

Response Statement - Western Tiger Salamander, Prairie / Boreal population

December 18, 2013

Common Name: Western Tiger Salamander, Prairie / Boreal population

Scientific Name: *Ambystoma mavortium*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Special Concern

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Western Tiger Salamander, Prairie / Boreal population, to the Governor in Council as soon as possible after the close of the normal consultation period. The Minister of Environment will consult with the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Western Tiger Salamander, Prairie / Boreal population, should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Special Concern.

Once a species has been assessed by COSEWIC, further steps must be undertaken before it is added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information on this process, please view [The Species Listing Process Under SARA](#).

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This large salamander remains widely distributed in the Prairie provinces, but it faces numerous threats from habitat loss and fragmentation, fish stocking, and emerging diseases, such as the *Ambystoma tigrinum* virus that can decimate local populations. Salamander habitats are becoming increasingly fragmented by agricultural and oil and gas developments and associated infrastructures and roads. The disruption of migration routes, mortality through roadkill, and deterioration and loss of breeding and upland habitat for terrestrial adults and juveniles lead to concern for the species in a large part of its Canadian range.

Occurrence: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Applicable federal legislation: When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation.