Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada

Multi species, site-based plans: Parks Canada's approach to Species-at-Risk action planning

Species of Common Conservation Concern
Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management
Ottawa

May 17, 2016




Outline

Introduction to Parks Canada Agency

Parks Canada and Species-at-Risk

Multi species, site-based action planning

- approach, tools, outputs

Implementation of recovery actions

Case Studies

Q & A

Parks Canada Mandate

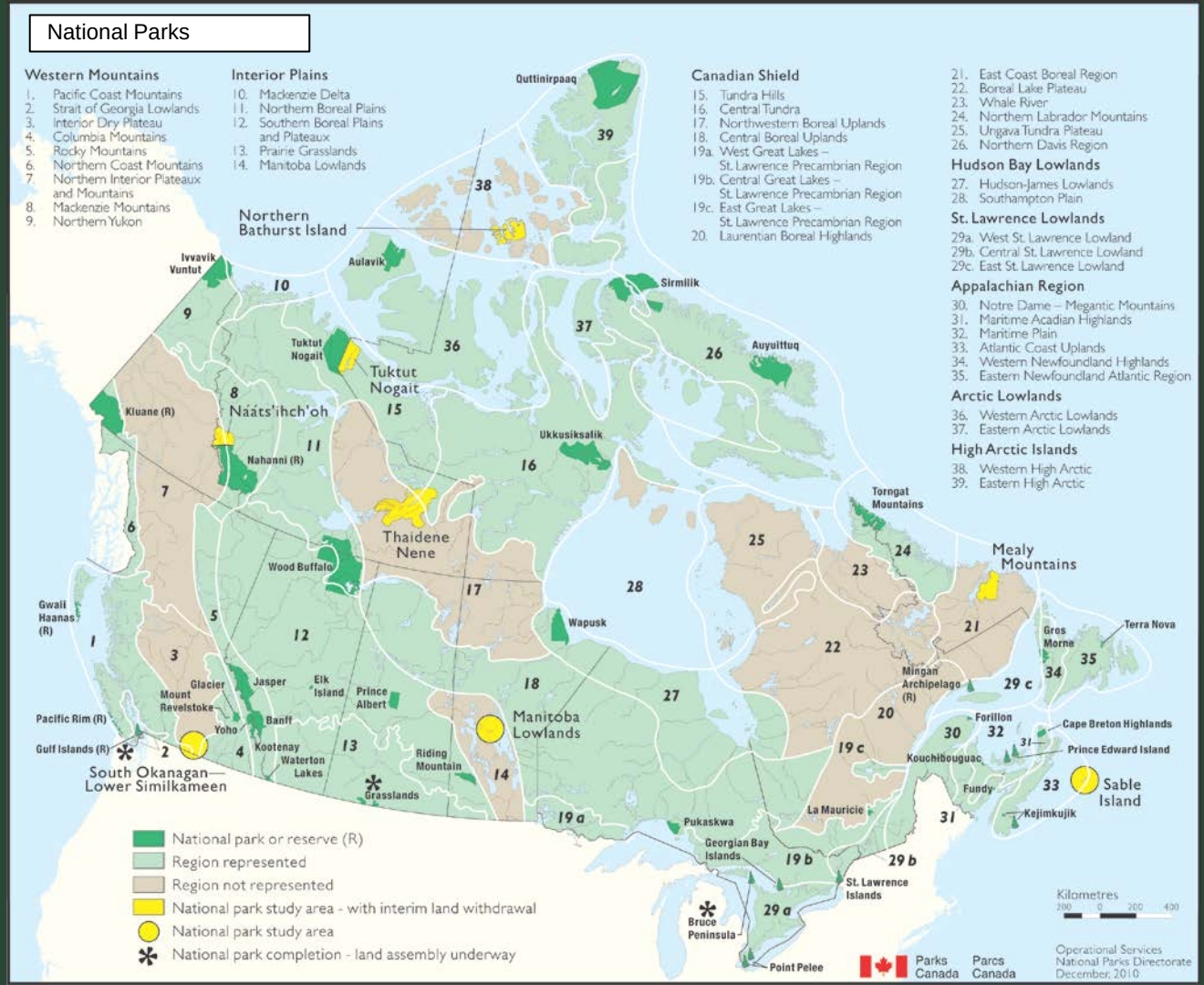
“On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada’s natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.”

