

# Response Statement - Baikal Sedge

January 11, 2017

**Common Name:** Baikal Sedge

**Scientific Name:** *Carex sabulosa*

**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:** COSEWIC has reassessed the the Baikal Sedge, currently on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Threatened and concluded its status has changed. The Minister of the Environment will forward the new COSEWIC assessment of the Baikal Sedge as Special Concern to the Governor in Council as soon as possible after the close of the normal consultation period and analysis as appropriate. During the normal consultation period the Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Yukon, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Baikal Sedge should have its Schedule 1 status of Threatened changed to Special Concern.

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 species is restricted to 16 sites in 10 dune fields in the southwest Yukon. Since the last assessment, 11 new subpopulations have been found and two serious threats have been negated, which reduces the known risk to the Canadian population. However, natural succession is leading to habitat loss; this is exacerbated by fire suppression. Other threats driving recent declines include off-road recreational vehicle use and habitat loss through housing development. Exotic, invasive plants are a serious potential threat resulting in dune stabilization and competitive exclusion.

**Occurrence:** Yukon

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

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

Yukon

**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:** The Recovery Strategy for the Baikal Sedge (*Carex sabulosa*) in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.