

Response Statement - Flammulated Owl

December 2, 2010

Common Name: Flammulated Owl

Scientific Name: *Otus flammeolus*

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 above assessment confirms the classification of this wildlife species in Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* as Special Concern. 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: In Canada, this small owl is restricted to older Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine forests of the southern interior of British Columbia. The species requires mature coniferous forests with a mosaic of large-diameter, old trees, clumps of dense regenerating younger trees and small patches of shrubby grassland for breeding. The extent and quality of this habitat was significantly reduced through the early to mid-1900s by forest harvest. Ongoing threats include forestry practices that remove large trees and snags, epidemics of insect pests such as the Mountain Pine Beetle and catastrophic fires combined with the species' small population, limited distribution, small clutch size and delayed breeding of males.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Conservation activities underway: The Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) is included within the South Okanagan - Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) multi-species association.