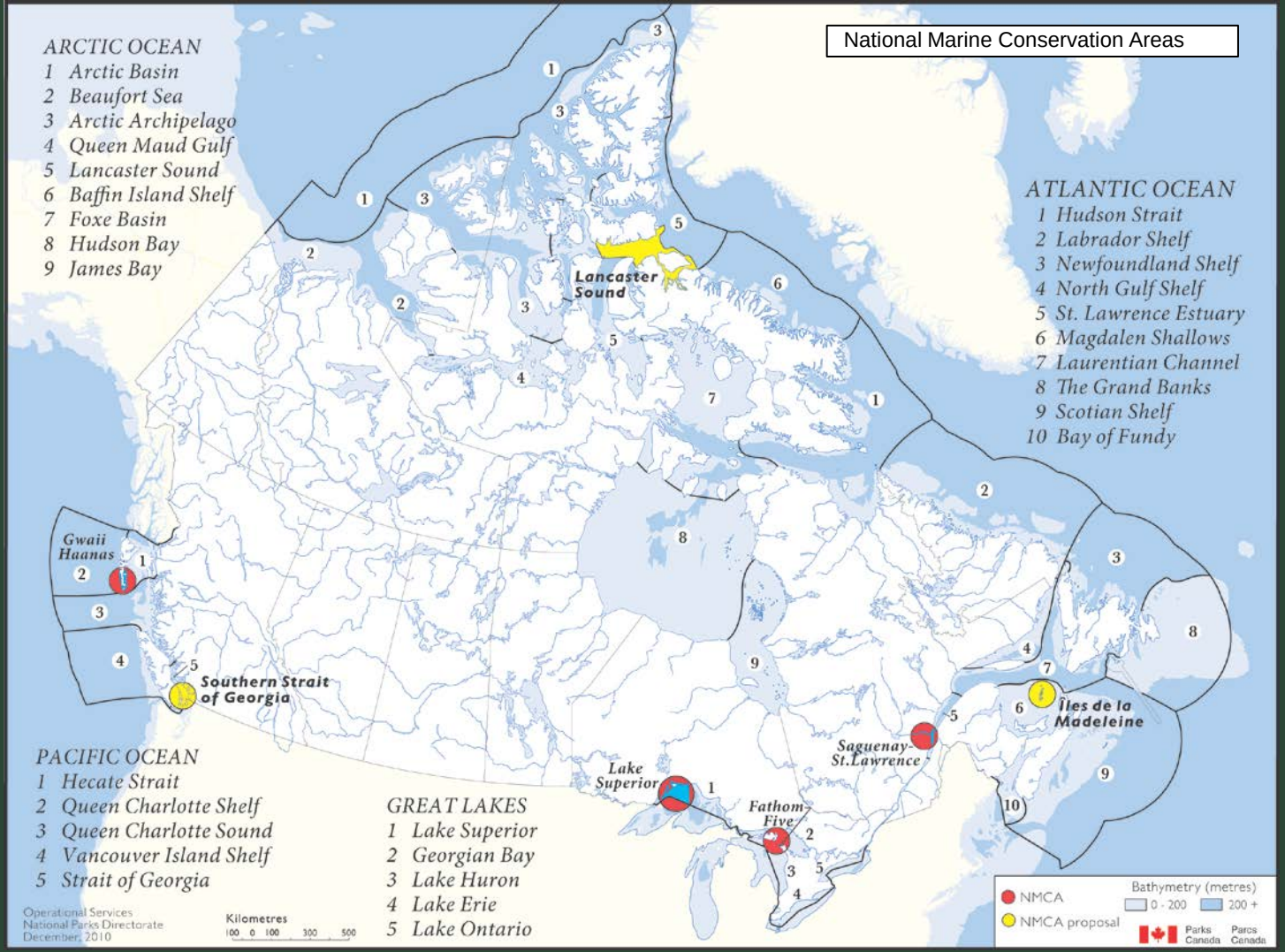
Parks Canada Agency

An operational land management agency of >200 protected areas:

