

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

Advanced Search Search Criteria

Taxonomic Group	Vascular Plants
Jurisdiction	All
COSEWIC	All
BC Status	All
BC Wildlife Act	All
Identified Wildlife	All
SARA	All
Management Category	All
Habitat	All
Regional District	Capital Regional District: All Districts and Municipalities
Forest District	All Forest Districts

Search Results

Vascular Plants

Coastal Scouler's Catchfly

Silene scouleri ssp. *grandis*

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This species, also known as Scouler's campion, is found along the Pacific Coast from northern California to British Columbia, where it is confined to three small islands near Victoria. It is shade intolerant and occurs near sea level on soils that are saturated throughout the winter, but become very dry in summer. Catchfly is perennial, and flowers in late summer or early autumn. At least seven populations have been extirpated since 1897. Trends on the remaining populations have not been monitored, but two of them are very small (5-23 plants), and the third has less than 300 plants. Trampling and habitat changes caused by fire suppression and the invasion of introduced species are the major threats to the remaining populations. Low reproductive rates and limited seed dispersal inhibit the species' ability to recover from depletion.

[More Info...](#)

Deltoid Balsamroot

Balsamorhiza deltoidea

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This perennial has large triangular leaves and a bright yellow flower. It occurs from northern California to British Columbia, where it is limited to a few sites near Campbell River, Duncan and Victoria. It is found in dry, open sites along the coast, often with Garry Oak. The plant flowers in spring, produces few seeds and is often withered by mid-summer. Seven of the 15 known populations are believed extirpated. The largest current population has 1,700 plants, while each of the others has fewer than 100. Habitat destruction is the primary threat, although competition with introduced species and habitat change due to fire suppression are also major concerns.

[More Info...](#)

Dense-flowered Lupine

Lupinus densiflorus var. *densiflorus*

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This purple-flowered annual ranges from Baja California to southern British Columbia, where it is known from just three locations, all near Victoria. The species occurs on grassy openings, clay cliffs and eroding banks above the ocean's splash zone. Most seeds germinate in fall and seedlings develop over the winter. The small populations fluctuate widely with climatic conditions and are at risk from habitat losses due to urban development, trampling, mowing, and competition with introduced weeds. Habitat changes due to fire suppression likely also pose a significant threat.

[More Info...](#)

Dense Spike-primrose

Epilobium densiflorum

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This purple-flowered annual occurs from Baja California and Utah north to British Columbia where it is limited to southeast Vancouver Island between Victoria and Nanaimo. Here, it grows in open meadows and seeps close to the ocean. It is able to tolerate very wet winter conditions but continues to develop and flower in the very dry late summer conditions in these habitats. Only four populations remain, although upwards of 20 are documented historically. An estimated 95% of potential habitat has been lost in the past century to urban and industrial development, fire suppression and invasion by introduced plants. These factors continue to be the major threats to the species.

[More Info...](#)

Dwarf Sandwort

Minuartia pusilla

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This tiny, succulent herb is found in northern California, Idaho and Arizona. In British Columbia, it is confined to a single patch on southern Vancouver Island, hundreds of kilometres from another population. The site is a shallow depression atop a coastal headland that is wet in spring, but dry later in the summer. The population declined from about 20 plants to 9 in a 10 square metre patch between 1977 and 2002. Threats include digging by gulls, trampling by trespassing boaters, introduced species, drought and any activity with potential to disrupt local hydrology.

[More Info...](#)

Prairie Lupine

Lupinus lepidus

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This low-growing, perennial herb is found west of the Cascade Mountains from northern Oregon to British Columbia, where it is limited to southeastern Vancouver Island. It inhabits very dry exposed sites with nutrient-poor soils, including recently disturbed areas. Population size is unknown, but the species appears to be in decline, as four of the nine known populations are believed extirpated. Habitat destruction from agricultural and urban development is the major threat to the species, although fire suppression also appears to be contributing to its decline.

