

# Response Statement - Western Blue Flag

*December 2, 2010*

**Common Name:** Western Blue Flag

**Scientific Name:** *Iris missouriensis*

**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 Blue Flag to the Governor in Council within three months. The Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Alberta, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Western Blue Flag 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 showy perennial is restricted to ten native sites and is also present at a few sites where it is believed to have been introduced. It occurs primarily in the grasslands of southern Alberta. Several new populations have been discovered since the species was last assessed. The area occupied and total population size of native plants are now known to be larger than previously determined. The total Canadian population appears to be stable but fluctuates in size. The species is subject to on-going competition from invasive plants, but trampling in areas heavily grazed by cattle has been largely mitigated by recovery actions.

**Occurrence:** Alberta

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

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

Alberta

**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.