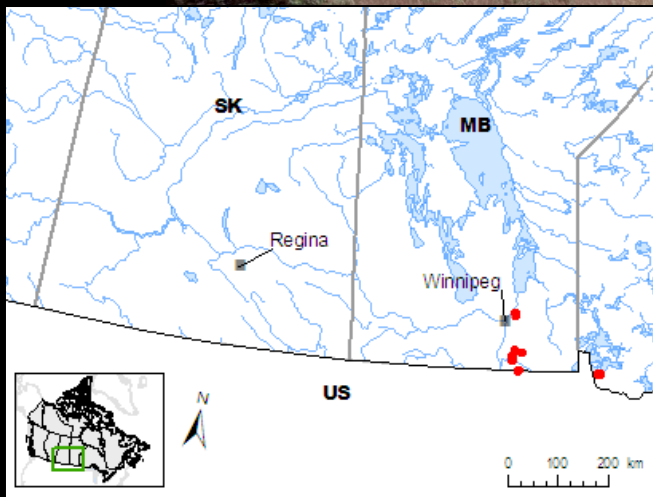
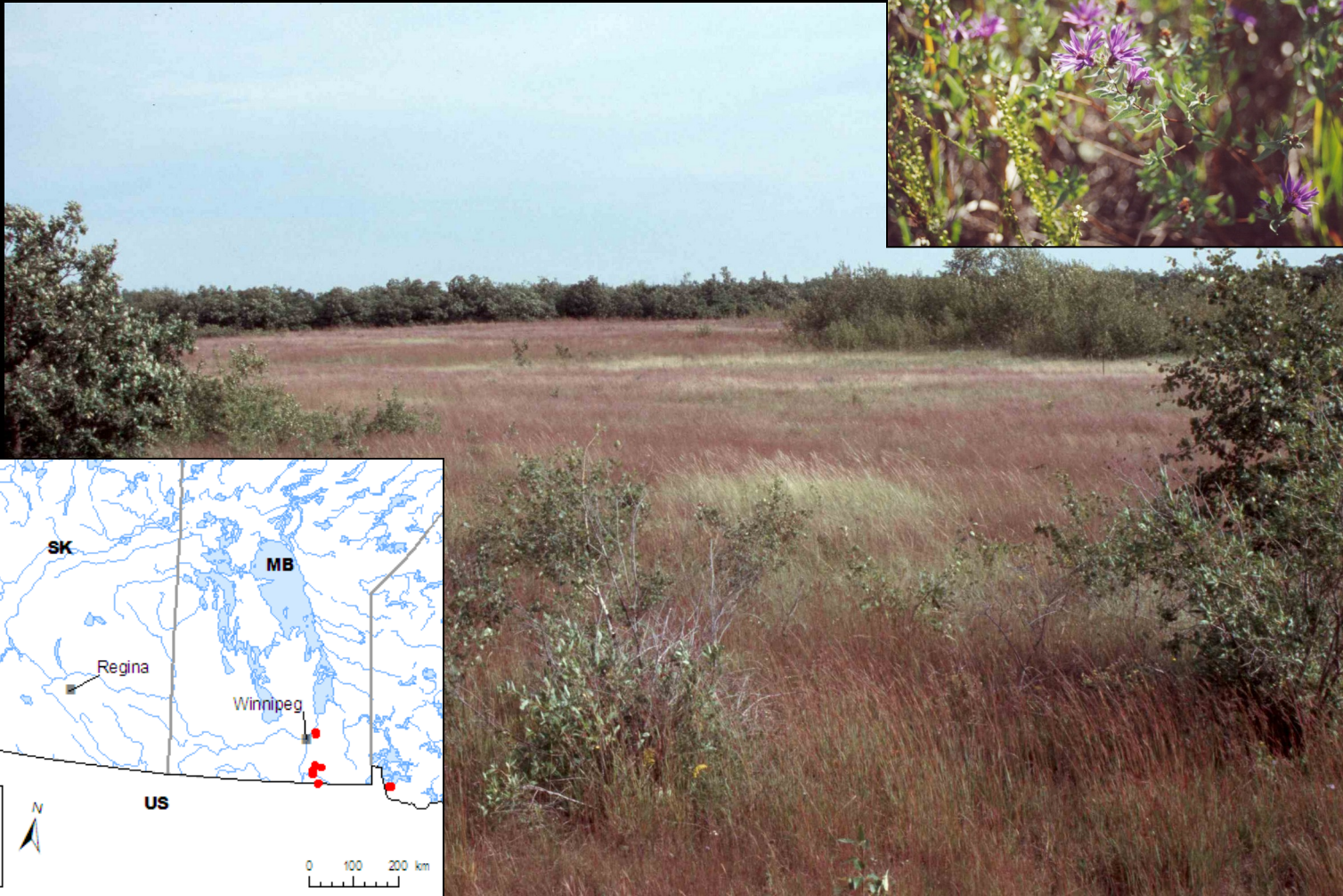
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (endangered)