[More Info...](#)

Purple Sanicle

Sanicula bipinnatifida

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Threatened	SARA	Schedule 1		

This short-lived perennial occurs from Baja California north to British Columbia, where it is confined to southeastern Vancouver Island and the adjacent Gulf Islands. It is found in dry meadows and on eroding coastal bluffs. Twenty populations are known to currently exist in Canada, and an additional 5 or 6 are presumed extirpated. The existing populations range in size from single plants to over 1100 individuals. The major threats are habitat destruction from development activities and competition from introduced plant species.

[More Info...](#)

Rosy Owl-clover

Orthocarpus bracteosus

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small annual occurs from northern California to the southern tip of Vancouver Island. It grows on open sites in moist depressions and springs that dry out in summer. It germinates in early spring, sets seed by early summer, and then dies back. Eight of the nine populations known from historical records are extirpated. The surviving one occurs on Trial Island and fluctuates widely in size (40-940 between 1998 and 2002). Urbanization has eliminated many of the former populations and continues to threaten suitable, unoccupied habitat. Trampling and invasion by introduced plants pose threats to the remaining population.

[More Info...](#)

Seaside Bird's-foot Lotus

Lotus formosissimus

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This sprawling, perennial herb occurs from northern California to southern Vancouver Island, where only two populations are known. Two other Canadian populations are believed extirpated. The species is found in the understory of Garry oak habitats and on relatively exposed rocky islands. It flowers in early spring and dies back by mid-summer when drought conditions occur. Competition with introduced plant species and browsing by rabbits are considered threats.

[More Info...](#)**White Meconella**

Meconella oregana

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This white-flowered member of the poppy family is found west of the Cascade Mountains from California's Bay Area north to British Columbia, where it is limited to five sites on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The plants grow on open, south-facing slopes, with shallow soils wetted by seepage in spring but becoming very dry in summer. They flower in early spring and set seed by April. Population sizes vary widely with annual precipitation. The major threats are housing development, grazing, habitat disturbance by recreational users, fire suppression, and competition with introduced plants.

[More Info...](#)**White-top Aster**

Seriocarpus rigidus

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Special Concern	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small perennial occurs from western Oregon and Washington to southern Vancouver Island. It grows on dry, shallow soils with little shade in gently rolling, grassy meadows, often with Garry Oak. Seed viability is low and most reproduction is vegetative. Habitat destruction from urban development has eliminated almost all populations outside of parks and ecological reserves and limits available habitat. Habitat change due to fire suppression and competition with introduced species are also significant threats.

[More Info...](#)**Yellow Montane Violet**

Viola praemorsa ssp. praemorsa

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This yellow-flowered perennial occurs from central California to south eastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. It occurs on steep rocky slopes under Garry oak trees and on open grasslands. It grows, flowers and sets seed in spring and early summer, dying back in late summer when drought conditions prevail. Several populations are threatened by habitat destruction. Competition with introduced species and habitat change due to fire suppression are also significant threats. The species is believed extirpated from one site, but population trends at other sites are unknown. The sixteen existing populations range in size from 3 to 45,000 plants.

[More Info...](#)**Contorted Pod Evening-Primrose**

Camissonia contorta

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This sprawling, tap-rooted, annual herb is found on open, dry, sandy locations from California, Nevada and Idaho to British Columbia. Within the Province, it is restricted to a seven small patches on the coastal sand dunes of southern

Vancouver Island and Savary Island. It flowers in April or May, drops seed by June and dies before the onset of summer drought, except in unusually wet years. The total Canadian population is estimated to be 3500-4500 plants and to have declined by 35% in recent years. The primary threats are habitat loss to development, competition with invasive plants and trampling by people.

[More Info...](#)

Coast Microseris

Microseris bigelovii

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small herb is found in California, northern Oregon and in isolated populations on southeast Vancouver Island and Hornby Island. It is found within 50 m of the coast on exposed, south-facing slopes lacking tall vegetation. It often occurs on thin soils that are waterlogged in winter and very dry in summer. The Canadian population numbers 5500 to 6500 plants, occupies six sites, and is believed extirpated from several more.. The primary threats are believed to be habitat loss to development, fire suppression, and invasive plants.

