

Response Statement - Pygmy Slug

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Pygmy Slug

Scientific Name: *Kootenaia burkei*

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 Pygmy Slug to the Governor in Council as soon as possible following completion of the normal consultation period and analysis as appropriate. During the normal consultation period, the Minister of Environment will consult with the government of British Columbia, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Pygmy Slug 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: In Canada, this small slug is confined to the moist forests of the northern Columbia basin of British Columbia. It is found in moist mixed-wood and coniferous forests and commonly associated with riparian habitats along small creeks. Key habitat requirements include high substrate moisture with abundant woody debris and leaf litter for shelter. Threats include: existing and new roads resulting in fragmentation, increased edge effects, and barriers to dispersal; predation and competition from invasive species; damage to riparian areas associated with livestock grazing; habitat loss and degradation associated with logging activities; and, projected consequences of climate change, including an increase in drought conditions and an increase in both the number and severity of wildfires.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

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

British Columbia