

Delineating Critical Habitat Under the New *Species at Risk Act* in Canada

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This presentation will report on a series of pilot studies to produce and promote robust, state-of-the-art methods for delineating critical habitat as required under the new *Species At Risk Act* (SARA) in Canada. Six endangered or threatened species for which designation and mapping of critical habitat in their breeding range has been identified as a Recovery Strategy priority (Yellow-breasted Chat, Banff springs snail, Whooping Crane, Acadian Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler) were selected to represent different taxa (birds, molluscs), habitat types (wetlands, forest, riparian scrub), terrestrial ecoregions (Lake Erie Lowland Mixed-Wood Plains, Slave River Lowland Boreal Plains, Eastern Continental Montane Cordillera, Thompson-Okanagan Plateau Montane Cordillera) and lead federal departments (Environment Canada, Parks Canada). Habitat suitability mapping, spatially-explicit population viability modeling and socio-economic considerations were developed in consultation with Species Recovery Teams to produce critical habitat maps for the target species.