- 46 National Parks = >300,000 km^2 = 3% of Canada
- 4 National Marine Conservation Areas = ~15,000 km^2
- 168 National Historic Sites

Canada National Parks Act (CNPA), *National Marine Conservation Areas Act (NMCA), Species at Risk Act (SARA)*


National Parks
Western Mountains
1. Pacific Coast Mountains
2. Strait of Georgia Lowlands
3. Interior Dry Plateau
4. Columbia Mountains
5. Rocky Mountains
6. Northern Coast Mountains
7. Northern Interior Plateaux and Mountains
8. Mackenzie Mountains
9. Northern Yukon
Interior Plains
10. Mackenzie Delta
11. Northern Boreal Plains
12. Southern Boreal Plains and Plateaux
13. Prairie Grasslands
14. Manitoba Lowlands
Canadian Shield
15. Tundra Hills
16. Central Tundra
17. Northwestern Boreal Uplands
18. Central Boreal Uplands
19a. West Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Precambrian Region
19b. Central Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Precambrian Region
19c. East Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Precambrian Region
20. Laurentian Boreal Highlands
21. East Coast Boreal Region
22. Boreal Lake Plateau
23. Whale River
24. Northern Labrador Mountains
25. Ungava Tundra Plateau
26. Northern Davis Region
Hudson Bay Lowlands
27. Hudson-James Lowlands
28. Southampton Plain
St. Lawrence Lowlands
29a. West St. Lawrence Lowland
29b. Central St. Lawrence Lowland
29c. East St. Lawrence Lowland
Appalachian Region
30. Notre Dame – Megantic Mountains
31. Maritime Acadian Highlands
32. Maritime Plain
33. Atlantic Coast Uplands
34. Western Newfoundland Highlands
35. Eastern Newfoundland Atlantic Region
Arctic Lowlands
36. Western Arctic Lowlands
37. Eastern Arctic Lowlands
High Arctic Islands
38. Western High Arctic
39. Eastern High Arctic
Quttinirpaaq
Northern Bathurst Island
Aulavik
Ivvavik
Vuntut
Sirmilik
Auyuittuq
Tuktut Nogait
Kluane (R)
Nahanni (R)
Ukkusiksalik
Torngat Mountains
Thaidene Nene
Wood Buffalo
Mealy Mountains
Gwaii Haanas (R)
Wapusk
Terra Nova
Gros Morne
Mingan Archipelago (R)
Glacier
Mount Revelstoke
Jasper
Elk Island
Prince Albert
Manitoba Lowlands
Forillon
Cape Breton Highlands
Pacific Rim (R)
Yoho
Banff
Kootenay
Waterton Lakes
Riding Mountain
Kouchibouguac
Prince Edward Island
Gulf Islands (R)
South Okanagan—Lower Similkameen
Grasslands
Fundy
Sable Island
La Mauricie
Kejimkujik
Pukaskwa
Georgian Bay Islands
St. Lawrence Islands
Bruce Peninsula
Point Pelee
National park or reserve (R)
Region represented
Region not represented
National park study area - with interim land withdrawal
National park study area
National park completion - land assembly underway
Kilometres
200 0 200 400
Parks Canada
Parcs Canada
Operational Services
National Parks Directorate
December, 2010


National Marine Conservation Areas
ARCTIC OCEAN
1 Arctic Basin
2 Beaufort Sea
3 Arctic Archipelago
4 Queen Maud Gulf
5 Lancaster Sound
6 Baffin Island Shelf
7 Foxe Basin
8 Hudson Bay
9 James Bay
ATLANTIC OCEAN
1 Hudson Strait
2 Labrador Shelf
3 Newfoundland Shelf
4 North Gulf Shelf
5 St. Lawrence Estuary
6 Magdalen Shallows
7 Laurentian Channel
8 The Grand Banks
9 Scotian Shelf
10 Bay of Fundy
Lancaster Sound
Gwaii Haanas
Southern Strait of Georgia
Îles de la Madeleine
Saguenay-St.Lawrence
Lake Superior
Fathom Five
PACIFIC OCEAN
1 Hecate Strait
2 Queen Charlotte Shelf
3 Queen Charlotte Sound
4 Vancouver Island Shelf
5 Strait of Georgia
GREAT LAKES
1 Lake Superior
2 Georgian Bay
3 Lake Huron
4 Lake Erie
5 Lake Ontario
Operational Services
National Parks Directorate
December, 2010
Kilometres
100 0 100 300 500
NMCA
NMCA proposal
Bathymetry (metres)
0 - 200
200 +
Parks Canada
Parcs Canada


