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CONSIDERING CRITICAL HABITAT

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Overview

- General Information
- Update on new Critical Habitat
- How to access the information and mapping
- What Critical Habitat polygons represent
- Destruction of Critical Habitat
- Permitting requirements
- Examples on how it should be considered



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General Information

- CH identification is just one recovery action prescribed under the *Species At Risk Act*
- Province under “*Accord for the Protection of SAR*” agreed to protect and recover terrestrial SAR under their jurisdiction
- Recovery strategies & management plans prepared jointly Province of BC & Federal Government
- Federal government enforcement & permitting only on federal lands, and aquatic species or migratory birds anywhere



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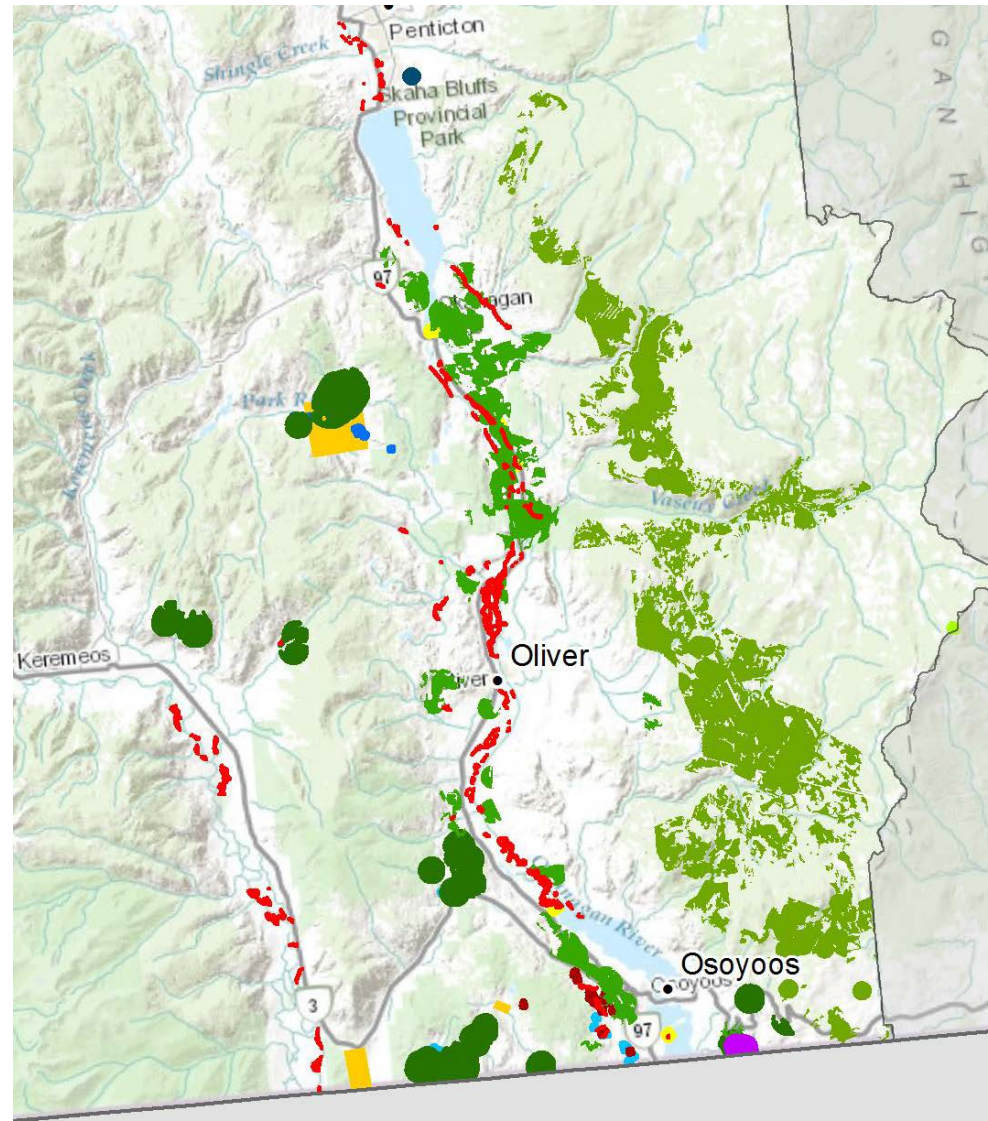
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Updates

Back in 2015

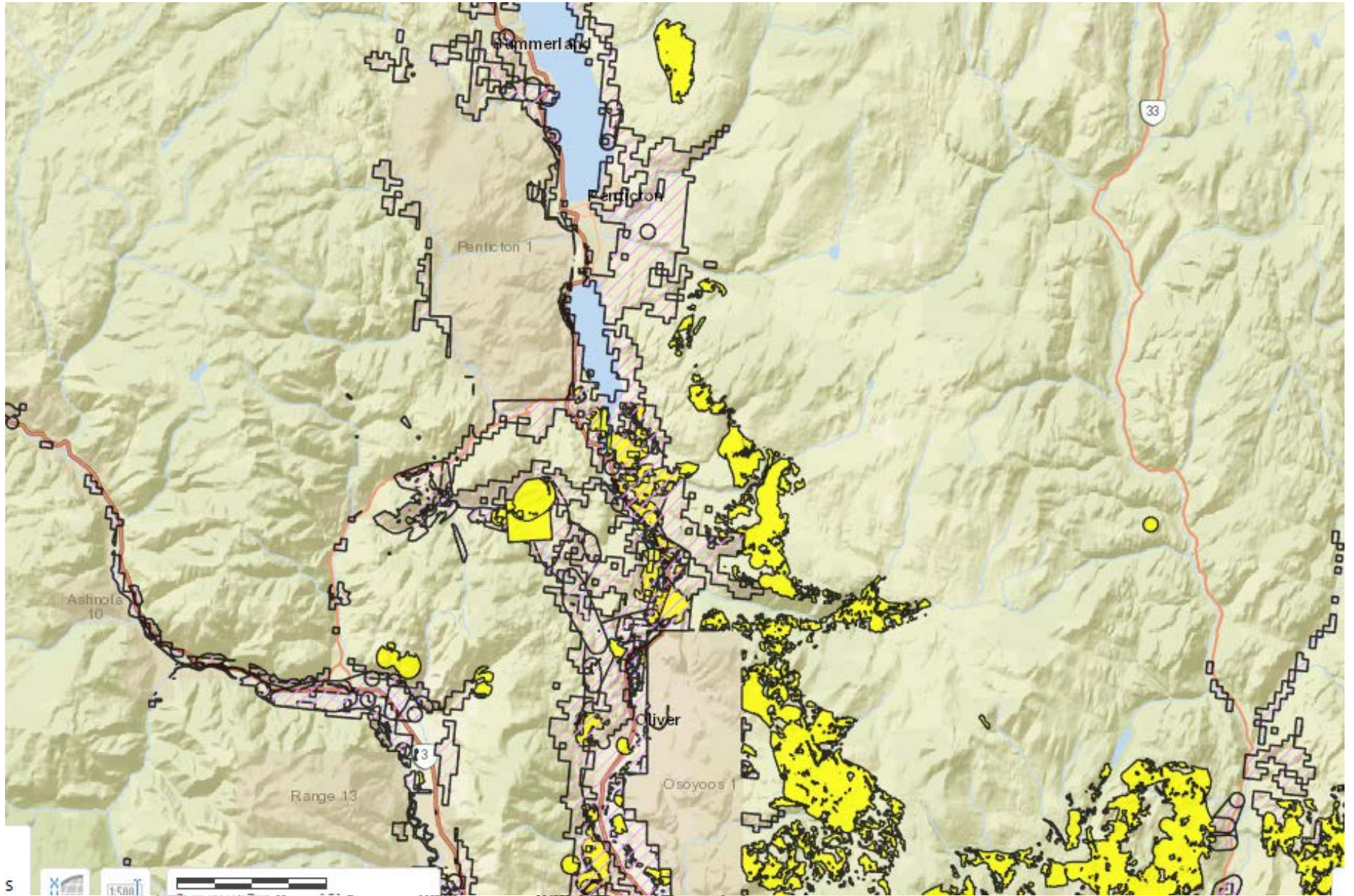
- 61 SAR listed in South Okanagan & Similkameen
- Critical habitat being identified for 48 endangered and threatened
- Only 13 species had CH ID as of last QP workshop in 2015



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Now in 2018

- 212 terrestrial + 61 aquatic SAR in B.C.
- In South Okanagan & Similkameen
 - 66 terrestrial SAR = ECCC
 - ECCC identifying critical habitat for 46 terrestrial species (27 done)
 - Covers nearly all valley bottom natural vegetation (BG, PP, IDFx)



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How to access information

1. iMap @ maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/imap4m/
2. SARA Public Registry @ sararegistry.gc.ca/
3. Open Data Portal @ open.canada.ca/



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Species at Risk Public Registry



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 Search

- Our Approach
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Recovery Strategy for the Great Basin Spadefoot (*Spea intermontana*) in Canada - 2017

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- Part 1
- Part 2

Print Friendly Layout

Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series

Adopted under Section 44 of SARA

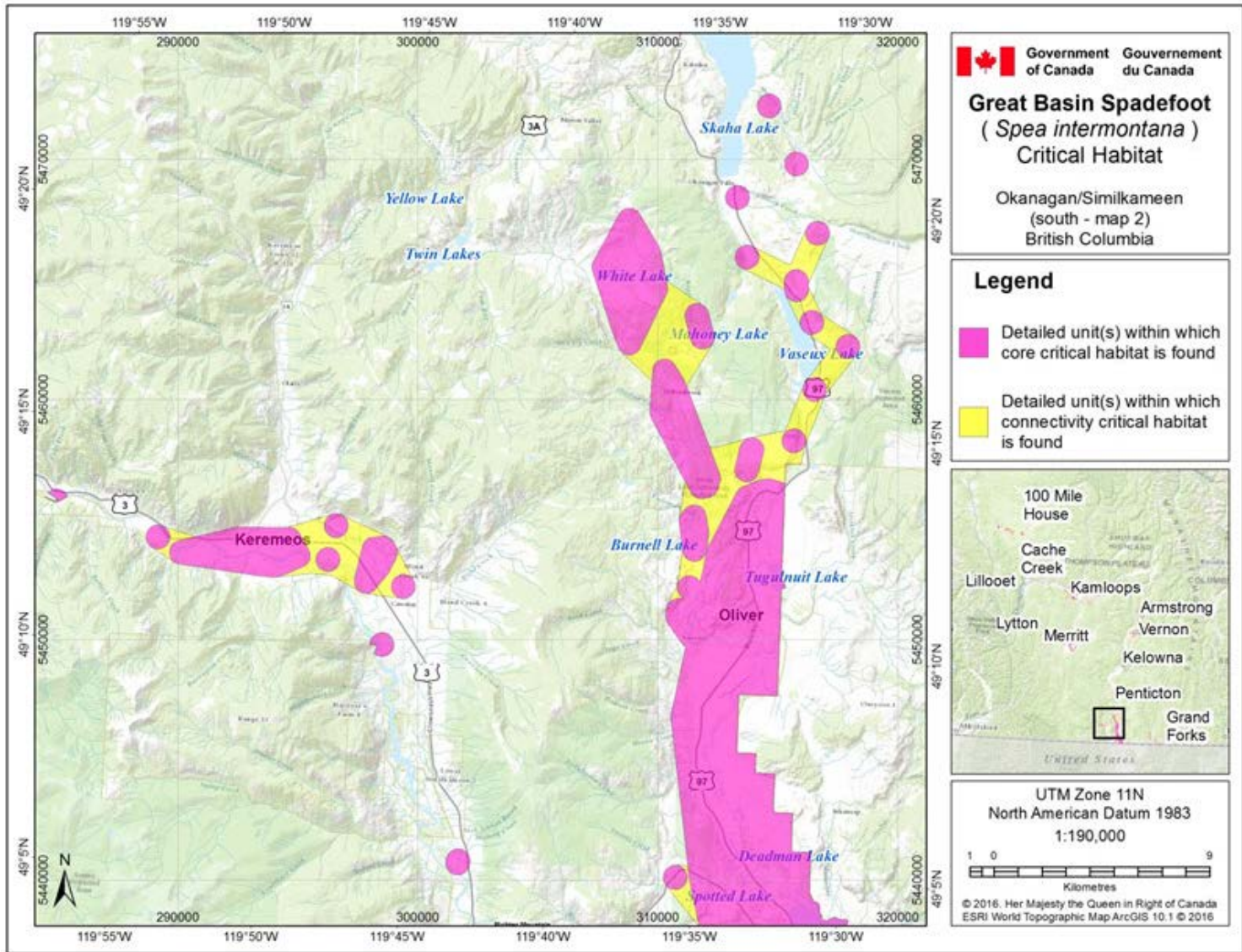
Great Basin Spadefoot



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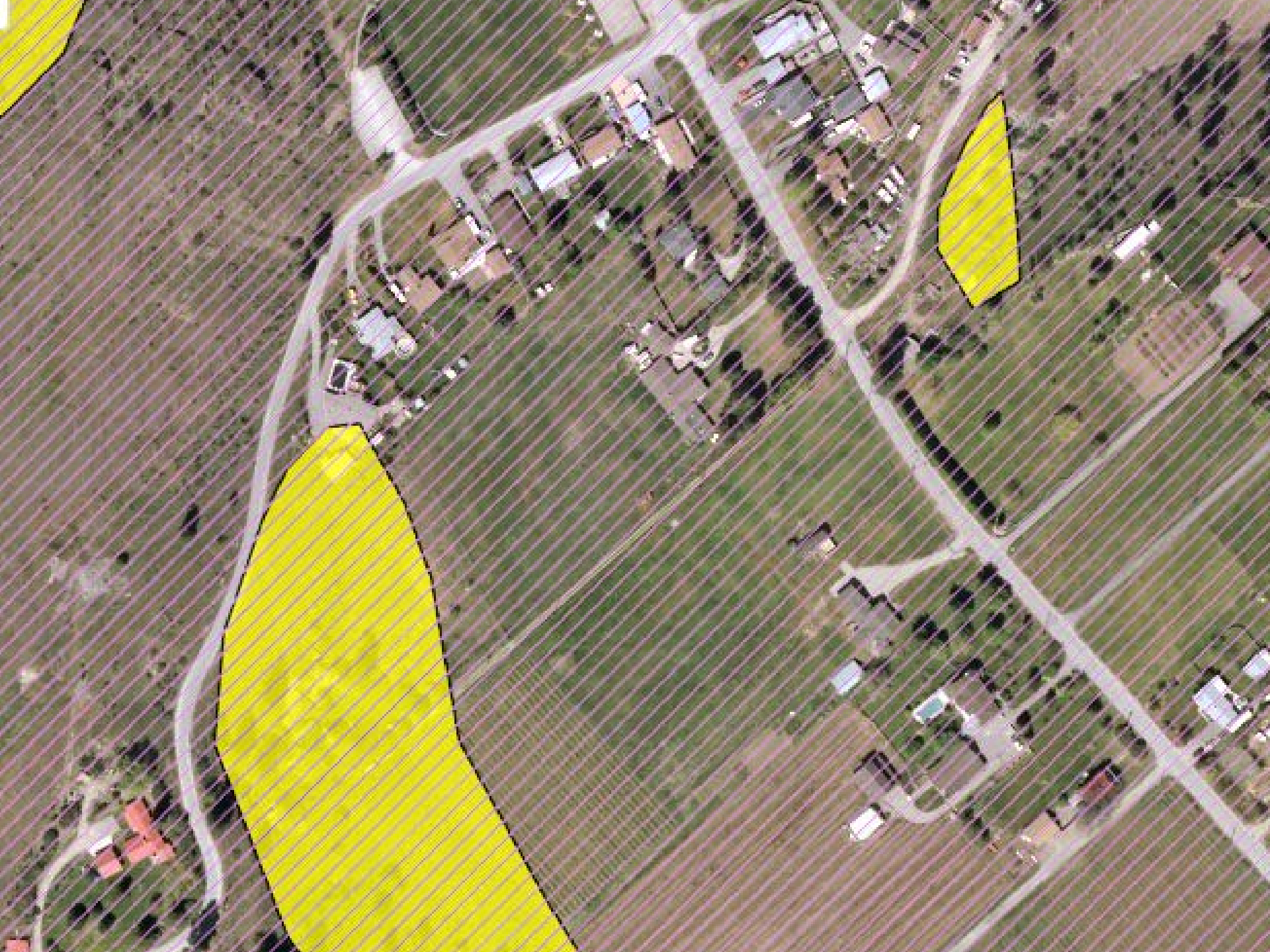




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What CH polygon represents

Polygons represent areas within which critical habitat is found.

Must refer to federal recovery strategy or action plan to find out the required habitat features/attributes.

KEY MESSAGE

Critical habitat identification can be very detailed, or very broad. For some species, critical habitat identification may include detailed maps with polygons showing exactly where the critical habitat is at a site scale. For other species, critical habitat can be identified at a landscape scale. Large bounding boxes on a map show the area within which the critical habitat occurs, and only the areas with particular biophysical attributes (i.e., habitat traits) within those bounding boxes are considered critical habitat.



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Destruction of Critical Habitat

- Destruction of CH is determined case by case
- Results if part of the CH were degraded, either permanently or temporally such that it would not serve its function when needed by species.
- Each Recovery Strategy with Critical Habitat has table: *“Examples of Activities Likely to Result in Destruction”*



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Permitting Requirements

- Do I need a federal SARA permit?
 - Project overlaps distribution of EN/TH species?
 - Project overlaps CH identified for EN/TH species?
 - Project on federal land, or mig bird anywhere?
 - Activity likely to destroy attributes of CH or harm individuals and residences?
- If Yes – go to sararegistry.gc.ca
- If No – consult Province, RD, Municipality



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Lets run through examples...



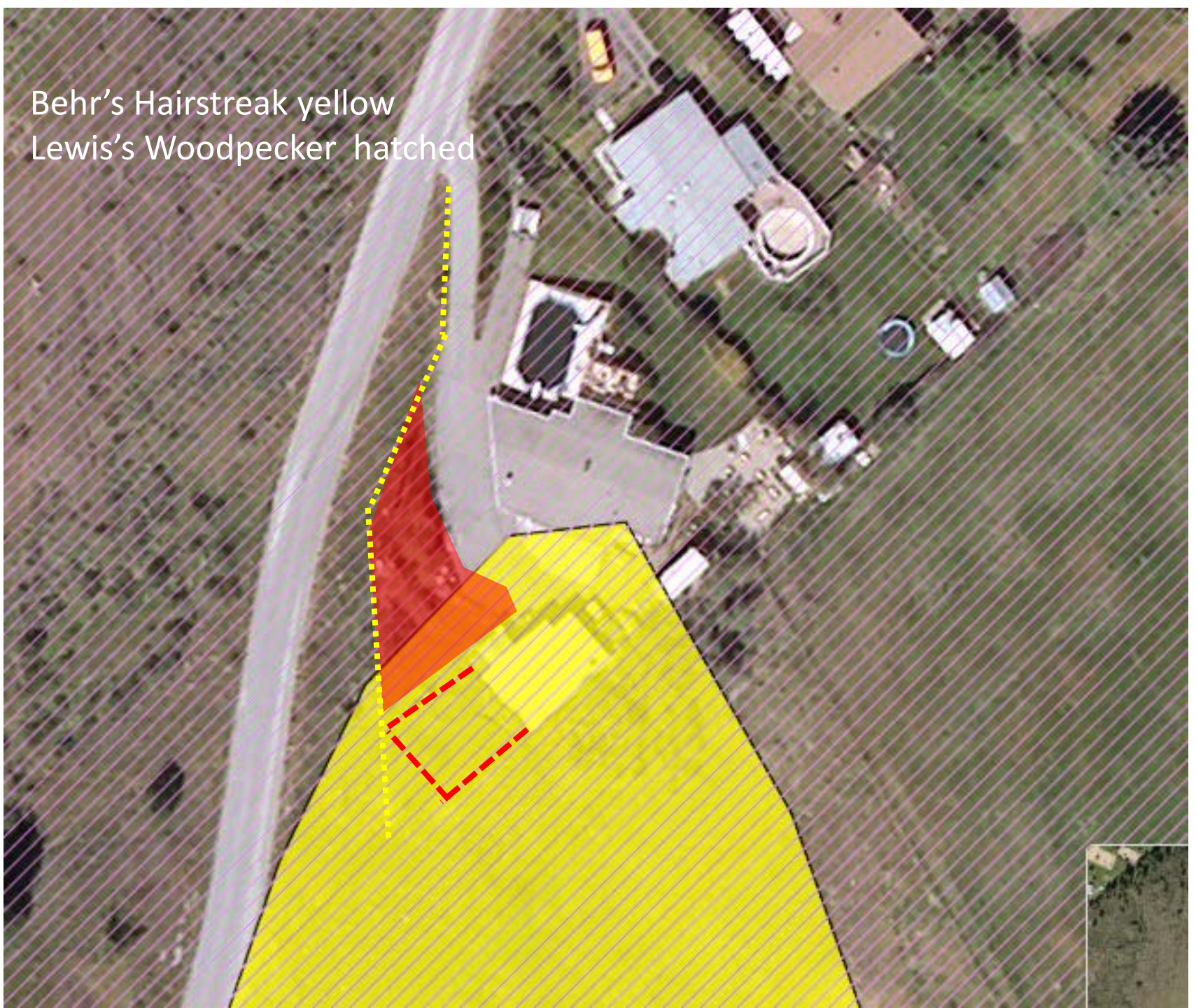
You've been hired as QP
Project: shed and driveway
expansion as well as the
construction of retaining wall.

I am going talk about what the Eco.
Bios in Penticton are expecting to
see in relation to CH from you



- Lock Block Retaining wall
- Structure expansion footprint
- Driveway expansion

Behr's Hairstreak yellow
Lewis's Woodpecker hatched



Recovery Strategy



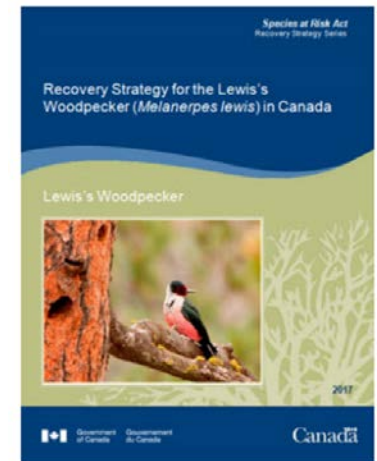
Photo: © Neil K. Dawe

Biophysical Attributes of CH for Behr's Hairstreak

- larval and nectar host plants, Antelope-brush (*Purshia tridentata*), present for life cycle completion.
- * *Note: Any Antelope Brush plant could also be a potential residence*

Biophysical Attributes of CH for Lewis's Woodpecker

- Known nest trees (residences), alive or standing dead, occupied by Lewis's Woodpecker at any time in the past (includes some utility poles)
- Potential nest trees alive or standing dead
- Within 400 m of either of the above
 - Stands of trees <35% canopy closure
 - Presence of fruit-bearing shrubs and perennial grasses



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Photo: © Neil K. Dawe

Activities Likely to Destroy CH

- Conversion of natural area for residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and agricultural development.



Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2015

Activities Likely to Destroy CH

- Removal of understory fruit-bearing shrub and perennial grass layer
- Removal or modification of known or potential nest trees
- Removal of standing mature trees within 400 m of a known or potential nest tree



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1. are the attributes at the site -----YES
2. are the activities likely to destroy-----YES

ASSUMPTIONS

Outcome: Likely to destroy CH for both species

Next steps:

- Avoid destruction and harm = no permit needed
- If activity may harm CH, individuals or residences of **Lewis's Woodpecker**
 - federal SARA & MBCA permit required anywhere
- If activity may harm CH, individuals or residences of **Behr's Hairstreak**
 - federal SARA permit required on Federal Land only
- Permit application and subsequent conditions outline steps to avoid, minimize, or mitigate where possible
- Some applications denied, some asked to withdraw/cancel



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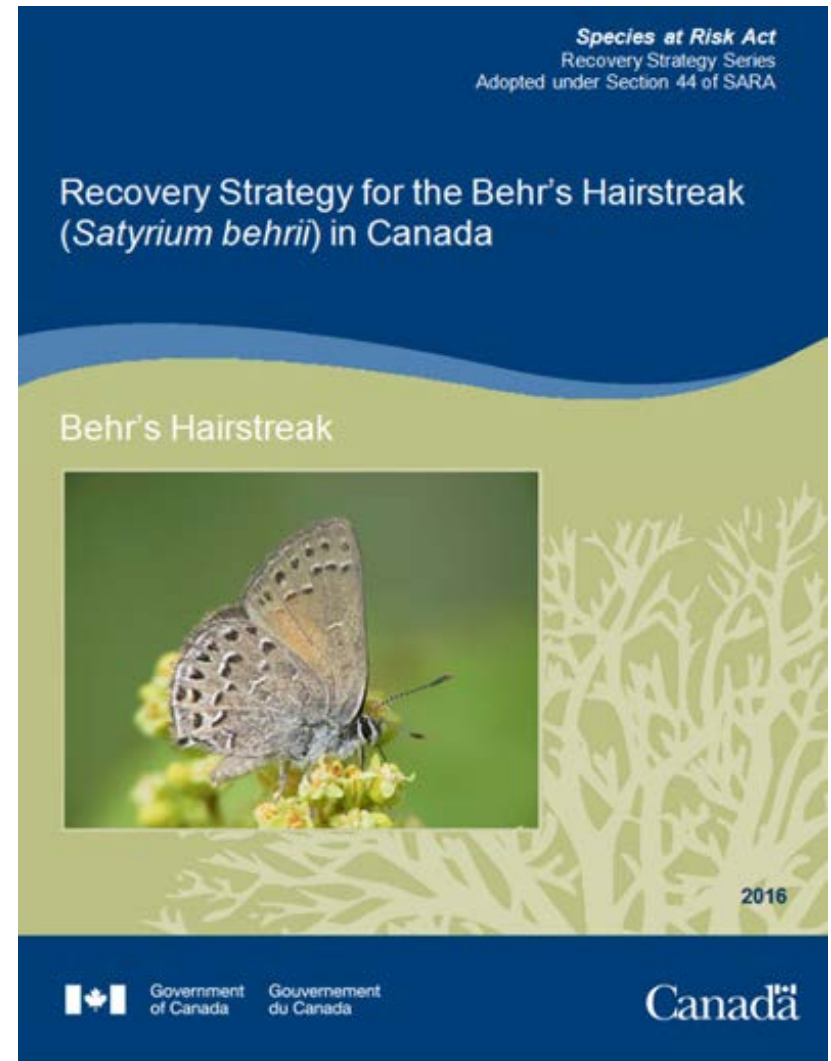
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Ecosystems Role

- Referral from the LG
- Our comments would include: CH at site, must be considered, high likelihood of destruction, consultation with CWS required

CWS Role

- If Federal jurisdiction = yes, apply directly to CWS
- If Federal jurisdiction = no, CWS offers technical advice on avoidance, minimization, mitigation to Province, RD, Municipality



QUESTIONS



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