

Response Statement - Northern Rubber Boa

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Northern Rubber Boa

Scientific Name: *Charina bottae*

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 the Northern Rubber Boa on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Special Concern. Activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes of, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This species is patchily distributed within the southern half of British Columbia with concentrations in arid river valleys in the southern interior of the province. The species' life history traits, including low reproductive rate, delayed age at maturity, and longevity, and specific habitat requirements for hibernation and thermoregulation make it sensitive to human activities. There are inferred declines in mature individuals based on habitat trends, and some subpopulations continue to be threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation mainly from housing developments, roads, and transport corridors. The overall threat impact on the Canadian population is deemed to be low; however, the species could become Threatened if threats to local populations are not sufficiently managed and mitigated.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Other applicable 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.

Conservation activities underway: A Management Plan for the Northern Rubber Boa (*Charina bottae*) in Canada has been posted as proposed on the Species at Risk Public Registry.