

# Response Statement - Small Whorled Pogonia

*December 8, 2011*

**Common Name:** Small Whorled Pogonia

**Scientific Name:** *Isotria medeoloides*

**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 Small Whorled Pogonia which is already on Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk*. This species will thus remain on the List as Endangered and activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

**Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC:** This small orchid, previously known only from a single swamp in Ontario, requires mixed damp woods. It was assessed as Endangered in 2000. Its habitat continues to decline in quality due to trampling and exotic earthworms. It was last seen in 1998, though its potential for dormancy means it may still be extant.

**Occurrence:** Ontario

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

**Conservation activities underway:** A National Recovery Team has been put in place and a recovery strategy has been completed for the Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) and has been posted as final on the SAR Public Registry.