

Save Ontario Species

The provincial government plans to amend the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA). Here are our top 10 concerns.

1. “Pay to Slay”

Allow developers and other proponents of harmful activities to pay into a fund in lieu of fulfilling requirements for on-the-ground reparation for damage done.

2. Rejecting Science

Broaden COSSARO membership to include those who may not have adequate expertise in species assessment or may have a different agenda altogether.

3. Limiting Protections

Limit ESA protections so that they apply only in specific geographies or under specific circumstances. This could exclude important habitats and species from protection.

5. Sweeping Authorizations for Harmful Activities

Create “landscape agreements” for proponents undertaking harmful activities in multiple locations.

7. Goodbye to Expert Input

Remove the requirement for the Minister to consult with an independent expert prior to creating regulations that would jeopardize the survival of a species in Ontario.

9. Interfering with the Listing of Species at Risk

Allow the Minister to require COSSARO to reconsider its science-based listing decisions.

10. Delays, Delays, Delays

Multiple delays are proposed for the listing, planning and reporting on species at risk, undermining species recovery.

4. Deserting “Edge of Range” Species

Require COSSARO to base its assessments not on the status of a species in Ontario, but instead on its status throughout its range. For example, southern Ontario endangered species at the northern limit of their range may receive less or no protection, depending on their status outside Ontario.

6. Dodging Requirements

Allow activities approved under other laws to be carried out without any additional authorizations under the ESA, even if they harm threatened or endangered species or their habitats.

8. Veto of Automatic Protections

Allow the Minister to have greater “discretion on protections,” including suspending protections for up to three years without public consultation.

To find out more information and how you can help, visit:
ontarionature.org/endangered-species