



## **Species at Risk & Local Governments**

### **FINAL REPORT**

**February 2014**



*A riparian area newly planted with willow, cottonwood, and western red cedar.*

## Introduction

This project focused on developing new content for the Species at Risk Primer that included beneficial management practices for species at risk of concern to local governments and private landowners in priority geographic areas. These practices, called Stewardship Practices, are tailored to the particular suites of species and threats that occur on the landscape and were developed in consultation with species and other experts. The information was published on the website *Species at Risk: A Primer for British Columbia* ([www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca)). A series of consultation and outreach events were also completed.

Over the course of the project, the Stewardship Centre for BC worked with our partners, most notably, the Ministry of Agriculture, BC Conservation Data Centre, Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, local governments, conservation organizations, and agricultural producers to ensure the project deliverables were relevant and useful to target audiences. An Advisory Committee met regularly (May 2; May 27; September 12; October 3; October 30, December 16, 2013) to review Stewardship Practices drafts, offer comments and suggestions, and provide input to our community outreach activities. This proved to be a very valuable process that not only identified key content for the Stewardship Practices documents but also helped to “spread the word” about the value of stewardship practices for wildlife and species at risk. Through this process we received recognition about the positive value of producing stewardship practices guides as well as increased engagement with more people and partners.

In addition to the “virtual” consultation process (through teleconferences, phone calls, and emails), a series of meetings, workshops and roundtable forums were held to gather feedback and promote the Stewardship Practices documents and the SAR Primer website.

## Project Results

### Stewardship Practices guides

A total of five Stewardship Practices documents were produced as Pilot Editions and posted to the SAR Primer website. These include:

- Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for: ***Drainage Maintenance in Agricultural Waterways***
- Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for: ***Climbing***
- Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for: ***Reducing Domestic and Feral Cat Predation***
- Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for: ***Riparian Areas in Settled Landscapes***
- Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for: ***Guidance for Restoration Activities in Riparian Areas***

One other document has been completed to draft format only as it still requires further review/editing:

- Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for: ***Reducing Small Animal Road-kill.***

These documents represent many hours of research, writing, and review by technical experts and meet the SCBC Publication Criteria, Pilot Edition, for SCBC publications. These Stewardship Practices guides are designed to provide:

- Private landowners with information they can use to inform their actions to conserve wildlife and species at risk
- Industry specific stewardship practices that the agricultural sector can consider when making land use decisions and developing land management plans
- Local governments with information to consider when developing mechanisms, such as bylaws and community plans, that help protect wildlife and species at risk
- Information for conservation and stewardship organizations that can facilitate their work.

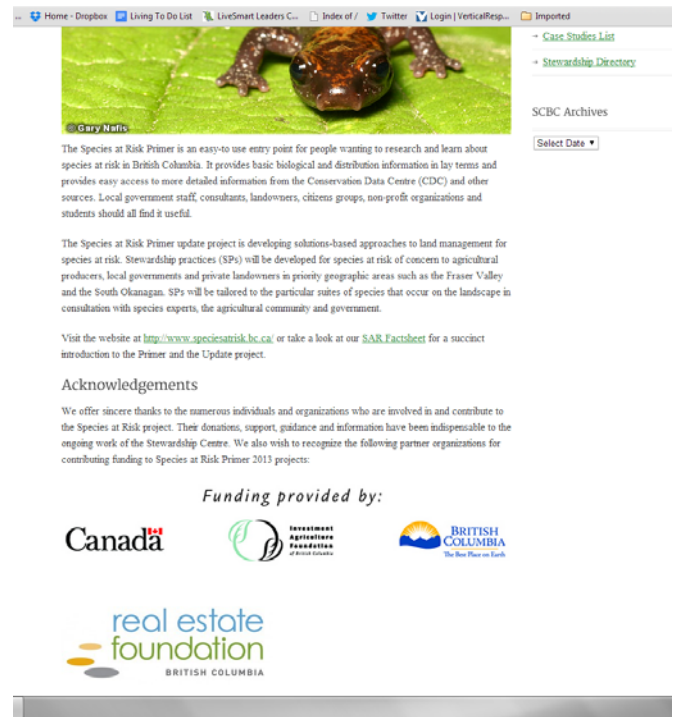
The guides present options and examples of good stewardship practices that address major threats to wildlife and many species at risk. They describe different **voluntary** activities people can undertake to help conserve species and their habitat and links them to resources to take action.

