

Response Statement for Columbian Carpet Moss

October 22, 2004

Common Name: Columbian Carpet Moss

Scientific Name: *Bryoerythrophyllum columbianum*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Special Concern

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This is a western North American endemic species. It is a small perennial species and in Canada has a restricted distribution in the shrub-steppe in semi-arid regions of British Columbia where recent surveys have confirmed its presence from 11 sites. The species is never abundant in sites where it is found and extensive surveys have provided few new locations. At least one population is believed to have been lost to cultivation (vineyard) or to stochastic events. Threats include agriculture (especially vineyards), impact by grazing animals, urban development, road improvements, and human recreational impacts. Based on known occurrences, the species appears to have a very restricted distribution. However the species is patchily distributed at low densities in large habitats not all of which have been censused.

Occurrence: British Columbia

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of the Environment

Provinces and territories to be consulted:

British Columbia

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of the Environment will immediately forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Columbian Carpet Moss to the Governor in Council (GIC). The Minister of the Environment will consult with the government of British Columbia, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Columbian Carpet Moss should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act*. Information respecting opportunities to comment will be posted on the public registry. The Minister of the Environment will then review the comments received and will make a recommendation to the GIC on whether or not to add the Columbian Carpet Moss to the List. The GIC will make a decision within nine (9) months of having received the assessment.