

A Survey of the Status of the Western Toad (*Bufo boreas*) in Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks

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The status of the Western Toad (*Bufo boreas*), and other amphibian species in Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks has not been evaluated since 1982/83. Designated as a “species of special concern” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in November 2002, the Western Toad is also a candidate for endangered species status in the U.S.A.

In order to gauge the current status of the Western Toad in the parks, an amphibian survey was completed in the spring and summer of 2003. Data was collected from approximately 50 different potential breeding sites, including a census of all amphibians present, predators, wetland morphology, vegetation, weather, water temperature and basic chemistry, UTM coordinates and elevation. The results will also be used to help design a long-term monitoring strategy that will facilitate regular evaluation of the status of the parks amphibians.

Preliminary results indicate that all four previously identified amphibian species are still actively breeding in the parks, however, there is evidence that toads may no longer be successfully breeding in important habitats beside the Trans Canada Highway, or at high elevation in Mount Revelstoke Park. The Coeur d’Alene Salamander (*Plethodon idahoensis*) is also a COSEWIC “species of special concern”, formerly known to inhabit only parts of the provinces southeast corner. Suspected sightings near the Revelstoke Dam raised the possibility of it inhabiting Mount Revelstoke Park, and a timely sighting by a parks trail crew in May (2003) led to the confirmation of the species in three locations in Mount Revelstoke Park.