

Response Statement - Eastern Box Turtle

December XX, 2015

Common Name: Eastern Box Turtle
Scientific Name: *Terrapene carolina*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Extirpated

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Eastern Box Turtle to the Governor in Council as soon as possible following completion of the normal consultation period and analysis as appropriate. During the normal consultation period, the Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Ontario, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Eastern Box Turtle should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Extirpated.

Once a species has been assessed by COSEWIC, further steps must be undertaken before it is added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information on this process, please view [The Species Listing Process Under SARA](#).

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This turtle occurred historically in Ontario based on archeological evidence and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. Habitat modification has been extensive and the species is no longer extant. Considerable search effort has documented fewer than 10 individuals in Ontario, but these individuals all represent released captive individuals from unknown sources and are not considered part of the former Canadian population.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):
Minister of Environment

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:
Ontario

Applicable federal legislation: When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation.