

Response Statement - Sharp-tailed Snake

December 2, 2010

Common Name: Sharp-tailed Snake

Scientific Name: *Contia tenuis*

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 this wildlife species in Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* as Endangered. 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 tiny snake is confined to a handful of isolated, small populations in southeastern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands of British Columbia. Most of these populations are threatened by development and may not be viable. Increased search effort since the last assessment has found three previously undiscovered populations. Despite this, it is likely that overall numbers are decreasing and threats continue unabated. Major threats include ongoing development, increasing human populations, off trail recreation, fragmentation by roads and stochastic effects on small populations.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Conservation activities underway: A draft Recovery Strategy for the Sharp-tailed Snake (*Contia tenuis*) in Canada has been prepared.