

Response Statement - Colicroot

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Colicroot

Scientific Name: *Aletris farinosa*

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: COSEWIC has reassessed the Colicroot, currently on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Threatened and concluded its status has changed. The Minister of the Environment will forward the new COSEWIC assessment of the Colicroot as Endangered to the Governor in Council as soon as possible after the close of the normal consultation period and analysis as appropriate. During the normal consultation period the Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Ontario, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Colicroot should have its Schedule 1 status of Threatened changed to Endangered.

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 perennial herb is restricted to remnant, disturbance-dependent prairie habitats in southwestern Ontario. It continues to decline in the face of multiple threats, including habitat modification, invasive species, and browsing by deer. Prairie habitat, for example, naturally transitions to less suitable habitat types in the absence of periodic disturbance (e.g., fire), and its quality and extent are also vulnerable to ongoing urban and industrial development. Recent construction of a new transportation corridor caused the removal of more than 50% of all mature plants in the Canadian population and loss of habitat. Although plants have been transplanted from the transportation corridor to nearby restoration sites, it is too early to know whether these relocated subpopulations will be self-sustaining so they cannot yet be considered to contribute to the population.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

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

Ontario

Conservation activities underway: The Recovery Strategy for the Colicroot (*Aletris farinosa*) in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.