Wet, poorly drained, sandy to gravelly soils in the tall-grass prairie:



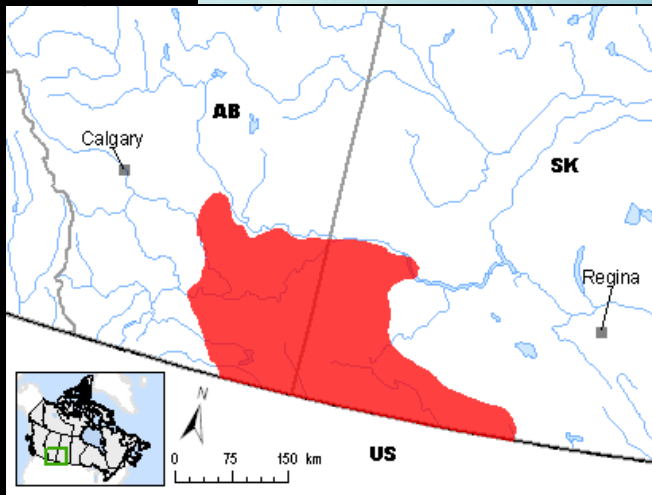
Western Silvery Aster (threatened)

Well-drained soil on the prairies:



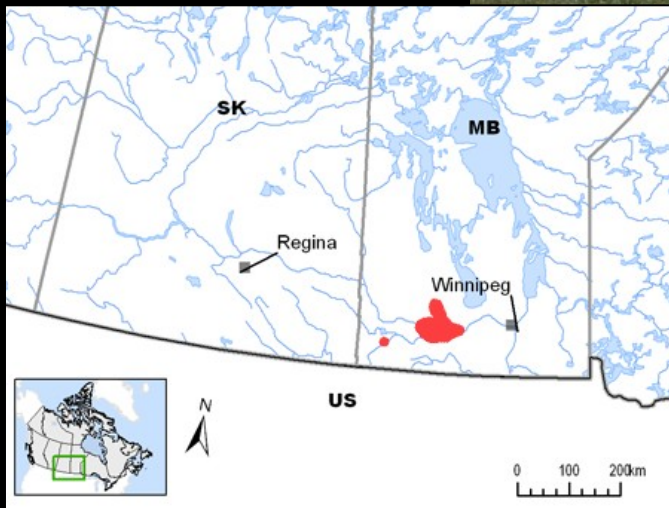
Swift Fox (Endangered)

Open, sparsely vegetated short-grass and mixed-grass prairie, where visibility and mobility are unimpeded:



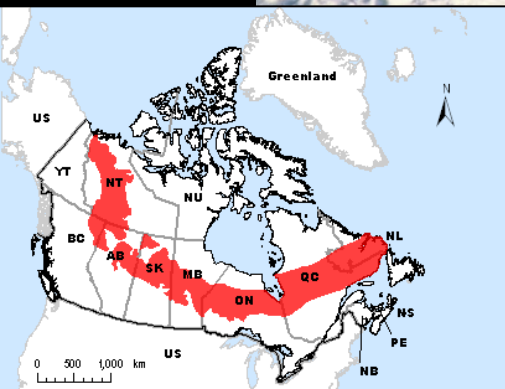
Prairie Skink (endangered)

Sandy areas with adequate cover, such as native grasses:



Woodland Caribou, boreal population (threatened)

Large un-fragmented, mature to old-growth forests:



By protecting the habitat of a species at risk, we hope to protect that species and prevent its extirpation.

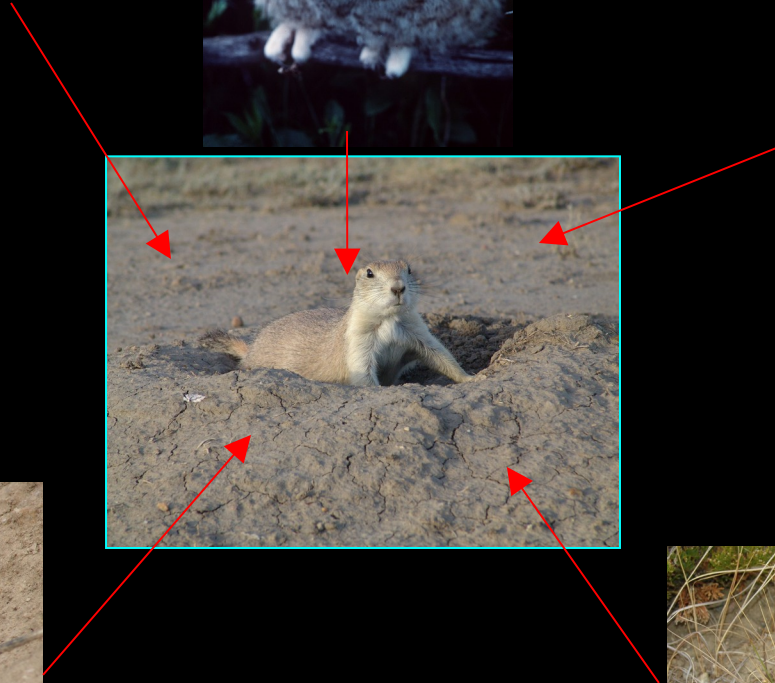
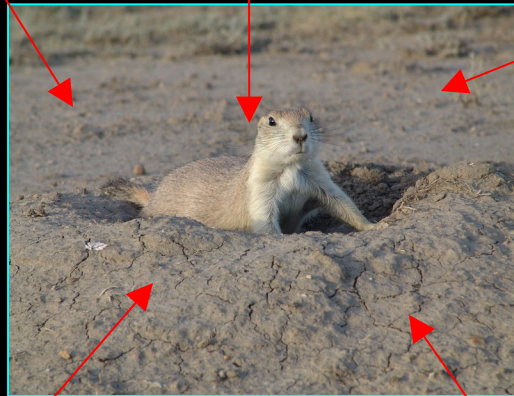


Why are all species important?

Why are all species important?

The disappearance of one species can have large effects on other species. They are all a part of a larger community.





Habitat Changes

Habitat changes affect all species in the area. For species that are already at risk, these changes can have strong negative effects from which the species may not be able to recover.

Can you name some habitat changes that occur naturally?



