

Response Statement - Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee

January 13, 2015

Common Name: Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee

Scientific Name: *Bombus bohemicus*

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 assessment of the Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee to the Governor in Council as soon as possible after the close of the normal consultation period. The Minister of Environment will consult with the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon and Northwest Territories, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Alsek Renewable Resources Council, Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council, Carmacks Renewable Resources Council, DanKeyi Renewable Resources Council, Dawson Renewable Resources Council, Laberge Renewable Resources Council, Mayo Renewable Resources Council, North Yukon Renewable Resources Council, Selkirk Renewable Resources Council, Teslin Renewable Resources Council, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council - Northwest Territories, the Nisga'a Wildlife Committee and the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Endangered.

Once a species has been assessed as at risk 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 large and distinctive bee is a nest parasite of other bumble bees. It had an extensive range in Canada and has been recorded from all provinces and territories except Nunavut. Although not known to be abundant, there has been a large observed decline in relative abundance in the past 20-30 years in areas of Canada where the species was once common, with the most recent records coming from Nova Scotia (2002), Ontario (2008) and Québec (2008). Significant search effort throughout Canada in recent years has failed to detect this species, even where its hosts are still relatively abundant. Primary threats include decline of hosts (Rusty-patched Bumble Bee, Yellow-banded Bumble Bee, and Western Bumble Bee), pesticide use (particularly neonicotinoids), and the escape of non-native, pathogen-infected bumble bees from commercial greenhouses.

Occurrence: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

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

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories

Applicable federal 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.