

Response Statement - Rusty Cord-moss

November 15, 2005

Common Name: Rusty Cord-moss

Scientific Name: *Entosthodon rubiginosus*

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

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This species is endemic to western North America where it occurs in southern British Columbia, and has been reported from Montana, Arizona, and New Mexico. This moss has a highly restricted distribution in south-central British Columbia where only four populations have been found. Of these, three populations are extant, and one was not relocated; the species is not abundant at any known site. The species' habitat is a narrow band of shoreline dominated by grasses and other mosses in seasonally wet, alkaline habitats. Two populations have been affected by trampling by horses or cattle, and all sites examined have been impacted to varying degrees by domestic animals. At least a portion of one population has been lost as result of trampling by domestic animals.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

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

British Columbia

Conservation activities underway: A recovery planner is in place under RENEW (Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife), the national recovery program.

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of the Environment will immediately forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Rusty Cord-moss to the Governor in Council (GiC). The Minister of the Environment will consult with the government of British Columbia, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Rusty Cord-moss should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act*. Information respecting opportunities to comment will be posted on the public registry. Comments received during consultations will be reviewed. The Minister of the Environment will make a recommendation to the GiC on whether or not to add the Rusty Cord-moss to the List. The GiC will make a decision within nine (9) months of having received the assessment.

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](#).