### Species at Risk Primer website

The SCBC SAR Primer home page was updated with project results, the SAR Primer website logo was updated to better reflect the current website content, format, and audience (see below).



*New SAR Primer logo*



*SAR Primer website screen-shot*

#### SAR Primer Website Use Statistics:

From the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

- January 2013: 433 new visitors; 1,171 total visitors; 5,292 pages viewed
- December 2013: 901 new visitors; 1,059 total visitors; 3,822 pages viewed
- Increase of number of new visitors over the period from January – December is 108%
- Average length of visit remains consistent through the period of between 2-3 minutes
- Average number of new visitors throughout the period is approximately 800 visitors per month.

These averages have been achieved through communications protocols described in this report. A significant increase could be expected with use of website “optimization” tools and social marketing and future plans should include this type of work to maximize education and outreach efforts.

#### Workshops, Presentations and Forums

A total of seven workshops, forums and presentations were delivered in 2013.

##### 1) **Stewardship Legacy Workshop on Watersheds and Water Resources February 14, 2013 Langley, BC**

Workshop objectives:

- Facilitate learning via peer knowledge exchange, presentations from various experts, and field tours covering current water management and watershed stewardship topics;
- Keep a regional network of watershed stewards and practitioners engaged with each other;
- Inspire and catalyze new work through networking, sharing of ideas and action planning; and,
- Identification of strategic priorities and opportunities for collaborative action.

DG Blair presented in the Agriculture and Stewardship part of the workshop to about 90 participants from conservation and agricultural organizations, local government, and watershed stewardship groups. Her presentation was well received... “I liked the "Species at Risk" presentation because it was addressing how the problems can be addressed with specific solutions."

As well, Dr. Mike Pearson, SCBC SAR Primer contractor, presented a session on Stewardship and Agriculture in the Fraser Valley.



*DG Blair and workshop participants at the February 14, 2013 workshop in Langley, BC*

In October and November 2013, a series of six consultative SAR Primer workshops were held with the aim to:

- gather feedback on draft Stewardship Practices documents
- To identify gaps in document information and additional resources
- To clarify audience needs
- To identify next steps for action.

These workshops are described below.

- 2) **Species and Ecosystems at Risk Local Government Working Group Symposium, October 8, 2013, Richmond.** Presentation and field tour highlighting stewardship practices for wildlife and species at risk. DG Blair, project manager, gave a presentation to all symposium participants (mostly local government representatives) on the SAR Primer/Stewardship Practices project. This was followed by an afternoon field tour (1-4 pm) that was co-hosted by the City of Richmond at Terra Nova Park. We thank Danielle Prevost of Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) for co-leading the field tour. Audience: Symposium: approximately 40 participants, Field Tour: approximately 15 participants. Feedback:
  - All attendees rated the symposium as “Excellent” (53%) or “Good” (47%)
  - “symposium allowed professionals to learn and speak with each other...very impressed with the depth of the speakers and the organization when considering how limited resources are”



- All field tour participants unanimously said the field trip was helpful.

When asked specifically which stewardship practices shown in the field tour would be most applicable to your community? Responses included:

- “We already have an incentive program, but I am interested in exploring other options presented”
- “Balancing farming on municipal land with natural features and recreation”
- “Methods for removing reed canary grass (waterway maintenance)”

When asked: what are the biggest barriers and benefits to implement stewardship practices in your community? Responses included:

- “having difficulty getting local government to fulfill current obligations when working with NGOs”
- “Loss of environmental staff planners”
- “Cost, complexity and legislative change”
- “Floodplain management and competing interests”
- “Cost is the biggest barrier”



*City of Richmond staff at Terra Nova Park, describing stewardship practices demonstrated at site*

- 3) **SAR Primer Stewardship Practices Workshop**, November 6, 2013 in Aldergrove, Fraser Valley with participants from producer organizations, agricultural producers, conservation organizations, and local government. After an overview of the Species at Risk Act (SARA), the SAR Primer, and the Ecological Services Initiative, we headed out into a local farmer’s field to see some Stewardship Practices on agricultural land (led by Dr. Mike Pearson). The afternoon was dedicated to gathering feedback on the SP documents (Riparian/ Drainage).

The workshop was co-facilitated by DG Blair and Danielle Prevost from CWS.

Audience: 16 participants.



