

Response Statement - Yukon Draba

January 7, 2020

Common Name: Yukon Draba

Scientific Name: *Draba yukonensis*

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: On 2019-10-09, the Minister of the Environment received the COSEWIC assessment of the Yukon Draba as Special Concern. Within 24 months of this date, the Minister will seek to obtain a Governor in Council decision on whether to amend the List for this species. A summary of the consultations and an analysis of why the regulation is appropriate will be provided. During the extended consultation period, the Minister of the Environment will undertake consultations with the government of Yukon, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Yukon Draba should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Special Concern. The Minister of the Environment will also consult with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the Alsek Renewable Resources Council (ARRC), the Carmacks Renewable Resources Council (CRRC), the Dän Keyi Renewable Resources Council (DKRRC), the Laberge Renewable Resources Council (LRRRC) and the Selkirk Renewable Resources Council (SRRC).

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 small, short-lived perennial mustard species is endemic to the southern Yukon. It has a very restricted distribution limited to well-drained meadows and south-facing slopes. Surveys undertaken since 2011 increased the area of distribution and number of known sites from 3 to 19, and indicate that the population may not undergo extreme fluctuations as previously thought. Present threats include forest encroachment, wildfire, road development, invasive species, and trampling by humans and bison. These threats have the potential to reduce the area of suitable habitat and numbers of potentially unviable subpopulations enough to qualify the species for Threatened status.

Occurrence: Yukon

Competent Minister(s):
Minister of Environment

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