[More Info...](#)

Bearded Owl-clover

Triphysaria versicolor ssp. *versicolor*

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small (to 50 cm), annual plant is found mainly from northern California to southern Oregon, but an isolated group of eight populations is documented from the relatively warm, dry microclimate of the Victoria area. One has been extirpated. The plants occur on exposed points or small coves along the rocky shoreline at less than 10 m above sea level, where they are exposed to high levels of sun, wind, and salt spray. Seeds germinate in vernal pools in April and the plant flowers within weeks. It parasitizes the roots of neighbouring plants. The Canadian populations range in size from 20 to approximately 4,100 individuals and vary greatly in size from year to year. The primary threats are waterfront development, competition from introduced plants, and disturbance in city parks.

[More Info...](#)

Bear's-foot Sanicle

Sanicula arctopoides

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This plant, also known as snake-root sanicle, occurs along the Pacific Coast from central California to British Columbia, where it is confined to the southern tip of Vancouver Island and some small islands around Victoria. Plants are found on dry maritime meadows less than 10 m above sea level where they are exposed to high levels of sun, wind and salt spray. The species is biennial, forming a rosette of succulent leaves and a taproot in the first year and flowering in the spring of the second. Populations of 3 to 6000 plants are found at nine of the 13 sites the species is known from. The remaining populations appear to be extirpated. The major threat is foreshore development on both public and private lands in the Victoria area. Other threats include competition from introduced plant species.

[More Info...](#)

Golden Paintbrush

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	Castilleja levisecta No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This plant was once found along the Pacific Coast from central Oregon to southern Vancouver Island, but only a few populations remain. It occurs on grass-dominated meadows around Victoria and on nearby islands. It is perennial and a root parasite on a variety of host species. Flowering occurs in spring and the plant is dormant by June when drought conditions are common. In Canada, at least five of nine known populations are extirpated. Habitat loss to development activities is the main limiting factor, but trampling and habitat changes due to fire suppression and introduced species are also concerns.

[More Info...](#)

Howell's Tritelleia

Tritelleia howellii

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This perennial herb ranges from northern California to southeastern Vancouver Island, where it occurs on rock outcrops in Garry oak meadows and highly disturbed sites dominated by introduced weeds. It is known from 12 sites in Canada, but is believed extirpated from three of them. Individual sites support from 1 to over 450 plants. The major threat to the species is habitat degradation, loss and fragmentation from urban development. Habitat change through fire suppression and introduced plant species (particularly Scotch broom) are also major concerns. The limited dispersal ability of the species and small size of some populations increases its vulnerability to all threats and raises issues of inbreeding depression.

[More Info...](#)

Kellogg's Rush

Juncus kelloggii

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This tiny annual is distributed from northern California through the Columbia Basin in Oregon and Washington, with a single outlying population occurring in a municipal park in Victoria. It requires sites that are moist or wet in winter and spring, but dry up during the summer. The Victoria population remained stable, at several hundred plants, between 1985 and 2001. Threats include trampling by park users and any activity that alters the local site hydrology.

[More Info...](#)

Macoun's Meadowfoam

Limnanthes macounii

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Threatened	SARA	Schedule 1		

This inconspicuous annual was believed endemic to southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, but additional populations were recently discovered in northern California. Meadowfoam occurs close to the ocean in open Garry oak or Douglas fir forest on sites that are wet or flooded during winter and spring when the plant is growing, but become very dry in summer. Roosting sites of sea birds, which are acidic and extremely rich in nutrients, are also favoured. The plant dies in June after producing seeds, which germinate after the first fall rains. Several historical populations have been

extirpated, but population size and trends are not well known. Habitat destruction and modification through urban and commercial development is the major threat facing the species, although collecting and climatic extremes are also concerns.

[More Info...](#)

Phantom Orchid

Cephalanthera austiniae

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Threatened	SARA	Schedule 1		

This unusual plant is leafless, almost completely white, and obtains nutrients from a partnership with a fungus and a tree species rather than from photosynthesis. It occurs in California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and British Columbia, where it is restricted to southeastern Vancouver Island, Saltspring Island, and the Chilliwack area of the Fraser Valley. It usually grows in mature or old growth mixed or deciduous forests with little or no groundcover, but can persist in denser vegetation. Plants exhibit dormancy under suitable conditions. While several populations and subpopulations have been lost over the past decade, additional ones have been found. The species may be overlooked in years when fewer flowering stems are produced. Habitat loss due to urban or agricultural development is a major threat to the species.