*Biologist Dr. Mike Pearson with agricultural producers and organization representatives at a local berry farm that demonstrates stewardship practices for species at risk.*

Participant Feedback:

- All attendees rated the workshop as “Very Useful” (70%) or “Somewhat Useful” (30%)
- Workshop highlights included: the field trip (“great to see an ecosystem brought to life by a producer change”); networking; bringing different levels of government and producers together; creating positive relationships
- Key Challenges identified included: important to provide examples of simple solutions (like stewardship practices in SP guides); important to get out there and talk to producers to remove barriers and “scary” preconceptions of environmental expectations; need more producer case studies and examples who have made these changes in SP guides; need to change attitudes: e.g. that change is bad and must be opposed at all costs and that if it is from government – it must be “bad”; need to show how simple and beneficial (implementing SPs) it is to producers to change old ways of practice
- An article from Country Life in BC was published by workshop participant, David Schmidt (Appendix C) highlighting the project.

## Roundtable Forums on November 7-8, 2013, Penticton, BC - Cat Predation, Riparian, and Caving and Climbing Stewardship Practices

After the Aldergrove workshop, DG and Danielle headed to Penticton where we hosted sessions in collaboration with the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance, South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Partnership, Environment Canada, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ardcorp, agricultural producer organizations and others with the aim to explore opportunities to balance people's needs and species needs through stewardship. About 20 people in total attended these sessions.



*Participants at Penticton SAR Primer Roundtable Forum*

- 4) Roundtable Discussion: Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for: Reducing Domestic and Feral Cat Predation, November 7, 2013 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 5) Roundtable Discussion: Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for **Riparian Areas in Settled Landscapes** November 7, 2013 1:00-3:00 pm
- 6) Roundtable Discussion: Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for **Caving and Climbing** November 8, 2013 9:00 - 11:00 am

Feedback, to date, from the Roundtable Discussions included:

- Stewardship Practices (SP) documents are useful to introduce stewardship practices for species at risk
- They should not be stand alone: they are one piece of the puzzle to encourage more on-the-ground stewardship practices
- SP guides would best be introduced via face-to-face meetings
- Other issues need to be addressed for implementation of SPs to be successful include Incentives and Funding/Cost of Implementation.



**Agriculture Environment Committee Meeting, November 12, 2013, Richmond, BC**

- 7) Finally, DG presented the SAR Primer project and SCBC to the members of the with SAR Primer Advisory Committee members Holger Schwichtenberg and James Quayle also in attendance. Her presentation was well received.

Outreach efforts through workshops, presentations and forums were extremely well received by all participants. Feedback from participants and the Advisory Committee indicated that these efforts should continue to maximize the work done to date on the Stewardship Practices documents and the stakeholder engagement and outreach process. At least 10 further presentations/workshops/forums have been identified as needing to be done in the near future. Copies of presentation materials may be found in the Appendix.

## Recommendations

SCBC's goal is to build on work completed by SCBC on species at risk for the SAR Primer/Stewardship Practices (SP) initiative. The broad goals for moving forward include:

- fostering partnerships between local government, landowners, agricultural producers, and ENGOs who have a long term stake in stewardship for species at risk,
- developing stewardship community champions
- addressing science gaps related to the effectiveness of the different stewardship practices
- to encourage people to take voluntary stewardship actions to safeguard the natural areas species at risk need to live through providing tested and community-supported practices.

Specifically, the recommended next steps include:

- 1) Develop educational materials and conduct outreach to promote use of SAR Primer/Stewardship Practices with key audiences

Rationale: the target audience, including landowners, agricultural producers, local government and NGO's, will benefit from outreach and communications to increase implementation of stewardship practices for species at risk.

Key Activities include:

- Delivery of at least 10 presentations/workshops to key organizations as identified by SAR Primer Advisory Committee
- Development of SP educational material tailored to key audiences (translated as needed)
- Coordination and facilitation of the SAR Primer Advisory Committee

- 2) Promoting "stewardship community champions" through stewardship practices demonstration sites to demonstrate and document how SPs can address common threats to species (e.g., ditch maintenance and riparian habitat loss) within their individual projects.

Rationale: Building relationships and sharing information between landowners with species at risk and conservation groups who have the scientific expertise and knowledge to implement habitat restoration work is paramount. Conservation groups have recognized benefits could be gained through focusing collaboration and building on one another's strengths and this recommendation will build upon this.

Key Activities include:

- Identify potential partners and collaborators for the demonstration project with a focus on the Fraser Valley and Southern Interior
- Collect data on habitat improvement and human impact mitigation through SPs in partnership at 3-4 sites
- Review existing demonstration site information from the Ecological Services Initiative (ESI)
- Create at least 4 new case studies including pre construction, during habitat improvement and monitoring results
- Create a gallery of these case studies of Stewardship Practices on the SAR Primer website with links to the ESI website.

## Appendix

## Terms of Reference

### Advisory Committee



### Species At Risk Primer: On-line Tool Project

#### Purpose:

The purpose of the Advisory Committee for the *Species at Risk Primer* project is to foster shared environmental stewardship through a positive working relationship between the Stewardship Centre for BC (SCBC) and other organizations interested in species at risk stewardship.

Specifically, the advisory process will allow for:

1. **Communication** across the SCBC, government ministries, the agricultural sector, local government, and with other organizations on new content for the *Species at Risk Primer*
2. **Collaboration** on stewardship initiatives related to the SAR Primer
3. **Recommendations and guidance** for project-related new content on Stewardship Practices and outreach priorities.

#### Background:

The *Species At Risk Primer: On-line Tool Project* is focused on developing solutions-based approaches to land management for species at risk. Stewardship practices (SPs) will be developed for species at risk of concern to agricultural producers, local governments and private landowners in priority geographic areas such as the Fraser Valley and the South Okanagan. SPs will be tailored to the particular suites of species that occur on the landscape in consultation with species experts, the agricultural community and government. The information will be published through the existing SCBC-published web site *Species at Risk: A Primer for British Columbia* ([www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca)). The SPs will be searchable by species, Regional District or Municipality and will be available in a stand-alone section of the website. Future phases of the project would expand the number of land use management solutions, species and geographic areas covered.

There are a number of different but overlapping interests in species at risk management and the advisory process is seen as a mechanism to communicate, collaborate, and coordinate with other organizations.

Specifically, the Advisory Committee will:

- Assist with quality assurance, relevancy, consistency with/ and no overlap to other SAR guidance/initiatives for new content on the SAR Primer



- Collaborate with the SAR Primer technical team to ensure smooth operations between Primer and other linked initiatives
- Assist with promotion and outreach to key audiences for the SAR Primer.

### **Actions of Advisory Committee:**

- Communicate and collaborate through scheduled conference calls coordinated by the SCBC
- Provide recommendations for priorities on new Primer content
- Collaborate on new SAR Primer content development through recommendations to project team- based on their areas of expertise and/or interests
- Facilitate outreach efforts to key audiences
- Operate within current time and resource limitations
- No travel is expected of members
- Estimated time per member: ~3 hours/month (March 2013-December 31 2013).



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The following criteria are intended to guide the development of new SCBC publication/ resources.

***SCBC Stewardship Projects Criteria:***

**Pilot Edition**

1. Promote the stewardship ethic: be consistent with and support the meaning of stewardship, as defined by SCBC (Content)
2. Credible, non-partisan and knowledge-based information (Content)
3. Align with SCBC goals and objectives (Content)
4. Beneficial to land, air and water stewards and stewardship in BC (Content)
5. Conducive to online and other forms of sharing (Accessibility)

***Content:***

6. Covers issues of ecosystem diversity
7. Fills gaps and addresses current needs and knowledge and education base for stewardship
8. Promote the stewardship and conservation ethic
9. Stakeholder, peer, and expert reviewed
10. Credible, non-partisan and knowledge-based information that is identified as a need or gap by stewardship practitioners and is tested for accuracy by the involvement of technical experts and stewards,
11. Provides information to promote the stewardship ethic
12. Be current and based on the best available research

***Other (Administration):***

18. Strategic; based on funding programs as available, and is partnership-based
19. Supports integration of similar initiatives and encourages reduction of overlap
20. Facilitates ongoing, cost effective updates and dissemination
21. Communications plan should be in effect early in the process to define: audience, outreach strategy, evaluation, and budget
22. SCBC “branding”
23. Supportable - able to be kept up to date where there is need and demand

**Final Edition: All of the above plus:**

***Accessibility:***

13. User friendly
14. Materials available in different languages to reach a wider audience in BC as needed
15. Fact sheets in different languages to use at community events
16. Openly available (free of charge where there are no distribution costs involved) through a variety of current and evolving technological formats
17. Written and formatted to be easily accessible by target audiences (reader friendly)

# New resources under development for riparian, species at risk management

## Stewardship workshop used as a forum to gather input from farmers

by DAVID SCHMIDT

ALDERGROVE – Protecting species at risk is mandatory. How you do it is optional.