National Historic Sites
Yukon
Whitehorse
Northwest Territories
Yellowknife
Nunavut
Iqaluit
British Columbia
Victoria
Alberta
Edmonton
Saskatchewan
Regina
Manitoba
Winnipeg
Ontario
Toronto
Ottawa
Québec
Quebec
Montreal
Newfoundland and Labrador
St. John's
P. E. I.
N. B.
Fredericton
Nova Scotia
Halifax
0 100 200 300 400 500
Kilometres
October 2010

In Partnership with Indigenous Peoples

- PCA's works with 300+ Indigenous communities across Canada
- 68% of the federal crown lands are managed under formal or informal Indigenous advisory relationship
- Cooperative management, land claim agreements, advisory bodies
- 15 National Park Reserves
- Indigenous Cultural Landscapes

Public engagement

- ~20 million visits to PCA sites annually
- Provide opportunities to learn and experience
- Resources for public engagement and visitor experience programs
- PCA has a unique opportunity to promote public awareness, appreciation, and engagement for species at risk recovery

Red Bay National Historic Site

La Mauricie National Park

Parks Canada and SAR

Species at Risk Act (SARA)

"to prevent species from being extirpated or becoming extinct and to provide for recovery of species at risk"

- Prohibits killing or harming of listed species on federal lands
- Requires development of national recovery strategies and actions plans
- Identify threats to species and habitat, population and distribution objectives for survival and recovery, critical habitat

Canada National Parks Act (CNPA)

- Maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity
- Provides protection for Species at Risk

Why a multi species site-based approach?

- Parks Canada's unique capacity as a land manager to contribute to species recovery – lead by example
- Sets species recovery in context of agency legislation, mandate and management regime
- Offers focused, effective and efficient guidance in a ***multi-use landscape***
- Integrates SAR recovery with ecosystem management, ecological monitoring, education and outreach programs

Red Knots (rufa)
Gros Morne Ntional Park

Scope of PCA Action plans

- Apply only to federal lands administered by Parks Canada
- Usually for a single Protected Heritage Area (PHA), e.g. a national park
- May cover multiple PHAs (e.g., adjacent National Historic Sites)

Which species will be addressed?

- SARA Schedule 1 *threatened*, *endangered*, or *extirpated* species at site for which a recovery strategy has been prepared

- Also address other species of conservation concern
  - Other SARA Schedule 1 species (special concern)
  - COSEWIC-assessed species
  - Provincially listed species
  - Species of significance to Indigenous peoples

Ivory Gull
Gros Morne National Park

Site Analysis - Process

- Proposed recovery measures
- Site-level influence
- Site analysis via 2-4 day workshop
- Range of perspectives
  - national SAR team
  - site ecologists
  - monitoring staff
  - cross-functional managers
- Cooperative management partners

Site Analysis - Process

1. Assess ***potential*** of site to contribute to the national recovery of each ***species***

2. Set site-specific ***population & distribution objectives*** for each species and identify associated monitoring needs [site objectives are based on recovery strategy objectives where available]

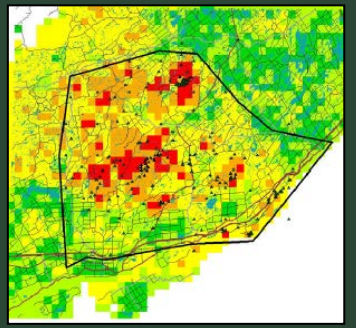
Site Analysis - steps

3. Refine and prioritize ***recovery activities*** according to potential of site to contribute to species recovery, legal need, biological benefits, benefit to other SAR, and degree to which it addresses integrated Parks Canada Agency goals



