



Cone and Seed Improvement Program BCMoF Tree Seed Centre

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Trees are Species at Risk

Since June 5, 2003 the Federal government has had A Species at Risk Act (SARA). The act was a response to the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in response to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The purpose is to prevent indigenous species from becoming extinct, providing for the recovery of challenged species and to encourage management options preventing other species from becoming at risk. The SARA also establishes the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as an independent body of experts to assess the level of risk. The process is basically that COSEWIC will assess species and assign a level of risk followed by a public consultation process and then a decision on whether to list a species and how to categorize it. A large amount of additional background material is supplied at the SARA Registry home page: <http://sararegistry.gc.ca>. Under the definitions provided the term wildlife includes vascular plants.

In November 2010 a “Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act: Terrestrial Species” was produced calling for public input. The document can be obtained from either of these pages, in English and French respectively:

http://sararegistry.gc.ca/involved/consultation/default_e.cfm

http://sararegistry.gc.ca/involved/consultation/default_f.cfm

Comments may be submitted by e-mail to the SARA public registry at: SARAREgistry@ec.gc.ca or by regular mail to: Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3. The consultation is open until February 4, 2011. Of specific interest with trees are the proposed addition of whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) as an endangered species and the confirmation of cucumber tree (*Magnolia acuminata*) as an endangered species. **If you have any involvement with those species, please let your thoughts be known through the process!**

I thought it would be useful to see the tree species (my definition) that currently reside on the SARA list and their status.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>COSEWIC Status</u>	<u>SARA Status</u>
American chestnut	<i>Castanea dentata</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Cucumber tree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Eastern Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Red Mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus Shumardii</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Blue ash	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern
Whitebark pine	<i>Pinus Albicaulis</i>	Endangered	Not Listed

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