

Alberta's *Wildlife Act* is the provincial legislation that deals with wildlife. Protecting and maintaining suitable habitat is critical in maintaining long-term wildlife health and viability. Similarly, wildlife health is an important indicator of the health of Alberta's environment. The provincial government is committed to conserving wild species and it pays particular attention to those that may be at risk of extinction. Alberta has been involved in programs to identify and restore species at risk for more than 25 years

There are a number of species of plants and animals that are considered to be at risk, may be at risk or are sensitive in Alberta. Below is a list of some of those animals. (Also see *Wetlands Alive* from the poster back for a list of species in general; not necessarily at risk.) Students will have opportunity to research some of Alberta's species at risk (or sensitive or may be at risk) and present their findings in a report.

Alberta produced a report that provides a snapshot of the status of more than 2,800 wild species in the province, entitled *The General Status of Alberta Wild Species 2005*. The report contains assessments for 2,811 species under 10 categories: birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, butterflies, gastropods (e.g., snails), bivalves (e.g., clams), odonates (e.g., dragonflies) and vascular plants (e.g., wild roses). These assessments are based on criteria that include species' population size, distribution and trends, and threats to habitats.

Students can use the list below to choose a plant or animal for an "I Search" report. A more comprehensive listing of species at risk in Alberta can be found at:

<http://esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/species-at-risk/wild-species-status-search.aspx>

Many of the species listed below rely on wetlands.

Birds: American white pelican; black-crowned night-heron; great blue heron; harlequin duck; osprey; peregrine falcon; piping plover; sandhill crane; trumpeter swan; western grebe; white-winged scoter; whooping crane;

Mammals: long-tailed weasel; northern myotis/long-eared bat; vagrant shrew/wandering shrew;

Fish: arctic grayling; bull trout; pygmy whitefish; shortjaw cisco; St. Mary shorthead sculpin; western silvery minnow;

Reptiles/Amphibians/Snails: Banff Springs snail; common/red-sided garter snake; long-toed salamander; northern leopard frog; plains garter snake; plains spadefoot (toad); spotted frog; western (boreal) toad; western painted turtle; western terrestrial/wandering garter snake.

Plants: bog adder's mouth (orchid); crested shield fern; hairy water fern/hairy pepperwort; mountain bladder fern; pink lady's slipper/stemless lady's slipper; western blue flag; white bog orchid/tall white bog orchid.

Name:	Subject: Wetlands
Alberta species:	Date:

Species at Risk

What K Know	What W I Want to Learn	What L Learned