

## SPECIES AT RISK

West Coast Environmental Law	B.C. Liberals	B.C. NDP	BC Green Party
A new BC Species and Ecosystem Protection Act based on science and requiring protection of habitat. The availability of tools to encourage or require private land owners protect endangered species.	"The BC Liberal government will expand strategies to protect species at risk, to ensure BC remains a showcase of biological diversity." (p.31)	"Protect endangered wildlife with BC's first Species at Risk legislation and establish a Species at Risk Stewardship Fund available to landowners, farmers, First Nations, academic institutions, community groups." (p. 43)	"Pass strong Species-at-Risk legislation." (p. 41); "Restore funding for ... protection of species at risk." (p. 43)

<p><b>Analysis:</b></p> <p>A strong law for protecting species and ecosystems at risk would: identify species and ecosystems at risk through an independent, scientific listing process; immediately protect the full habitat of listed species and ecosystems until a final decision is made about how much long-term protection they need; and, restore species and ecosystems to health. The BC Liberals have amended the BC <i>Wildlife Act</i> to better protect endangered species; however, the Act does not require a science-based approach to species protection and does not generally allow for the protection of species habitat. To date the sections have not been used, and species at risk remain without protection. While the BC Liberals have recognized the need for further work on this, the NDP and Green platforms propose new legislation, and the NDP has specific commitments related to engaging directly with private land owners. Some indication of the NDP approach may be found in their 2008 private members bill on the topic, which was similar to progressive legislation on this topic from Ontario.</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <span>★ ★ 1/2</span> </div> <div style="background-color: #FF8C00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <span>★ ★ ★ ★</span> </div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <span>★ ★ ★</span> </div>
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