[More Info...](#)

Small-flowered Tonella

Tonella tenella

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This short (5-25 cm), slender annual herb occurs from central California to southern Washington, with an isolated population on the west side of Saltspring Island in British Columbia. There it is found on west facing, stable, talus slopes under mixed, open forest. The greatest threat to the Saltspring population is housing development on the site, although habitat change due to fire suppression and invasion by introduced plants are also concerns.

[More Info...](#)

Streambank Lupine

Lupinus rivularis

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This multi-stemmed, blue flowered perennial is found along the Pacific Coast from northern California to southern British Columbia, where it is confined to the lower Fraser Valley (5 populations) and southern Vancouver Island (1 population). It is found in sandy, gravelly soil on river floodplains close to the coast. Sites have sparse vegetation and some flood frequently. The known populations range in size from one to 100 plants. Widespread dyking and industrial development in the lower Fraser Valley has likely reduced abundance and range from historical levels. Herbicide spraying, collecting, predation by introduced insects, and hybridization with other lupines are also significant threats.

[More Info...](#)

Tall Woolly-heads

Psilocarphus elatior

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified	No
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				Wildlife	
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small annual occurs from northern California through Oregon, Idaho and Washington to southern Vancouver Island. It is found in the dried beds of vernal pools and other moist sites in open forest. It still occurs at six of the eleven known sites in British Columbia. Threats include habitat destruction and fragmentation by development activities, trampling in municipal parks and changes in hydrology due to agricultural activities.

[More Info...](#)

Vancouver Island Beggarticks

Bidens amplissima

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Special Concern	SARA	Schedule 1		

This tall, multi-branched annual herb occurs in Washington and British Columbia, where it is found in the lower Fraser Valley, and on southern Vancouver Island. It is typically found in shallow shoreline areas of ponds, lake margins, bogs and in intertidal zones. Some populations fluctuate widely, and are dependent on high winter water levels and summer drawdown that exposes suitable soils for germination. The major threat to the species is habitat loss and fragmentation from urban development and agricultural activities. Trampling in publicly accessible areas is also a problem.

[More Info...](#)

Water-plantain Buttercup

Ranunculus alismifolius var. *alismifolius*

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This buttercup occurs in northern California through Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia, where it occurs at two sites. One is on southern Vancouver Island, in a Victoria park and one is on Ballenas Island near Nanaimo. The plant occurs on wet lowland meadows containing Garry Oak. It germinates, flowers and sets seed in the spring and early summer, dying back in July, when drought conditions prevail. Residential development on meadowland has eliminated most available habitat. Threats to existing populations include trampling, habitat change due to fire suppression, introduced species, and inappropriate park maintenance activities.

[More Info...](#)

Muhlenberg's Centaury

Centaureum muehlenbergii

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This dainty, purple flowered herb is found in moist meadows and open forest below 500 m elevation. It occurs from California and western Nevada, north to Idaho and British Columbia. It is believed extirpated from Washington State and limited to three small, isolated sites on southern Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. The total Canadian population numbers less than 1000 plants. Threats include competition with invasive plants and trampling by humans.

[More Info...](#)

Smooth Goldfields

Lasthenia glaberrima

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small herb is found west of the Cascade Mountains from Central California to southern Washington. A single isolated population was found on southern Vancouver Island in 2003. The plant prefers wet, often muddy streambanks and vernal pools and flowers from June to July. The BC population contained 180 plants, all in 4 square meters of vernal pool. The patch does not appear imminently threatened, but its small size and isolation leaves it extremely vulnerable to chance events. Its location near regional park trail leaves it vulnerable to trampling and invasive plant introduction.

