

# Response Statement - Columbian Carpet Moss

*December XX, 2015*

**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

**How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment:** The above assessment confirms the classification of the Columbian Carpet Moss 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:** This is a small, perennial moss that is endemic to western North America. In Canada, it has a restricted distribution in the shrub-steppe of the semi-arid Southern Interior of British Columbia. Surveys have confirmed its presence from 22 sites. The species is never abundant where it is found and recent surveys have provided few new locations. The species is patchily distributed at low densities. At least one population is believed to have been lost to vineyard development. Threats include agriculture, forest encroachment as a result of fire suppression, impact by grazing animals, urban development, road improvements, and recreational impacts.

**Occurrence:** British Columbia

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

**Conservation activities underway:** The Management Plan for the Columbian Carpet Moss (*Bryoerythrophyllum columbianum*) in Canada has been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.