

July 19, 2021

Mr. James Gunvaldsen Klaassen
Ms. Sarah McDonald
Ecojustice
520-1801 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3N4

Mr. Gunvaldsen Klaassen and Ms. McDonald:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 19, 2021, delivered on behalf of your clients. The Government of New Brunswick is accelerating progress towards the recovery of species at risk, and the responsibilities described in the *Species at Risk Act*. The Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED) has an action plan dealing with the subjects described in your letter which staff are already implementing under my direction. DNRED intends to demonstrate meaningful progress in the listing, recovery and protection of our most vulnerable species. DNRED is committed to do this in a transparent fashion; making the necessary updates to New Brunswick's Species at Risk Public Registry.

During the remainder of the 2021 fiscal year, DNRED aims to:

- Receive and post the listing recommendations of the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk (COSSAR) for eight species;
- Develop and post feasibility of recovery assessments for ten species;
- Identify and post dates of anticipated completion of recovery documents for all species outstanding at this point;
- Develop and post management plans and recovery strategies for four species; and
- Complete and post protection assessments for ten species.

Although DNRED's action plan on Species at Risk was developed prior to the receipt of your letter and is in-progress now, I have accepted several modifications proposed by staff resulting from your client's interest in the Barn Swallow, the Eastern Wood Peewee, the Horned Grebe, the Roseate Tern, Bitternut, and Van Brunt's Jacob's Ladder. Regarding the two populations of Atlantic salmon, I am not prepared at this time to move forward independent of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the leading federal agency responsible for the conservation and recovery of this species. It is also unlikely that the Department could adequately engage First Nations communities on the recovery of these salmon populations in the time frame requested by your clients.

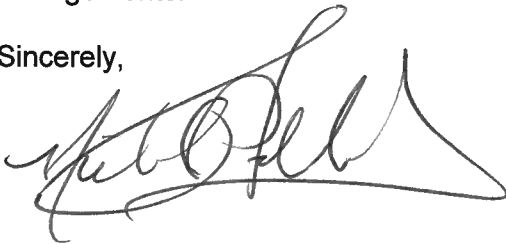


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Regarding the Canada Lynx, the Department anticipates receiving a new status assessment from the COSSAR later this year and will prepare a feasibility of recovery assessment only after considering the committee's recommendation on status. The attached tables fully outline our action plan's targets for 2021-22.

DNRED would like to offer your clients, the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, the Nature Trust of New Brunswick and WWF-Canada, the opportunity to meet with staff to discuss our plan, as well as other important conservation initiatives benefitting species at risk. If they are interested in having a virtual meeting, please contact Chris Norfolk, Director of Forest Planning and Stewardship, at 506-444-6766 to make arrangements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Holland", written in a cursive style.

Mike Holland
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development

Enclosure

- c. Tom MacFarlane, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources and Energy Development
Chris Norfolk, Director, Natural Resources and Energy Development

Table 1. Species to be considered for status assessments by the NB Committee on the Status of Species at Risk (COSSAR) during 2021/22.

Species	Target date for posting assessment on the Public Registry
Transverse Lady Beetle	July 2021
Annual Saltmarsh Aster	July 2021
Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee	September 2021
Wrinkled Shingle Lichen	September 2021
Beach Pinweed	January 2022
Canada Lynx	January 2022
Olive-sided Flycatcher	January 2022
Monarch	January 2022

Table 2. Feasibility of Recovery Assessments to be completed and posted during 2021/22.

Species	Target date for posting assessment on the Public Registry
Atlantic Walrus	September 2021
Grey Wolf	September 2021
Wolverine	September 2021
Woodland Caribou	September 2021
Van Brunt's Jacob's Ladder	September 2021
Cobblestone Tiger Beetle	November 2021
Bank Swallow	November 2021
Barn Swallow	November 2021
Bicknell's Thrush	December 2021
Butternut	March 2022

Table 3. Target dates identified and posted for species requiring the development or adoption of management plans and recovery strategies during 2021/22.

Species	Target date for posting anticipated completion dates on the Public Registry
All species currently listed as 'special concern', 'threatened', or 'endangered' where recovery has been determined to be feasible.	August 2021

Table 4. Targets for management plans and recovery strategies to be developed or adopted during 2021/22.

Species	Target date for documents to be posted on the Public Registry
Management plan for Eastern Wood Peewee	November 2021
Management plan for Horned Grebe	November 2021
Recovery strategy for Van Brunt's Jacob's Ladder	November 2021
Recovery strategy for Bicknell's Thrush	March 2022

Table 5. Dates targeted for protection assessment completion and posting during 2021/22.

Species	Target date for a protection assessment to be posted on the Public Registry
Roseate Tern	November 2021
Butternut	November 2021
Van Brunt's Jacob's Ladder	November 2021
Cobblestone Tiger Beetle	November 2021
Gulf of St. Lawrence Aster	March 2022
Anticosti Aster	March 2022
Maritime Ringlet Butterfly	March 2022
Boreal Felt Lichen	March 2022
Vole Ears Lichen	March 2022
Chimney Swift	March 2022

**note - the Species at Risk Public Registry will indicate these expected dates by August 2021*