[More Info...](#)

California Buttercup

Ranunculus californicus

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	None		

This slender perennial is found on exposed coastal sites from California to southern Vancouver Island, where it is known only from a handful of Victoria area sites. It readily hybridizes with the western buttercup, *R. occidentalis*. Threats include trampling by unauthorized visitors at some sites and the planned enlargement of communications towers at another.

[More Info...](#)

Gray's Desert Parsley

Lomatium grayi

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Threatened	SARA	None		

This foul smelling perennial occurs rarely across most of the Western United States, but is known in Canada only from Galiano and Saltspring Islands. It forms a long tap root and grows on open, dry, rocky slopes. Competition with invasive plants is considered the primary threat.

[More Info...](#)

Angled Bitter-cress

Cardamine angulata

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This medium sized (to 70 cm) perennial herb is found along the Pacific coast and Islands from southern Alaska to Northern California. It grows in unbranched stems from rhizomes and is found in cool, moist woods, forested wetlands, and along riverbanks at a range of elevations. Loss of forest, riparian and wetland habitats to forestry activities and urban or agricultural development are likely the main threats.

[More Info...](#)

Lindley's Microseris

Uropappus lindleyi

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This yellow-flowered annual excretes white, milky sap when broken and takes its name from its dandelion-like seed head. It is found from California and New Mexico north to Idaho, Washington and British Columbia. Within the Province, it is limited to 5 small sites on the Gulf Islands, but was previously known from southeastern Vancouver Island. The plant occurs on grassy, rocky bluffs. The primary threats are housing development and competition with invasive plants. The plant's taxonomic status is under debate and it is listed as *Microseris lindeyi* by many sources.

[More Info...](#)

Mountain Sneezeweed

Helenium autumnale var. *grandiflorum*

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This showy, yellow-flowered perennial grows to 120 cm and is found from the Northwest Territories south through Alberta and British Columbia to northern California. It is one of several varieties of the species, which is found across the continental United States and southern Canada. Another smaller variety (*H. a. montanum*) is fairly common in the Province. It grows on moist stream banks, meadows and forest openings from low to mid elevations. It is known to be fatally poisonous to livestock. Loss of riparian and wetland habitats to urban and agricultural development are likely the main threats.

[More Info...](#)

Two-edged Water-starwort

Callitriche heterophylla ssp. *heterophylla*

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This leafy-stemmed, branching, aquatic perennial has small round floating leaves and longer linear ones underwater. It is known from across North America, and is one of several similar species and subspecies of water-starworts found in British Columbia. Among its closest relatives are the only plants known to use aerial, floating and underwater pollination. It grows from mud bottoms of slow-moving streams, shallow ponds, and shorelines and provides important habitat for aquatic insects, fish, and amphibians. Threats include stream dredging and competition with introduced species, often exacerbated by nutrient loading from urban and agricultural sources.

[More Info...](#)

Nodding Semaphoregrass

Pleuropogon refractus

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This perennial grass reaches 150 cm in height and is found from California to British Columbia, where it is limited to Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland. It grows on rich soils in wetlands, floodplains and forest opening at low to mid elevations. Loss and degradation of riparian and wetland habitats to urban and agricultural development are probably the main threats.

[More Info...](#)

Oakes' pondweed

Potamogeton oakesianus

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This branched, aquatic perennial may grow to 100 cm in length. It is found primarily in eastern Canada (Ontario to Newfoundland), New England, and in states bordering the Great Lakes. Three isolated populations are known in British Columbia. It grows in quiet, usually acidic, waters of lakes, bogs and ponds at low to mid elevations. Submerged leaves are firm, cylindrical stalks while floating leaves are oval-shaped. Like other pondweeds, it provides an important food source for waterfowl and excellent cover for fish and amphibians. Loss and degradation of wetland and lake habitats to urban and agricultural development are probably the main threats. Competition with introduced plants may also be a concern.

[More Info...](#)

California-tea

Rupertia physodes

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This perennial reaches 80 cm in height and is found from California and Idaho north to British Columbia, where it is limited to southern Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley. It has yellowish-green flowers and produces small golden-red pods. The plants grow in open forests at low elevations. Forest loss and degradation to logging and urban and agricultural development are likely the major threats.

