

Response Statement - Pygmy Pocket Moss

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Pygmy Pocket Moss

Scientific Name: *Fissidens exilis*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Not at Risk

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: COSEWIC has reassessed the Pygmy Pocket Moss, currently on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Special Concern, as not at risk. The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment to the Governor in Council as soon as possible following completion of the normal consultation period, and analysis as appropriate. During the normal consultation period, the Minister of Environment will consult with the governments of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Pygmy Pocket Moss, should be removed from the List.

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 species has a very large extent of Canadian occurrence, occurring on both Pacific and Atlantic coasts, and in central Canada. Despite low detectability that confounds attempts to quantify population sizes and trends, the number of known occurrences has increased from 7 to 21 since 2005, and it is expected that more occurrences will be documented with ongoing search effort. Although it is found in some densely populated regions of Canada, including southern Ontario, no declines or direct imminent threats are known for this species. Localized soil disturbance is required for suitable habitat, such that some kinds of human disturbance may actually benefit the species. Although data are lacking in many aspects of its biology, ecology, distribution, and abundance, no evidence suggests that this species is at risk in Canada.

Occurrence: British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

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

British Columbia

Ontario

Quebec

Nova Scotia

Conservation activities underway: The Management Plan for the Pygmy Pocket Moss (*Fissidens exilis*) in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.