
Resource Management Plan for the Recovery of the Endangered Banff Springs Snail

[Poster](#) 328KB

DWAYNE A.W. LEPITZKI¹ AND CHARLIE PACAS²

¹Wildlife Systems Research, Box 1311, Banff, AB, T1L 1B3, Canada, email lepitzki@telusplanet.net

²Banff National Park, Box 900, Banff, AB, T1L 1K2, Canada

Abstract: In a handful of thermal springs near the townsite of Banff in Banff National Park, Alberta lives an inconspicuous mollusc. Exactly 70 years passed between the original description of the Banff springs snail (*Physella johnsoni*) and the initiation of the first ecological research program on the species in 1996. It was soon discovered that the endemic species had been extirpated from four of the nine original thermal springs, and populations underwent annual fluctuations of more than two magnitudes. Four of the five remaining populations continued to survive at the Cave and Basin National Historic Site, a high visitor use area. These findings lead to the species being listed as Threatened in 1997 and Endangered in 2000. In 2002, a Resource Management Plan for the Recovery of the Banff Springs Snail became the first endangered species plan approved under the sole jurisdictional authority of Parks Canada. Implementation of the three prongs of the resource management plan—science, communications, and enforcement—will ensure the species’ survival.

Key Words: Banff springs snail, *Physella johnsoni*, thermal springs, species at risk, recovery, conservation, resource management plan, Banff National Park, Alberta