

Question & Answer Sheet

What's your status? A look at the most recent results of ranking and status assessments from around the Network

Virtual BWB · 5/14/2020

QUESTION	ANSWER(S)
How is the rank data used for legal protection status?	The General Status program identifies the species that may be at risk in Canada. The "may be at risk" species can be assessed in more details by COSEWIC, which is an independent committee of experts that provides recommendations to the federal Minister of Environment, who can add the species for legal protection under the Species at Risk Act.
Was there a specific funding source for this project? (Arkansas project)	No. This project has been done by myself and Brian Wagner (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission) as part of our regular duties. One thing I didn't get to mention in the talk is that we typically meet for a full day (around once a week for the last couple of years) and often during field season we use the meetings as a springboard to plan fieldwork specifically to fill gaps in our crayfish data based on what we discuss at the meetings. It dovetails nicely with the work we are doing anyway.
For Remi Hebert - can you clarify about the national ranking in Canada, you mentioned that if in BC the species is doing fine then the national ranking will be secure (this was my understanding). 1) what if the species is not secure in a different region, would a status of secure be misleading to the state of the species? 2) is there any consideration of genetic diversity of the species across the country when ranking? So is the moose in BC, genetically the same as the ones in nova scotia? Is that considered prior to ranking? Or do they get lumped in together when ranking nationally?	Hello Courtney! Thank you for your message! The rules that we have developed over the years cover all situations. For example, if a species is secure in a provinces, yes we can say that the species is secure at the national level because the species is secure at least somewhere in Canada! Usually in general, the national rank is thus based on the most secure regional rank. When the species are more at risk in all the regions, the national rank is also more at risk. For your second question on genetic diversity, we do our assessments only at the species level (because we assess so many species!). The genetic differences (or subspecies) are taken into account when assessed by the COSEWIC committee, who is doing more detailed assessments.
How do you decide which s3 plants you track?	The decision to track or not track S3 species is determined by the Natural Heritage Botanist. It essentially comes down to how many records we have in the database and the status of those populations. Typically, we stop tracking an S3 when we have over 100 occurrences or if new records are coming in frequently and found easily enough that indicates waiting for 100 occurrences to show up would be a waste of time.
Great to see the IUCN system being used for ecosystems, how about using their criteria at the species level?	We are engaged in red listing North American species, especially for plants, but I'd direct you to Bruce Young and Anne Francis for details.

Hi Pat, thanks for the presentation. The RL of ecosystems data would be valuable to inform g-ranking. Are your results available anywhere? Thanks!

What is the cutoff or types of criteria used to track s3 species vs. Not in Missouri?

One of our biggest challenges for status ranking is the amount of time it takes to aggregate the data. I'd be interested in hearing the strategies other programs use to increase efficiency of large ranking efforts. Thanks!

We've been publishing components of the analysis and are aiming to publish overall findings shortly. All data sets are either available or will become available over the coming months. Meanwhile, reach out to Pat for specifics: pat_comer@natureserve.org

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Speaking only ecosystems, this is why we've partnered nationally with federal agencies to develop data sets for distribution and condition. There are economies of scale that lead to that scale of operation for ecosystem data. These can then be complemented by state/local data sets to get the best measurement.