

## **Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery**

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The 2004 Species at Risk Conference is being held in one of Canada's most imperiled ecosystems. There are currently more than 100 species at risk in Garry oak ecosystems: many of these species can survive nowhere else. Less than 5% of the original habitat remains in a near-natural condition.

To turn the tide of declining ecosystem integrity and begin restoration of Garry oak ecosystems, associated ecosystems and their constituent species at risk a recovery team was formed. Today, the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) and its associated committees involve approximately 100 dedicated members representing over 30 agencies and all levels of government. A large and well-structured organization and coordinated recovery program has evolved. A comprehensive recovery strategy that addresses both ecosystem and species-specific requirements for recovery has been drafted and is being actively implemented.