

First Nations Species at Risk Toolkit

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The Okanagan Nation Alliance, in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, is working to develop a Species at Risk Toolkit for First Nations communities. More than any other segment of Canadian society, First Nations have a connection and reliance on the environment for their livelihood, social and cultural expression and preservation. It has been estimated that 40% of the species at risk in Canada are on Aboriginal Federal Lands. With the number of wildlife species on their lands and in their waters, First Nations continue to play an important role in protecting species at risk. This presentation will outline the challenges faced by First Nations communities in implementing the *Species at Risk Act*, and some of the implementation tools under development in BC that are being shared with other First Nations communities across Canada. This will be contextualized in the work of the Aboriginal Working Group on Species at Risk.