

Response Statement - Lewis's Woodpecker

December 2, 2010

Common Name: Lewis's Woodpecker

Scientific Name: *Melanerpes lewis*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Threatened

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Lewis's Woodpecker to the Governor in Council within three months. The Minister of Environment will consult with the government of British Columbia, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Lewis's Woodpecker should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Threatened .

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: In Canada, this woodpecker breeds only in British Columbia. Its population is small, with fewer than 1000 individuals, and there is evidence of ongoing declines in parts of its Canadian range where it has been monitored over time. The global population (Canada and the USA) is also showing significant declines. Threats include habitat loss and degradation from increasing urban and agriculture development, and fire suppression. Recent surveys have shown the species to be far less numerous than previously believed.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

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

British Columbia

Applicable federal legislation: This species is protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. Where it occurs in a National Wildlife Area this species is subject to the *Wildlife Area Regulations* under the *Canada Wildlife Act*, which prohibits activities that could be harmful to species and to their habitat, unless a permit is issued indicating the permitted activity.

Conservation activities underway: Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) is included within the Garry Oak Ecosystems multi-species association. A draft Management Plan for Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) in Canada has been prepared.