On November 6, about two dozen people gathered in Aldergrove to learn about and review the Stewardship Centre for BC's (SCBC) draft stewardship practices primers on riparian areas in settled landscapes and on drainage maintenance in agricultural waterways. The Aldergrove workshop was one of three, the others being in Richmond and Penticton, intended to provide input on the documents before they are finalized and posted on the SCBC website [www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca].

Formed as an intergovernmental working

says Canadian Wildlife Service conservation project development officer Danielle Prevost. The Species at Risk Act (SARA) requires landowners to provide "effective protection" of Category 1 species at risk.

While the federal list is much smaller than the provincial list, it still includes 59 species at risk in the Fraser Valley, almost half of which live on private land.

### Land use decisions

Prevost calls the documents being prepared by SCBC a source of information to guide land use decisions. If landowners adopt the practices the documents espouse, it will go a long way towards providing the effective protection the law demands.

Those practices can be a win-win, says Agassiz biologist Mike Pearson.

Pearson took the Aldergrove group to see his restoration of Bertrand Creek at Cheema & Sons' blueberry farm. Primarily paid for by the Cheema family, the restoration not only brought salmon back into the stream (that was proved by ready-to-spawn salmon who jumped for joy as the group watched) but brought eight acres of land back into production by reducing the flooding which occurred regularly during high water periods.

Although the Cheemas regained the use of some of their land, not all riparian management efforts provide such a direct benefit to the landowners.

"For conservation programs to succeed, they must benefit both the environment and the farmer," stresses BC Cattlemen's Association director Dave



**Agassiz biologist Mike Pearson points to the reconstruction of Bertrand Creek at Cheema & Sons Farms in Aldergrove. The effort not only improved the fish habitat but allowed the Cheemas to reclaim several acres of farmland. (David Schmidt photos)**

Zehnder.

When there is no direct benefit to agriculture, some sort of compensation is required. That's the principle behind the Ecosystems Services Initiative Zehnder is piloting on his Invermere area ranch. The project is one of 30 such projects now underway across BC and Alberta.

### Direct impact on water

Zehnder explained that since his ranch is upstream of the water intake for Invermere it has a direct impact on the town's water quality. The town therefore asked the Zehnders to fence off 15 acres as a riparian area, thereby protecting their source from potential pollutants as well as providing valuable wildlife habitat. In return, residents of the regional district voted to pay \$20 per parcel per year to offset losses to the ranch. As a result, Zehnder is now receiving \$100 per acre per year for the land he has set aside.

"We are now doing biological monitoring to

quantify the benefits of the setaside," Zehnder says, stressing that is necessary to get more widespread buy in for ESI (or ecological goods and services) programs.

Although those programs are in their infancy in Western

Canada, they have become common in other parts of the world.

"In Europe, farmers are receiving up to 65% of their net farm income from these types of programs," Zehnder notes.



**Dave Zehnder**

group over a decade ago, SCBC has since taken on a life of its own.

"Our purpose is to strengthen ecological stewardship by providing technical, educational and capacity resources," SCBC executive director DG Blair stated.

### Most species in BC

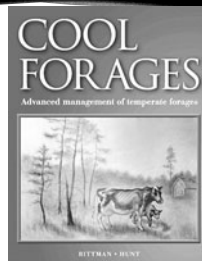
She notes BC "has more species than any other province." That includes over 1,000 red (locally extinct, endangered or threatened) and blue (of special concern) listed species. About 150 are impacted by riparian management.

The primers not only provide background on species at risk but also offer best management practices to protect them.

"These are voluntary practices," Blair stresses.

The practices may be voluntary but protecting species at risk is not optional,

**farmwest.com**



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# SPECIES

@RISK a primer for  
British Columbia



[www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca)





# Stewardship Centre

“To Strengthen ecological stewardship in BC by providing technical, educational and capacity resources and fostering partnerships among organizations, groups, governments and the private sector.”



[www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca](http://www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca)

Is dedicated to information exchange, networking, communication and outreach.



# Project Objectives

- Easy-to-use information on species at risk stewardship practices
- Consultation and collaboration with agricultural producers, government and conservation organizations
- Regional workshops to engage target audiences



# SARA and Stewardship Practices

- ◎ SARA applies on federal and non-federal land
  - Immediate legal protection on federal land
  - On private land species and their habitat must be protected
  - There are many ways under SARA that landowner and managers can choose to meet this goal – Voluntary Stewardship Practices are one tool



# What is Stewardship?

- Stewardship is conservation of natural wildlife habitat by individuals through responsible land management
- Goal of stewardship is species survival





# Draft Stewardship Practice Guides

- SP guides present options and examples of good stewardship practices that address major threats to many species at risk
- The draft SP guides
  - describe different activities people can undertake to help conserve species and their habitat
  - links them to resources to help people take action



# Stewardship Practices Documents

- ◉ Written using clear and common language
- ◉ Photographs to illustrate key messages
- ◉ Primer approach with links to more detailed information
- ◉ NOT intended to replace existing documents



# What makes the SPs unique?



# Developing the SP Guides

- ◉ Advisory Committee with representatives from
  - Mainland Milk Producers
  - BC Cattlemen's Association
  - Producers
  - BC Ministry of Agriculture
  - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
  - BC Ministry of Environment
  - Environment Canada
  - South Coast Conservation Program
  - Ecological Services Initiative





# Workshops & Consultations

## Purpose:

- ◎ To gather feedback on draft documents
  - To identify gaps in document information and additional resources
  - To clarify audience needs
- ◎ To identify next steps for action



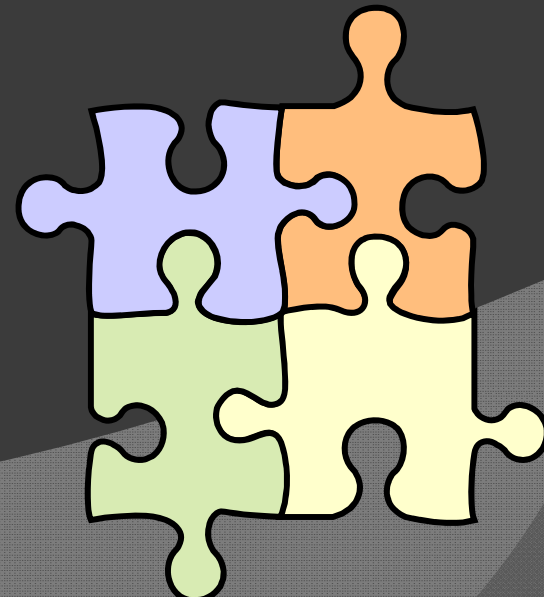
# Feedback to date

- SP documents are useful to introduce stewardship practices
- Not stand alone
- SP guides would best be introduced via face-to-face



# SPs are one piece of the puzzle

- Other issues need to be addressed for implementation of SPs to be successful
  - Incentives
  - Funding/Cost of Implementation



# SCBC Next Steps

- ⦿ Update draft documents and provide to partners
- ⦿ Seeking funding to
  - Finalize documents
  - develop SP case examples
  - continue to engage stakeholders and partners



# FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our SAR Stewardship Practices funders:

- Agricultural Environment Initiative (Ardcorp)
- Habitat Stewardship Program (Environment Canada)
- Real Estate Foundation BC

*Funding provided by:*



# Questions & Comments

- Feedback on the content and potential use of the guidelines?
- Need for follow-up actions to ensure broad acceptance of the SP guidelines?

Thank You!

Contact us: [dg@stewardshipcentrebc.ca](mailto:dg@stewardshipcentrebc.ca)







## Riparian and Drainage Stewardship Practices for Species at Risk A workshop for agricultural producers

**Date:** November 6, 2013

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 pm

**Location:** Rotary Field House; South Aldergrove Athletic Park (see attached map)

### Workshop Purpose:

- To share and learn about opportunities to balance people's needs and species needs
- To see on-the-ground examples of drainage and riparian stewardship practices
- To share updates and gather input for the draft stewardship practices documents

