

CWS species at risk updates for the South Coast region

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Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

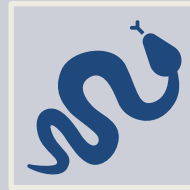
Canada

Agenda



Canadian Wildlife
Service mandate

Regulatory
contacts



SAR updates for South
Coast



Stewardship
updates

Priority Places
program
Funding for 2026-27



Canadian Wildlife Service

- Branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - Implement the following legislation:
 - *Migratory Bird Convention Act*
 - *Species at Risk Act* for terrestrial SAR
 - Management of protected areas under *Canada Wildlife Act*
 - Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
 - National Wildlife Areas (e.g., Alaksen and Widgeon Valley)
 - Both regulatory and stewardship focus
-

Regulatory: Permitting

CWS is responsible for permitting under the *Species at Risk Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (Migratory Bird Regulations, 2022 and the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations), and the *Canada Wildlife Act* (Wildlife Area Regulations):



Information on the [Species at Risk Act](#) (SARA) permitting can be found at [Species at Risk Act permits: general questions and answers](#).



The [Migratory Birds Convention Act](#) and its [regulations](#) protect migratory birds and their eggs and prohibit the disturbance, damage, destruction or removal of migratory bird nests. See [Guidelines to reduce risk to migratory birds](#) and [Migratory bird permits and registries](#)



Permitting for National Wildlife Area (NWA) permits are guided by the [Wildlife Area Regulations](#). Permitting procedures for Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) permits are guided by the [Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations](#). More information can be found here: [Protected areas permits](#)

Species Updates



Sharp-tailed Snake

- New records from Boston Bar, a 2nd confirmed Mainland location
- Potential for occurrences in the Fraser Valley



Black Swift

- Seeking observations, particularly of birds flying in/out of canyons or waterfalls
- Current standardized survey protocols are available
- Questions? eric.gross@ec.gc.ca



Credit: Warren Cronan, from Invasive Species Council website

European Wall Lizard

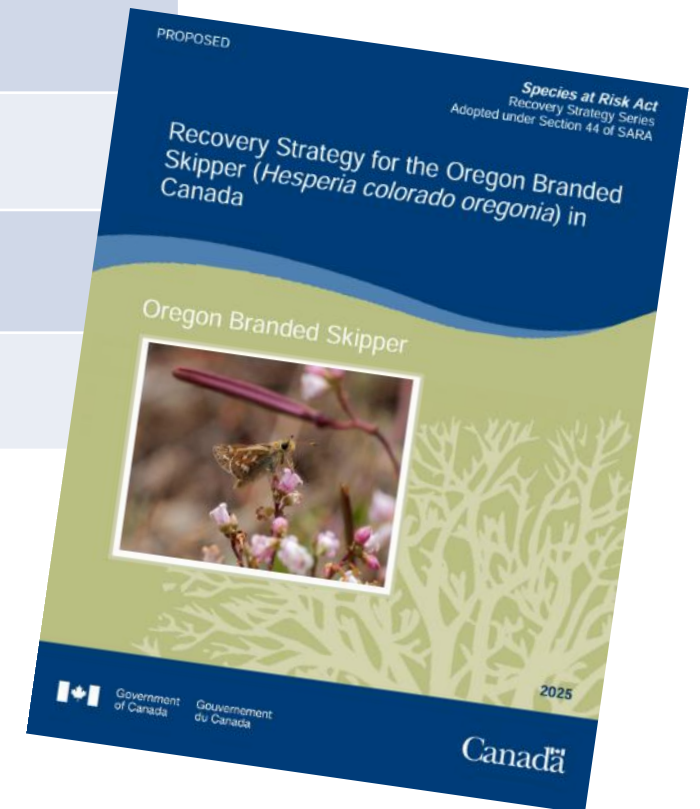
- Range expansion and exponential growth on southern Vancouver Island
- Impacts to other reptiles, species and ecosystems
- Report any occurrences in Lower Mainland

Upcoming SARA Recovery Documents

Species	Recovery Doc & Estimated Timeline
Smokers Lung Lichen	Proposed recovery strategy in 2026
Grizzly Bear	Proposed management plan in 2026
Oregon Branded Skipper	Final recovery strategy in 2026
Silky Beach Pea	In preparation

Recovery Strategies & Management Plans:

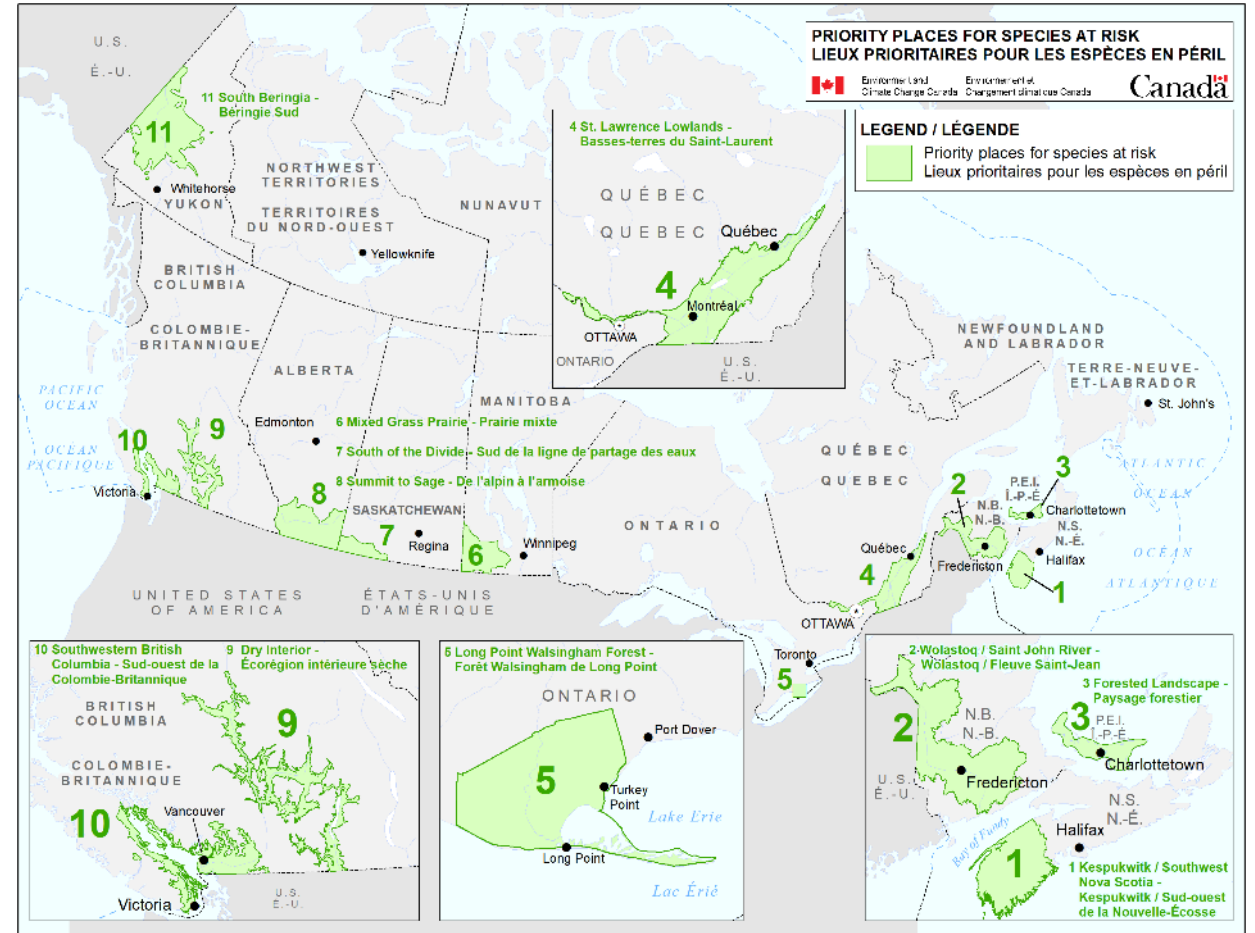
- Identify what needs to be done to stop or reverse decline of an endangered or threatened species, OR manage the conservation of special concern species.
- Identify critical habitat and activities likely to destroy critical habitat.



Collective Conservation Results: The Priority Places Program

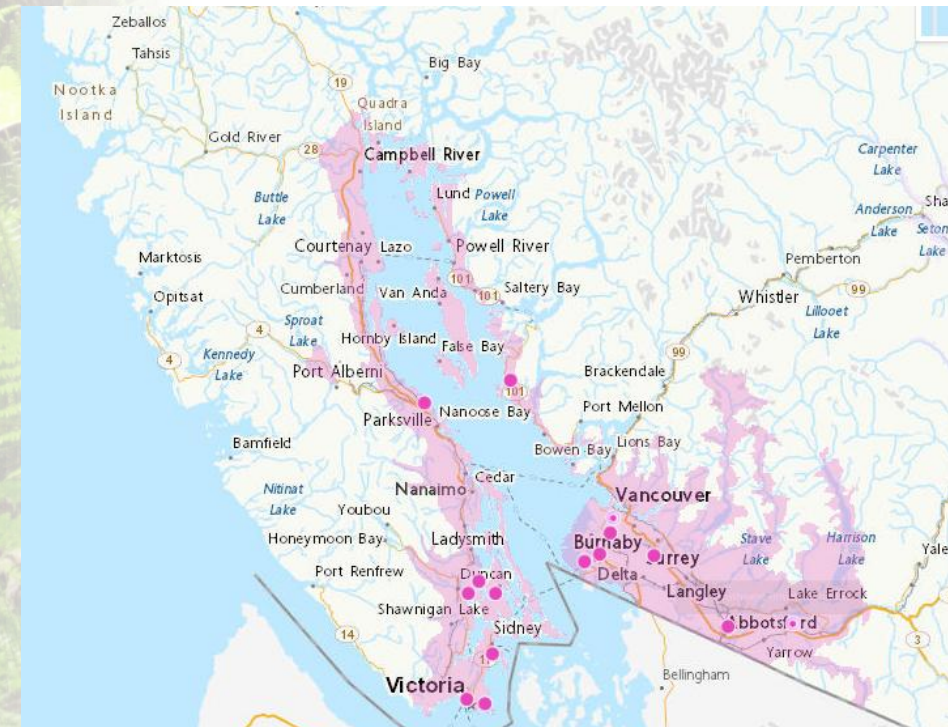
Desired outcomes:

- Multispecies SAR focus (vs single species)
- Aligned priorities and investments in conservation
- Improved coordination
- Indigenous engagement in conservation



Southwest BC Priority Place

Focused on low elevation habitats in Fraser Valley from Hope to Delta in the South Coast region.



South Coast Subarea

Addressing Key Threats to SAR

Drivers of Habitat Loss and Direct Mortality



Development



Transportation corridors



Agricultural Activities

Drivers of Habitat Change



Invasives



Recreation

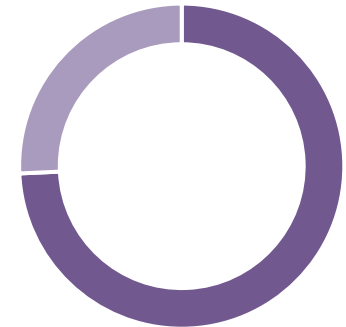
Conservation Targets

Activities focus on SAR habitat within:

