

Response Statement - Jefferson Salamander

December 8, 2011

Common Name: Jefferson Salamander

Scientific Name: *Ambystoma jeffersonianum*

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 Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC re-assessment of the Jefferson Salamander to the Governor in Council (GiC) within three months. This species is currently on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Threatened. The Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Ontario, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Jefferson Salamander 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 salamander has a restricted range within populated and highly modified areas. Over the past three generations, the species has disappeared from many historic locations and the remaining locations are threatened by development, loss of habitat and, potentially, the presence of sperm-stealing unisexual populations of salamanders.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

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

Ontario

Conservation activities underway: A recovery strategy for the Jefferson Salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) is under development.