**Who is this workshop for?** Agricultural producer groups including: dairy, poultry, berry, vegetable and nursery producers in the Fraser Valley

| Time  | Activity  | Speaker/ Facilitator   |
|-------|---|--|
| 8:30  | Registration/coffee   |  |
| 9:00  | Introductions<br>Stewardship Centre for BC and Species at Risk (SAR) Primer project               | DG Blair, Executive Director, SCBC                               |
| 9:15  | Ecological Goods and Services   | Dave Zehnder – Ecological Services Initiative                    |
| 9:35  | Species and Ecosystems at Risk: an overview   | Danielle Prevost – Canadian Wildlife Service -Environment Canada |
| 10:00 | Field tour of stewardship practices for drainage and riparian management                          | Mike Pearson – Pearson Ecological                                |
| 11:30 | Exploration café: Stewardship Practices:<br><i>Drainage Maintenance in Agricultural Waterways</i> | DG/Danielle  |
| 12:00 | LUNCH (provided)/ Networking  |  |
| 1:00  | Exploration café: Stewardship Practices:<br><i>Riparian Areas in Settled Landscapes</i>           | DG/Danielle  |
| 1:45  | Challenges/Barriers/Solutions   | All  |
| 2:15  | Next Steps & Closing Remarks  | DG   |

**Register at: [info@stewardshipcentrebcc.ca](mailto:info@stewardshipcentrebcc.ca)  
[www.stewardshipcentrebcc.ca](http://www.stewardshipcentrebcc.ca)**

The Species at Risk Primer is an easy-to use entry point for people wanting to research and learn about species at risk in British Columbia. It provides basic biological and distribution information in lay terms and provides easy access to more detailed information from the Conservation Data Centre (CDC) and other sources.

This interactive web-tool lists the presence of species at risk by regional district and municipality and provides a context for the Species at Risk Act (SARA), emphasizing the benefits and methods of integrating species at risk information into land use planning. It is a useful tool for local governments, landowners and those involved in land use decision-making.



## STEWARDSHIP CENTRE FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

### SPECIES AT RISK PRIMER

[www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca)



*Monthly, the website welcomes approximately 1000 people, 75% of which are newcomers.*

The screenshot shows the website's layout. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Weblinks', 'Publications', and 'Contact'. The main header features the Stewardship Centre logo and the title 'Species at Risk & Local Government: A Primer for British Columbia'. On the left, a sidebar contains a 'Search Species' section with options like 'Search by Habitat', 'Search by Species', 'Search by Regional District', 'Search by Forest District', and 'Advanced Search'. Below this is a 'Learn' section with links to 'Management Strategies', 'Local Government', and 'Species At Risk Act'. The main content area is titled 'Home' and features a large image of a salamander on a green leaf. Below the image, there are two columns of text. The left column is titled 'Welcome' and discusses biodiversity in British Columbia, mentioning 1,258 vertebrates. The right column is titled 'Species at Risk' and asks 'How many are there?', stating that the BC Conservation Data Centre has the most complete list, including 754 Red Listed Species (extirpated, endangered and threatened).

**STEWARDSHIP CENTRE**  
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Species at Risk & Local Government:**  
A Primer for British Columbia

Weblinks Publications Contact

**Search Species**

- Search by Habitat
- Search by Species
- Search by Regional District
- Search by Forest District
- Advanced Search

**Learn**

- Management Strategies ▶
- Local Government ▶
- Species At Risk Act ▶

**Home**

(c) Gary Nafis

**Welcome**

**Biodiversity in British Columbia**

BC is home to a wealth of native species and subspecies - more than any other province. They include:

- 1,258 vertebrates

**Species at Risk**

**How many are there?**

The BC Conservation Data Centre has the most complete list. It includes:

- 754 Red Listed Species (extirpated, endangered and threatened)

## STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES UPDATE

The Species at Risk Primer is currently being updated to include multi-species Stewardship Practices with special consideration to agriculture. The update on Stewardship Practices will also include outreach, education, and promotion activities on the practical applications of the tool.



- Road Kill
- Domestic Cat Predation
- Rock Climbing and Caving
- Drainage Maintenance
- Riparian Areas in Settled Landscapes

FALL 2013

The update is focused upon the agricultural sector, private landowners and land use decision-makers such as:

- Local Government
- First Nations
- Planners, Builders
- Industry/Producers
- Developers
- Consultants

The project is focused on developing solutions-based approaches to land management for species at risk (rather than species-based) in priority geographic areas such as the Fraser Valley and the South Okanagan.

Although all species at risk are unique, there are often common land-use management practices used for their protection. Developing SPs based on common solutions is an efficient way to approach land-use management and lends itself to the development of locally tailored solutions.

Associated outreach initiatives will lead to a greater audience for the Primer as well as demonstrate the utility of the information on the available Species at Risk Primer.



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Photographs by Mike Pearson