

Response Statement - Blanket-leaved Willow

January 13, 2019

Common Name: Blanket-leaved Willow

Scientific Name: *Salix silvicola*

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

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The above assessment confirms the classification of the Blanket-leaved Willow on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Special Concern. Activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes of, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: One of a group of endemic plants restricted to dune habitats of northwestern Saskatchewan. Although dune habitats are naturally dynamic, the rate of forest encroachment at Athabasca dunes now surpasses the rate of dune formation, likely as a result of climate change impacts on this species. Invasive species are a potential threat, but none are currently known in the dune habitat.

Occurrence: Saskatchewan

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Conservation activities underway: The Blanket-leaved Willow is included in the Management Plan for Multiple Species of the Athabasca Sand Dunes in Canada that is published as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.