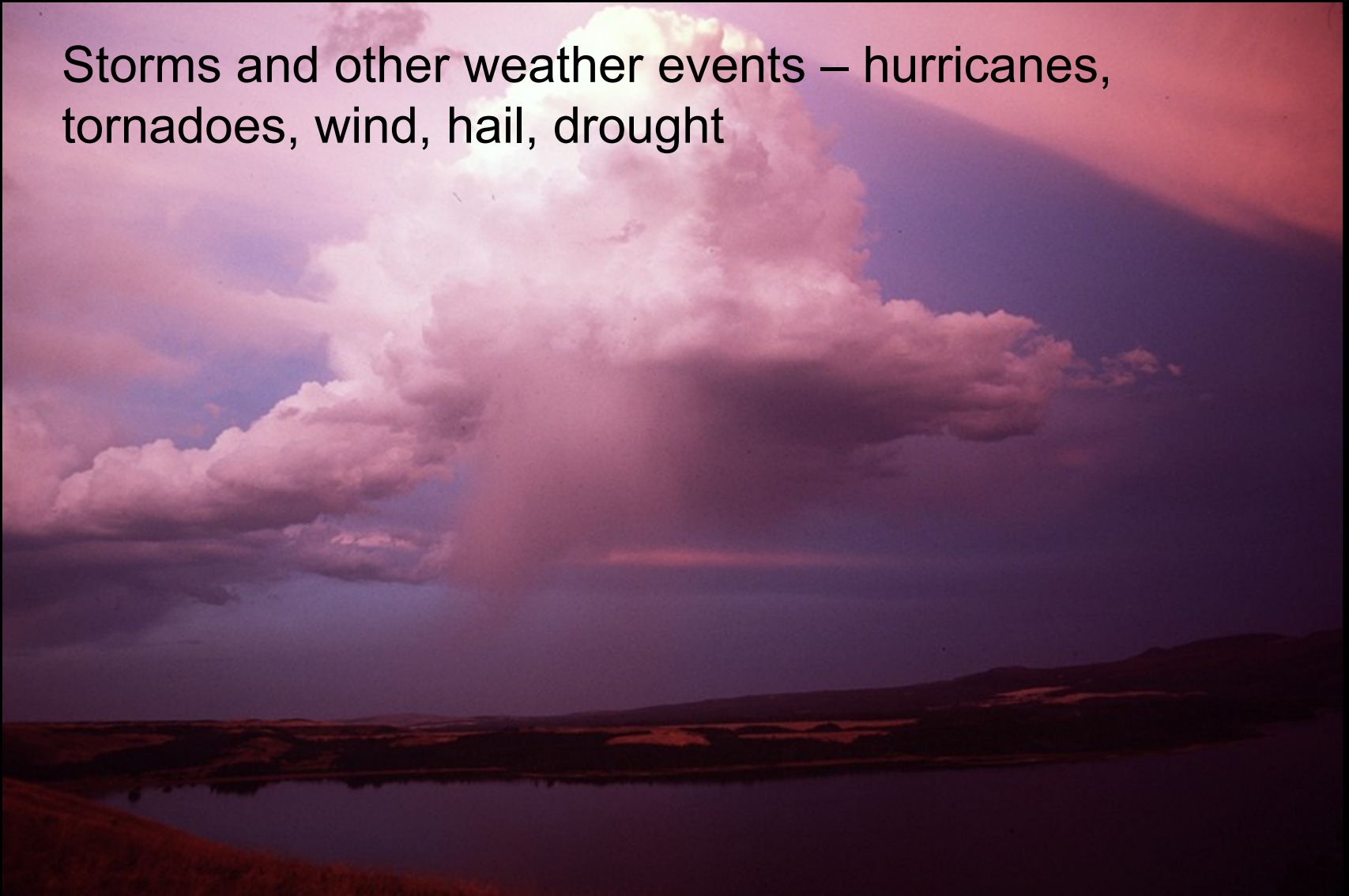
Natural Habitat Changes

Fire – naturally created by lightning strikes



Natural Habitat Changes

Storms and other weather events – hurricanes, tornadoes, wind, hail, drought



Natural Habitat Changes

Animals – some animals modify their habitat to make it more suitable for them but less suitable for other animals (eg. beavers, prairie dogs)



Can you list some habitat changes that are caused by humans?

Human-caused Habitat Changes

Resource Extraction = logging, mining and farming

➤ Can destroy the habitat of many species



Human-caused Habitat Changes

Pollution – can have far-reaching effects such as acid rain and changes in the chemistry of lakes and rivers



How do human-caused habitat changes differ from naturally caused changes?

The effects of natural habitat changes are usually temporary and reversible. They are often a natural process within the ecosystem. Species that live in these habitats have often evolved with these natural changes and adapted to them.

Human-caused habitat changes often cause long-term effects that are permanent. Species are often negatively affected by these sudden, unexpected changes to which they often cannot adapt.

What is the *Species at Risk Act*?

- A federal law that aims to conserve all native wildlife in Canada
- One tool available in Canada for the conservation of wildlife
- Achieves conservation through protection and recovery measures

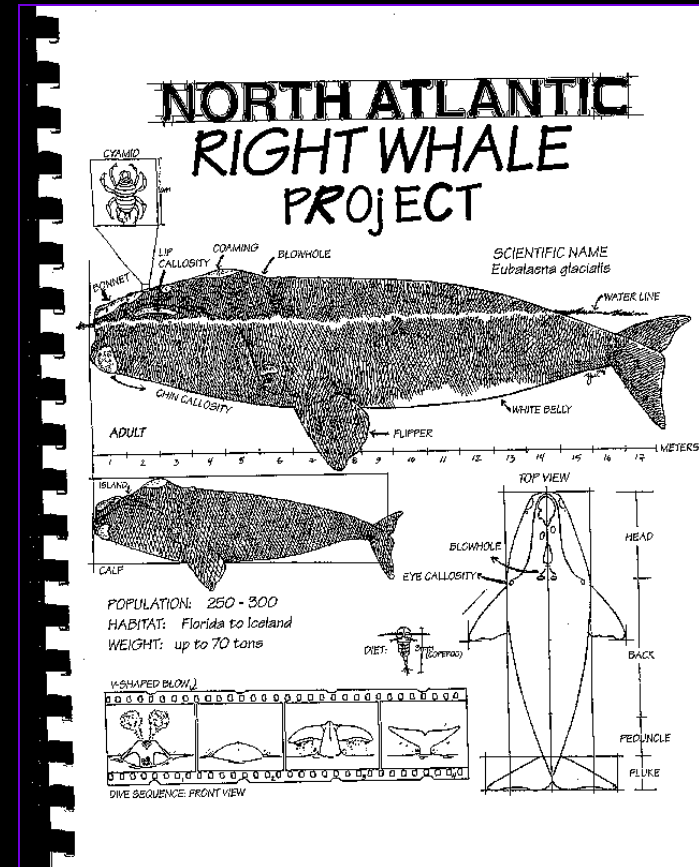
For Listed EX, EN, TH species, you can not:

- ***KILL, HARM, HARASS,
CAPTURE OR TAKE***
- ***POSSESS, COLLECT, BUY,
SELL OR TRADE AN
INDIVIDUAL OR ITS PARTS***
- ***DAMAGE OR DESTROY THE RESIDENCE
OF ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS***



Applies automatically on federal lands only

Recovery
plans must be
written for all
listed species



Critical Habitat:

The habitat needed for the survival or recovery of endangered, threatened or extirpated species.



Critical habitat is identified by a group of experts and affected groups or individuals

Critical Habitat Prohibition on Destruction

For Listed **EN, TH and EX** species on
Schedule 1:



- ***NO PERSON MAY DESTROY
ANY PART OF THE CRITICAL
HABITAT***



**What can you do to help
species at risk?**

What you can do

Learn more about Species at Risk:

Parks Canada website:

http://www.pc.gc.ca/nature/eep-sar/index_e.asp

SPECIES AT RISK : An interactive web site for youth about species at risk in Canada. Explore related issues, such as habitat loss, and take the Species at Risk Quiz.

<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/sarwheel/ec-sar-flash/index.html>

Kids Zone – Canadian Wildlife Service <http://www.ec.gc.ca/youth/>

EcoKids On-line - <http://www.ecokidsonline.com/pub/>

WWF for kids -

<http://www.wwf.ca/satellite/wwfkids/index.html?IGNOREcart=>

Oceans Canada – Kid’s Corner -

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan/bbb-lgb/index_e.asp

What you can do

Learn more about Species at Risk:

<http://www.spaceforspecies.ca/>

http://www.ec.gc.ca/eco/main_e.htm

Join Environmental Groups:

Sierra Youth Coalition - <http://www.syc-cjs.org/tiki-index.php>

Many schools hold a fundraiser and donate the money to an environmental group of their choice (such as the Sierra Club, the World Wildlife Fund or your local wildlife rehabilitation centre).

What you can do

Volunteer:

NATURE WATCH : Existing monitoring programs such as FrogWatch, IceWatch, PlantWatch and WormWatch form the founding components of NatureWatch. These programs encourage schools, community groups and individuals to engage in the monitoring of soil, air, water and other aspects of environmental quality. <http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/>

You can Adopt an Animal through the Toronto Zoo:

<http://www.torontozoo>

Do you want something interesting to do during Canada's long winters? Project FeederWatch participants count the birds at their feeders and submit their data:

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national/pfw>