

**SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS AT LAST!**

**Ministry of Natural Resources  
Species At Risk Branch  
P.O. Box 7000, 300 Water Street  
Peterborough ON K9J 8M5**

April 23, 2013

Mr. Bob Fowler  
Ontario Property and Environmental Rights Alliance  
Unit A – 135 Church Street, North  
Mount Forest, Ontario, NOG 1R0

Dear Mr. Fowler:

Thank you for your recent letter which requested additional information related to the implementation of the Endangered Species Act. I am pleased to provide the following:

1. The number of species at risk in the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) database is 241. This number reflects an increase over the number we previously provided to you (—204) and represents the number the NHIC actually tracks. They are classified as follows:

- 99 endangered species
- 56 threatened species
- 45 special concern species
- 15 extirpated species
- 8 extinct species
- 15 data deficient species (on the Species at Risk Ontario list, but not enough information to determine status)

2. The area of element occurrences for species at risk on private land – including endangered, threatened and special concern species – is approximately 73,839 square kilometres. The area of occurrences on private land for data deficient species is approximately 29 square kilometres. The total area of species at risk occurrences on private land is 73,868 square kilometres.

These estimated areas may be over-estimates, since many of the occurrences overlap private and public land, and some cover large areas because of uncertainty of just where the species was observed, but the species only occupies a small percentage of the area.

The estimates include historic records of species at risk occurrences and the estimated area of species at risk occurrences on private land. An occurrence is generally considered historic if the species hasn't been seen at that location for more than 20 years.

An element occurrence is an area of land and/or water on or in which a species is or was present. It is an area important to the conservation of the species. Each element occurrence is made up of one or more observations. Breeding colonies, breeding ponds, denning sites and hibernacula are general examples of different types of animal element occurrences.

For a plant species, an element occurrence may be the area containing a patch of that species. The boundaries of an element occurrence represent the area where a species is known to occur. They do not necessarily represent the habitat of the species.

3. When the Endangered Species Act (ESA) stakeholder panel was appointed, the aim was to ensure a broad representation of MNR stakeholders. The Ivey Foundation was invited to participate because it was able to bring an environmental perspective to the table.

4. The ESA panel was appointed by the previous Minister of Natural Resources, with the mandate to:

- Recommend approaches to focus limited resources on requirements and activities that will have the greatest positive impact on species at risk protection and recovery:
- Identify and advise on potential opportunities to streamline the implementation of the ESA and transition to full protection in 2013 (including the consideration of risk to the species).

The panel met on November 20th and November 30 2012 and January 7th 8th and 16th 2013.

Planning Solutions Inc. was paid \$6,000, (plus HST) for facilitating these sessions.

Thank you again for writing and for your interest in species at risk. Sincerely,

Marc Rondeau

Director, Species at Risk Branch

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources