



# **SARA & STEWARDSHIP**

The Canadian  
Electricity Association

CEA-DFO National Workshop  
November 19, 2004  
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## CEA's Focus on Stewardship

- Engaging govt depts to address key issues:
  - Lengthy regulatory timelines & lack of co-ordination between Federal departments
  - Inconsistent definitions across legislation
- MOU with DFO
  - Working on compliance framework
  - Developing interpretation bulletins, training modules
  - Using as example of Smart Regulations in discussions with PCO
- Engaged with CWS in process to implement the Species at Risk Act
- Monitoring Migratory Birds Conventions Act and Navigable Waters Protection Act



## CEA's Environmental Commitment and Responsibility (ECR) Program

- An industry-wide approach to environmental performance reporting for all CEA utility members.
- ECR reporting a condition of CEA membership
- All utilities must have an environmental management system (EMS) in place consistent with the requirements of ISO 14001
- Reporting is independently verified and audited.
- Public Advisory Panel – an expert panel that promotes continual improvement and aligns program with stakeholder's expectations.



# Environmental Commitment and Responsibility (ECR) Program

- **Key Principles** (supported by 16 indicators):
  1. To be more efficient in our use of resources
  2. To reduce the adverse environmental effects of our business
  3. To be accountable to our constituents
  4. To ensure that our employees understand the environmental implications of their actions and have the knowledge and skills to make the right decisions.



## Reducing the adverse environmental effects of our business

- Environmental aspects indicator for fish
- Reports annually on utility efforts to mitigate or reduce any adverse effects of hydroelectric operations on fish and fish habitat.
- Profiles significant fish issues which may, or may not relate to species at risk.



# Reducing the adverse environmental effects of our business

- **Species at Risk and Habitat Stewardship**
- Purpose:
  - To assess/measure utility performance on avoiding and reducing operational effects on species at risk in significant natural areas.
- Goal:
  - To manage operations and activities in a manner that avoids, or minimizes damage to significant natural areas, and most notably, “Species at Risk” and their critical habitats.



# Stewardship

- 3R's – Retain, restore, and replace – applicable for species at risk and for preventing other species from becoming “at risk”.
- Preventative activities include habitat protection and habitat rehabilitation and/or restoration for habitats, communities and species that are declining, but not yet formally listed as “at risk”.
- Implies that we should be sensitive to regional variation in “imperilment” and prioritize habitat management efforts strategically.
- Use available provincial and regional lists of species at risk, including the use of NCC ratings (global and provincial ratings)



# Stewardship Planning

- Act locally, but think regionally or even broader.
- Partnering will increase your effectiveness and build lasting community-based support for your efforts.
- Wildlife Habitat Council Certification – lends third-party credibility for stewardship efforts and provides a “registry” of industry led stewardship programs.
- Share and report your successes (CEA’s ECR Report, utility environment /SD reporting, etc.).



## Proactive Stewardship Benefits:

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- Enables industry to get ahead of the “regulatory wave”.
- Prevents more species from becoming imperiled, a key to Canada’s commitment to conserve biodiversity;
- Reduces long-term business risks – can reduce or prevent the need for formal recovery planning and associated threats to operations.
- Addresses the triple bottom line of sustainable development.



## Stewardship Activities for Species at Risk

- Addresses utility efforts to protect and recover species formally designated as “at risk”, which may be formally supported by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program.
- Engagement of utilities and CEA in formal recovery planning teams.
- Socio-economics, clarity of regulations and reasonableness of enforcement sought.
- Goal – again a win–win–win for environment, society and the economy.



## Species at Risk and Habitat Stewardship examples:

- BC Hydro – a member of the CIJV; helped secure the purchase of the Hofert property, 4,037 ha of significant wildlife habitat in the east Kootenays
- Sask Power – partnering in the Lake Diefenbaker Piping Plover Conservation Plan and a member of the National Recovery Team
- Hydro One – working on recovery of Loggerhead Shrike habitat
- OPG – habitat restoration for forest interior birds
- NB Power – developed a handbook on Migratory Birds Nesting on Rights-of-way



# Stewardship Summary

- Stewardship programs should embrace both preventative actions and formal recovery planning actions for species “at risk”.
- CEA’s Stewardship Initiatives – reported through CEA’s ECR Program
- Possibility of Developing Independent 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Certification of Stewardship Programs – a registry of stewardship activity for the industry
- Smart Regulation – building a broader view on species and habitat legislation in Canada



# Stewardship Summary

- Most (not all) stewardship programs are low-cost and serve to build lasting positive relations with ENGOs, the local community and the regulator.
- Builds positive “brand” as an industry, builds community support and a social license to operate.
- Demonstrates that we can indeed co-exist with nature while providing continual value to society and our economy through the provision of low cost, reliable electricity.