Site Analysis - steps

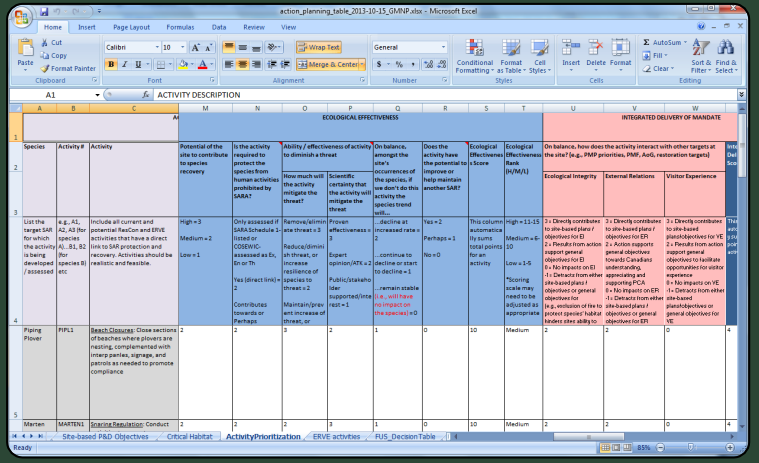
4. Identification of any proposed critical habitat

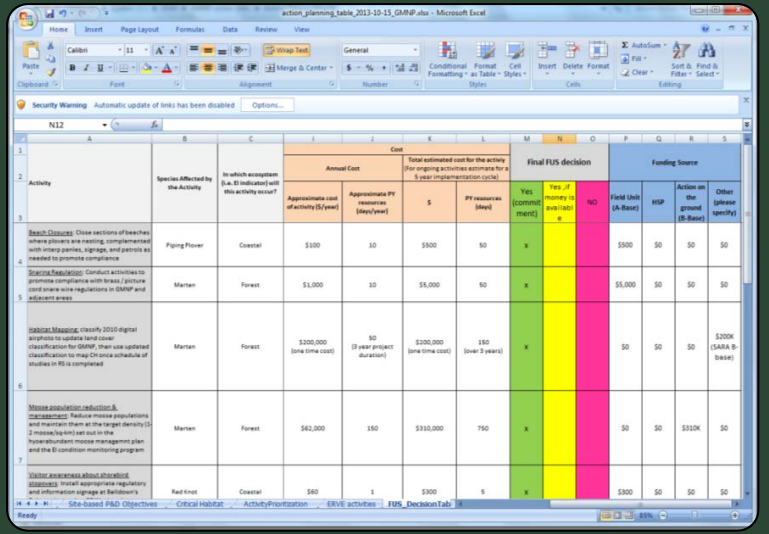


5. Refine and prioritize ***visitor, education*** and ***outreach activities***

Tools: site analysis workbook

- Facilitates standardised, objective development of action plans across country
- Worksheets for:
  - Assessing potential of site to contribute to species' recovery
  - Development of Population & Distribution objectives
  - Evaluation of recovery activities
  - Development of visitor, education and outreach activities
  - Identification of critical habitat
  - Decisions about commitment & resourcing