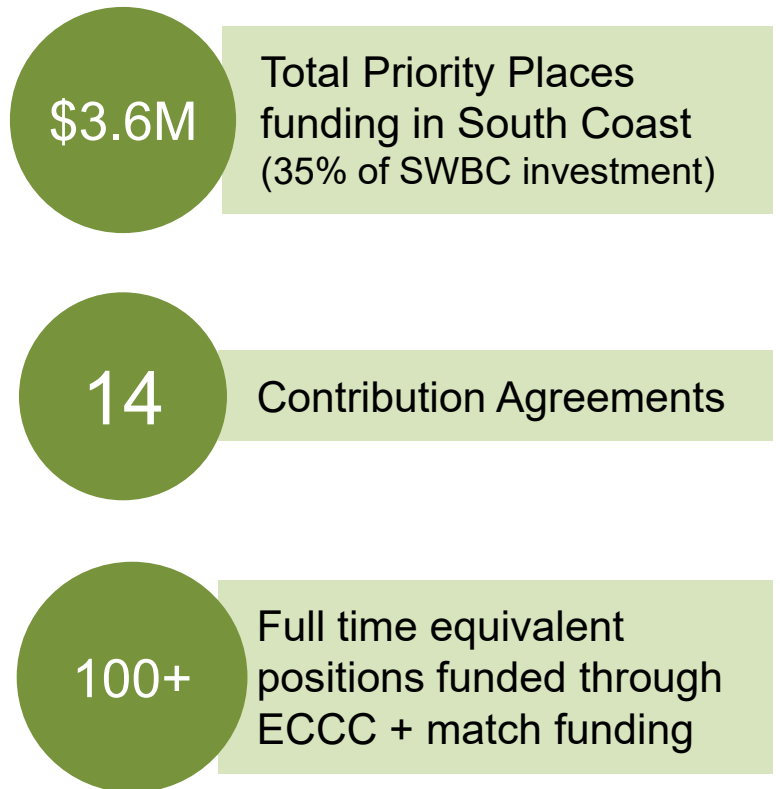
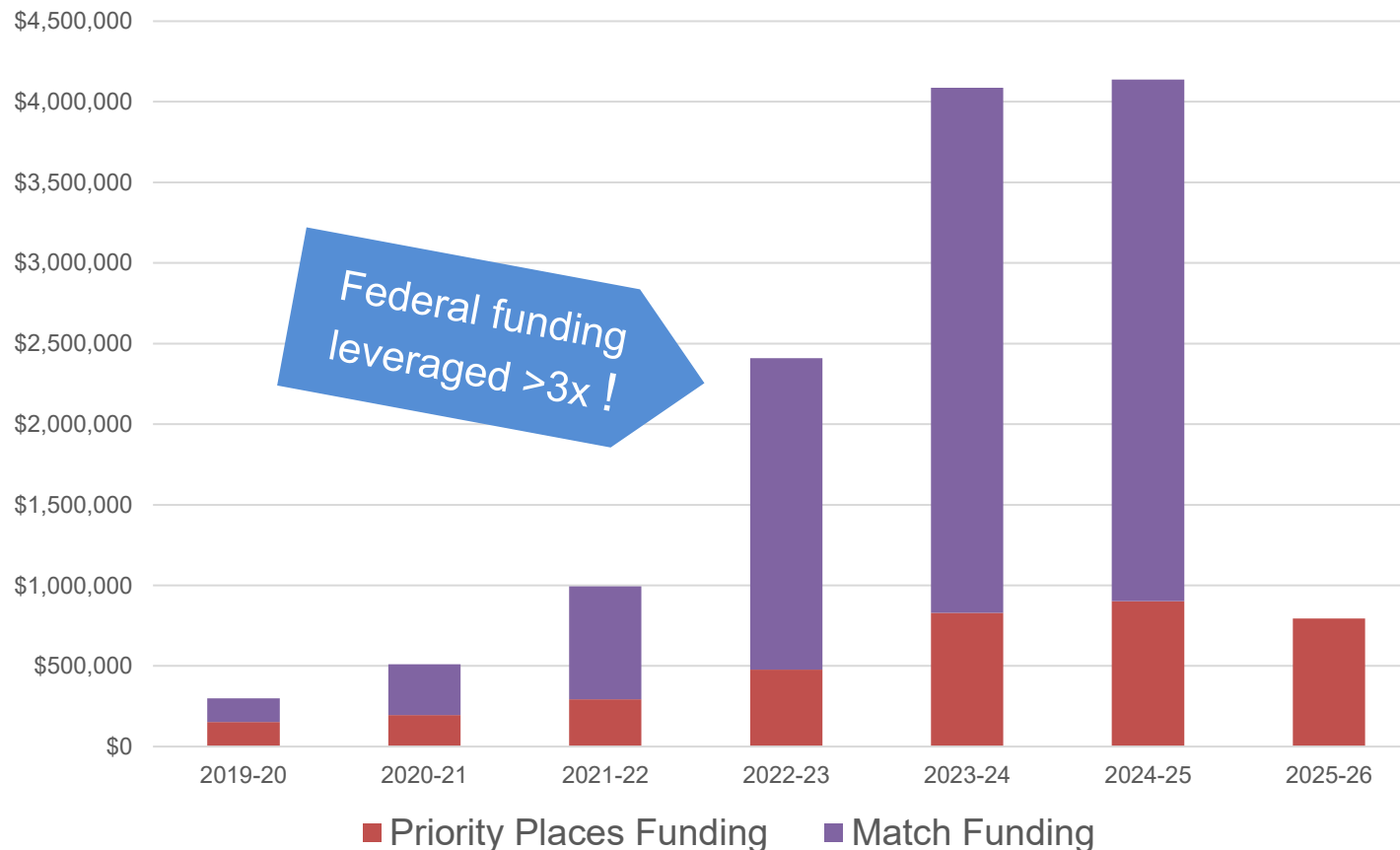
- Wetlands
- Riparian areas
- Forest
- Agricultural habitat

Species at Risk Targeted

77 of 104
SARA-listed
species targeted
by funded projects
(all SWBC)

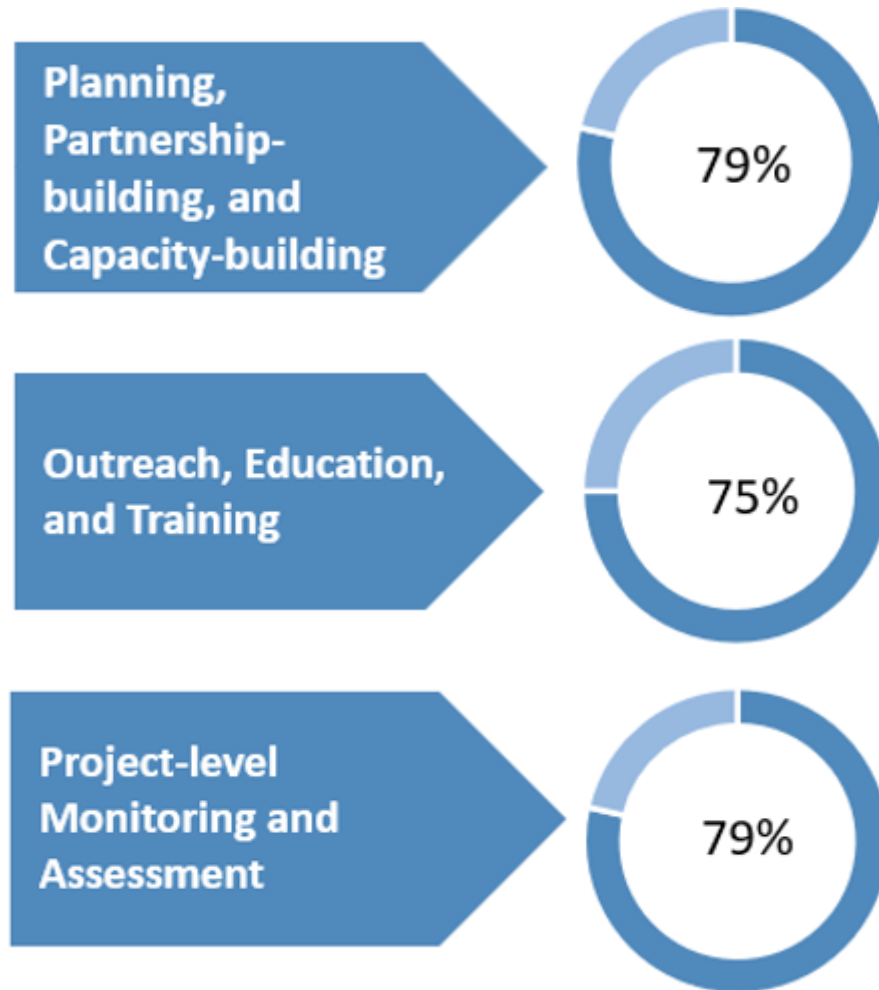


Priority Places \$\$ in South Coast



A Collective Impact

Percent of projects doing each activity



8922 hectares enhanced and restored in South Coast to date

Thank you to South Coast recipients and their conservation partners





Next steps: ECCC Funding for 2026-27

- Habitat Stewardship Program and Indigenous Partnerships for SAR accepting applications
 - November 13 for terrestrial SAR projects (ECCC)
 - December 19 for aquatic SAR projects (DFO)
- Ecological Gifts Program to donate ecologically sensitive land for tax benefits is ongoing
- Search “ECCC funding” or program name for more info



Thank you

Contacts

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