[More Info...](#)

Foothill Sedge

Carex tumulicola

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This perennial sedge is widespread in Washington, Oregon and California, where it is known for its wide tolerance of environmental conditions and is used in horticultural. In British Columbia the species is known from 10 highly fragmented sites on southern Vancouver Island. The total population numbers less than 1000 plants. The foothill sedge typically occupies sites that are too wet for shrubs in winter, but too dry for most wetland plants during summer. Most are associated with Garry oak or maritime meadow habitats. Competition and habitat degradation from introduced plants is

the primary threat, but fire suppression, urbanization, trampling and mowing are also concerns.

[More Info...](#)

Small Spike-rush

Eleocharis parvula

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This tiny (to 7 cm) sedge is found across most of North America and parts of Europe and Africa. It grows in coastal salt marshes, mudflats and sandy shores. It prefers saline soils and is rare and local in freshwater habitats across its large range. Loss of riparian and wetland habitats to shoreline, urban and agricultural development are likely the main threats. Changes in flooding regime, changes in soil salinity and competition with introduced species may also be concerns.

[More Info...](#)

Pacific Waterleaf

Hydrophyllum tenuipes

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This small perennial herb has very distinctive leaves and is known from California to British Columbia, where it is limited to a few sites in the Fraser Valley and southern Vancouver Island. It grows on moist sites, often along stream banks, in mature to old mixed or deciduous forest at low elevations. The major threat is habitat loss and degradation to urban and agricultural development.

[More Info...](#)

Scalepod

Idahoia scapigera

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This delicate annual herb grows from a slender taproot is found from California and Nevada north to Montana and southern British Columbia. It grows on moist meadows, seepages, and dry rocky slopes, at low to mid elevations. Loss of habitat to urban development is probably the major threat.

[More Info...](#)

Nuttall's Quillwort

Isoetes nuttallii

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

Quillworts are an ancient group of plants that reproduce with spores, like ferns. This small perennial is found from California to British Columbia, where it is limited to south eastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the adjacent mainland. It grows on seasonally wet sites, typically vernal pools, ephemeral stream beds and winter seepage sites, at low elevations. The major threat is habitat loss and degradation to urban and agricultural development.

[More Info...](#)**Grey Beach Peavine***Lathyrus littoralis*

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This sprawling perennial herb grows on coastal dunes and sand beaches from northern California to Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and Haida Gwaii. It is only known from about a dozen locations in the Province. It may be poisonous, as some closely related species are known to be. The major threat is stabilization of sand dunes by invasive plant species or development activities.

[More Info...](#)**Slender Popcornflower***Plagiobothrys tenellus*

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Threatened	SARA	None		

This multi-stemmed, tap-rooted annual reaches 25 cm in height. It is found from Baja California north through Idaho and Utah to British Columbia, where it is limited to southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. It grows on coastal bluffs and tolerates saline soils. The primary threat is likely habitat loss to development.

[More Info...](#)**Pointed Broom Sedge***Carex scoparia*

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This tall (to 100 cm) perennial occurs over most of southern Canada and the continental United States, but more sporadically in the west. It grows in moist to wet ditches, lakeshores, marshes and meadows from lowland to mid elevations. It is difficult to differentiate from a number of other species and, like other sedges, provides valuable food for wildlife, particularly waterfowl.

[More Info...](#)**Spring Hornwort***Ceratophyllum echinatum*

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This feathery aquatic herb lacks roots, but sometimes anchors itself in the sediment using modified leaves. It is known from most of eastern North America and separately from the Pacific Northwest. Within British Columbia, it is locally abundant on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, but rare in the lower Fraser Valley. It is believed extirpated from Oregon. Plants reproduce vegetatively and may branch to four metres in length. Seemingly large populations in ponds or lakes are often clones of one or a few individuals. The species grows in cold, acidic lakes ponds wetlands and slow moving streams. It is considered a sensitive species and is in decline across much of its range. Loss and degradation of suitable aquatic habitats to urban and agricultural development are probably the main threats. Competition with

introduced species, often exacerbated by nutrient pollution, is also a concern.

[More Info...](#)

Slender-spiked Mannagrass

Glyceria leptostachya

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This perennial grass reaches 100 cm in height and is found from Alaska to California. It grows in brackish tidal marshes, swamps, lakeshores, wetlands and riparian areas at low elevations. It provides excellent forage for waterfowl. Loss of riparian and wetland habitats to urban and agricultural development are likely the main threats.

[More Info...](#)

Henderson's Checker-mallow

Sidalcea hendersonii

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This perennial, tap-rooted herb can reach 150 cm in height. It occurs from Oregon north to British Columbia, where it is limited to southern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and the Fraser Valley. It is currently known from 30 locations in the Province, and others may exist. It has been extirpated from at least 9 locations. Plants grow in coastal estuaries, wet meadows and on mudflats. The major threat is loss of suitable habitat to urban, industrial, and agricultural development. Competition with introduced plant species, including purple loosestrife, is also a threat. Weevil infestation of some Vancouver Island sites has produced dominantly female populations, which may not be unsustainable.

[More Info...](#)

Field Dodder

Cuscuta campestris

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This perennial vine is parasitic on other plants, especially legumes. It occurs over much of the United States and Canada, but is rare in British Columbia. Its leaves are reduced to tiny scales and it grows by, twining itself around neighbouring plants and sticking to them using small suckers. It is native to North America, but has become widespread as a weed in many countries and is listed as invasive in the Province's Weed Control Act (1999).

[More Info...](#)

Heterocodon

Heterocodon rariflorum

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This slender, annual herb grows to 30 cm in height and is found from southern British Columbia to California, Nevada, and Colorado, where it may be extirpated. It grows in wetland and seepage areas at low elevations. Loss of riparian and wetland habitats to urban and agricultural development are likely the main threats.

[More Info...](#)

Needle-leaved Navarretia

Navarretia intertexta

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This annual, tap-rooted herb reaches 20 cm in height. It is known from California and New Mexico north to Saskatchewan and British Columbia, where it is limited to the Fraser Valley and the Thompson Plateau. It grows in moist grasslands, meadows, vernal pools, wet forests and shrub steppe from low to mid elevations. Loss and degradation of suitable habitats to urban and agricultural development are probably the main threats.

[More Info...](#)

Poison Oak

Toxicodendron diversilobum

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

The oils of this plant are well known for causing itching, burning rashes in many people. It is known from Baja California and Nevada north to British Columbia, where it is limited to south eastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and Howe Sound. Plants are variable in appearance; growing as deciduous shrubs (0 to 2 m), as vines climbing (up to 15 m) on rock or trees, or as single stems. It typically occur on rocky slopes, and woodlands at low elevations. The Berries are white and the leaves are bright-green in spring, turning scarlet in autumn. Habitat loss and degradation urban and agricultural development are likely the major threats.

[More Info...](#)

Extinct or Extirpated**Vascular Plants****Brook Spike-Primrose**

Epilobium torreyi

BC Status	Red - Extirpated	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small annual is found from northern California and Nevada to British Columbia, where it is restricted to southeastern Vancouver Island's Garry oak ecosystems. It grows on moist grasslands and open slopes, flowering in June or July. It germinates in wet soils, but can withstand the late summer droughts characteristic of southeast Vancouver Island. The species may be extirpated from Canada, as no plants have been found in the two known British Columbia locations since

1993, despite intensive survey efforts. The current endangered status reflects the hope that it may persist in the seed bank of the known sites or that previously overlooked populations exist. Invasive plants, habitat loss to development, and human disturbance are considered the primary threats.

[More Info...](#)

Kincaid's Lupine

Lupinus oreganus var. *kincaidii*

BC Status	Red - Extirpated	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Extirpated	SARA	None		

This lupine was collected from just one site in British Columbia in the 1920s, near Oak Bay. It is now limited to widely scattered remnant grassland habitats west of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington. It is threatened primarily by invasive plant species. Historically, habitat loss and fragmentation caused by agricultural and urban development drove declines.

[More Info...](#)

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