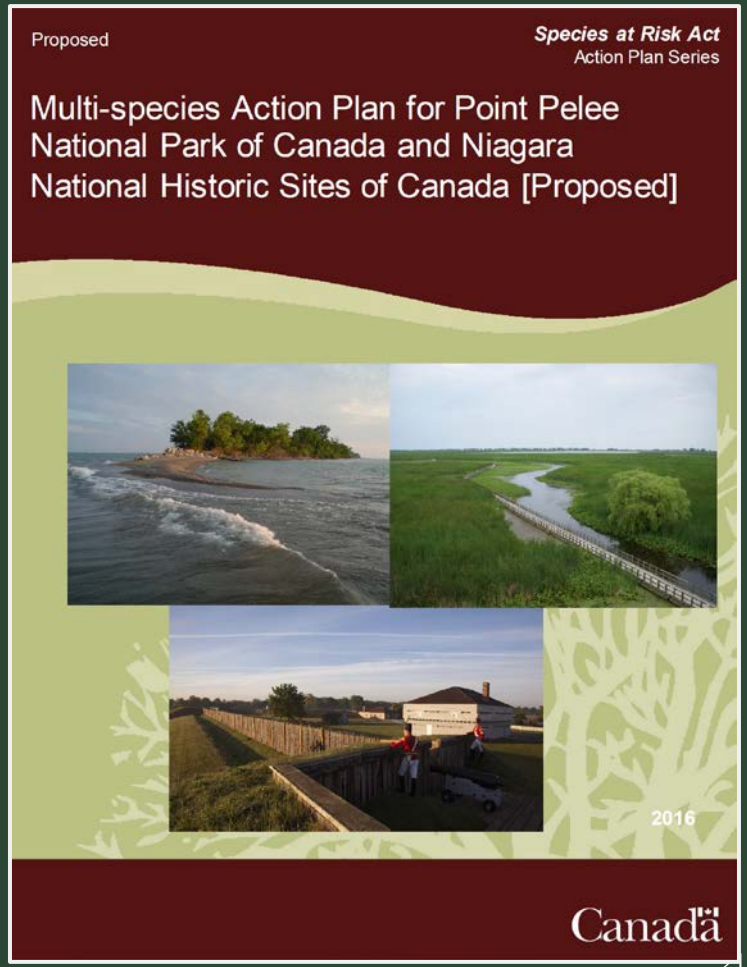
What's the output?

- Meets SARA legal requirements
- Addresses needs of all species of conservation concern
- Tailored to site operations, capacity and resources
- Aligns with PCA's legislation, mandate, priorities and management regime
- Prescriptive in terms of timelines, resourcing, responsibilities and accountability
- Identifies high priority recovery measures where partners are needed

American Eel interpretive program, Fundy National Park

The action plan thus provides a clear, prioritized path forward for species recovery at site

- SARA plan for 39 SAR (endangered or threatened)
- 15 other SAR, 8 COSEWIC assessed,1 other
- Focused and efficient:
    - 26 recovery measures committed to
    - 14 additional measures where opportunities for partnerships are identified
- Identifies critical habitat
- Clear links to park management plan and PCA's restoration priorities
- Monitoring needs clearly identified



Implementation - CoRe

Conservation & Restoration (CoRe) program
- $84 million over 5 years
- Currently 33 projects across 17 protected areas

Linked to agency monitoring program for ecological integrity

Highest priority actions for conservation gains supported
- directly linked to PCA's SARA action plans and site analysis

Promotes use of Parks Canada's Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration (adopted by IUCN) and supports multi-disciplinary communities of practice – best practices

Effective, Efficient, Engaging

SAR Trees - Point Pelee

Red Mulberry (EN) & Butternut (EN)

Project Goal: *Maintain the current status of the park's species at risk tree populations and prevent further decline in their population sizes*

Genetic research, controlled pollination, seed collection and propagation to increase population

Removal of invasive white mulberry from red mulberry critical habitat

Media strategy

Pine Recovery – Mountain National Parks

Whitebark Pine (EN) & Limber Pine

Project Goal*: Arrest decline in whitebark pine and limber pine and restore populations that allow persistence of the species in the mountain parks*

Conservation of genetic diversity

- Identification of blister rust resistant trees for seed source (caging, cone collection, disease testing)
- Restoration treatments (fire and planting)
- School-based “adopt a tree” program
- Geocaching linked to whitebark or limber pine stands in parks

Species Recovery at PCA – Summary

Parks Canada's approach to multi-species, site-based action planning:

- Meets legal requirements
- Encourages engagement across agency functions
- Reduces administration in planning
- Coordinates species recovery actions and reporting
- Reflects agency's mandate, legislation and operational realities
- Efficient and pragmatic – directs resources where they are most needed
- Identifies priorities for partnerships
- Linked to conservation gains on the ground

A pragmatic, cost effective planning model that support SAR recovery on a multi-use land base




Questions?