

Response Statement - Pacific Water Shrew

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Pacific Water Shrew

Scientific Name: *Sorex bendirii*

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

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The above assessment confirms the classification of the Pacific Water Shrew on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Endangered. Activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes of, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This shrew is restricted to British Columbia's Lower Mainland and adjacent low valleys. It is rare there, associated with freshwater streams and adjacent wet habitats. Urban development, agriculture, and forestry have reduced the amount and quality of habitat. There is an inferred and projected ongoing decline in habitat and subpopulations in much of its range in Canada.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Conservation activities underway: The Recovery Strategy for the Pacific Water Shrew (*Sorex bendirii*) in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.