

Response Statement - Western Bumble Bee *occidentalis* subspecies

January 13, 2015

Common Name: Western Bumble Bee *occidentalis* subspecies

Scientific Name: *Bombus occidentalis occidentalis*

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

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Western Bumble Bee *occidentalis* subspecies 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 and Saskatchewan, the Nisga'a Wildlife Committee, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Western Bumble Bee *occidentalis* subspecies should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Threatened.

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 bumble bee ranges in Canada from British Columbia (south of approximately 55-57°N), through southern Alberta east to southern Saskatchewan. Approximately 30-40% of its global range is in Canada. Once considered one of the most common and widespread bumble bees in western Canada, this subspecies has experienced a significant (>30%) decline in recent years and has been lost from a number of sites in the southern portions of its range where it was once abundant. It has among the highest parasite loads (particularly the microsporidian *Nosema bombi*) of any bumble bee in North America. Ongoing threats to the species, particularly within the southern portions of its range, include pathogen spillover from commercially managed bumble bee colonies, increasingly intensive agricultural and other land use practices, pesticide use (including neonicotinoid compounds), and habitat change.

Occurrence: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan

Competent Minister(s):
Minister of Environment

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:
British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan

