



Environment
Canada

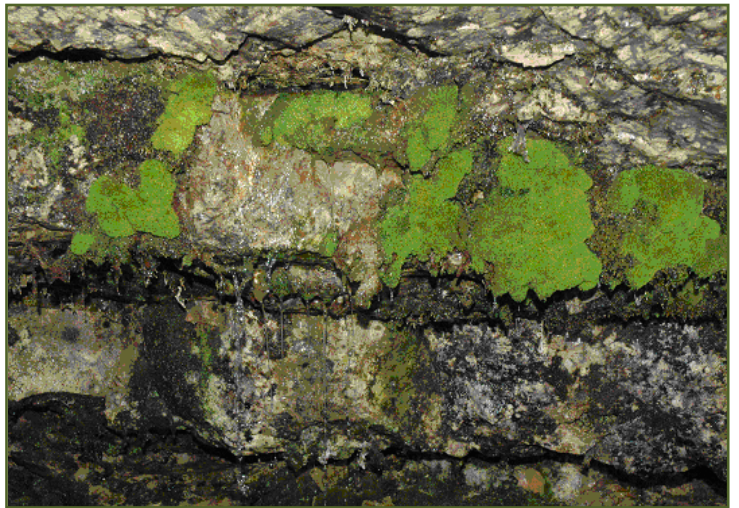
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SUBMISSION TO THE NWMB FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: The Proposed Final Action Plan for the Porsild's Bryum (*Mielichhoferia macrocarpa*) in Canada, pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)



Background:

Porsild's Bryum was listed as a Threatened species under the *Species at Risk Act* (Schedule 1, 02/04/2011). In response to the listing, a recovery strategy was collaboratively developed, and population and distribution objectives were established for the recovery of Porsild's Bryum in Canada.

The species is a small moss that grows in bright green colonies and inhabits mountainous areas on wet calcareous cliffs where there is constant water seepage and winter desiccation. There are 17 known populations of Porsild's Bryum in Canada and they are broadly distributed; including sites in Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut (Figure 1). The total population size is at least 960 colonies in Canada. In Nunavut, it is only found in Quttinirpaaq National Park, with three populations identified in the Tanquary Fiord area (Figure 2).

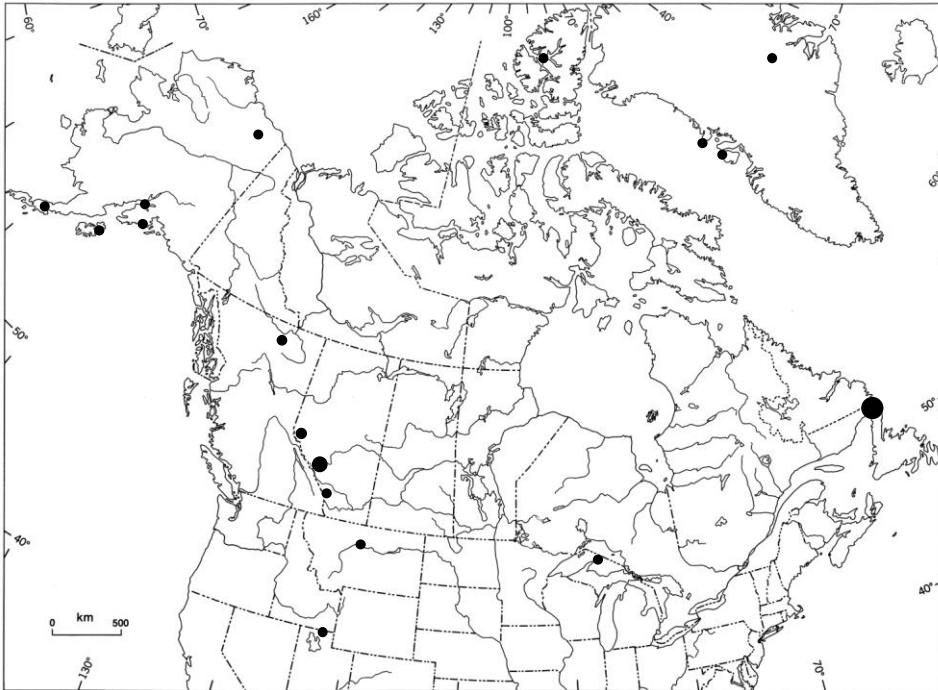


Figure 1. This figure shows the North American distribution of Porsild's Bryum. The three dots in Alberta cover 6 populations, the one dot in British Columbia covers 1 population, the Newfoundland and Labrador dot covers 7 populations and the Nunavut dot covers 3 populations.

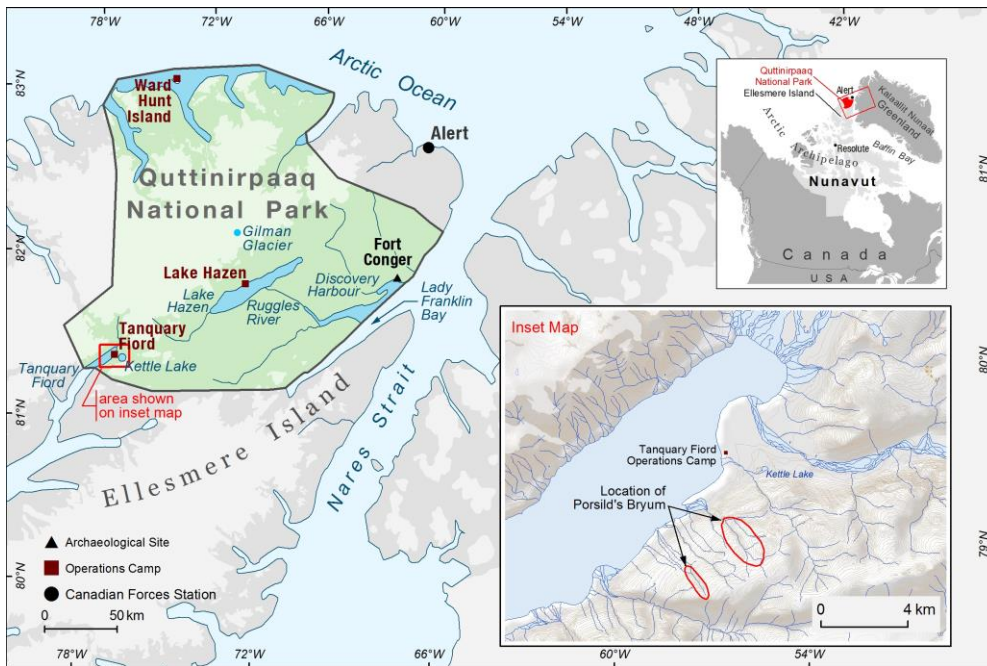


Figure 2. This figure shows the locations of Porsild's Bryum in Quttinirpaaq National Park of Canada.

Action Plan

Under *SARA*, if a species is listed as Threatened, a recovery plan must be prepared. The recovery plan is made up of two documents: a recovery strategy and an action plan. The final *Recovery Strategy for Porsild's Bryum in Canada* was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry in December 2017. While the recovery strategy addresses broad recovery goals and objectives, the action plan addresses the recovery actions for the species by outlining specific recovery measures.

The recovery strategy identifies the following population and distribution objective for Porsild's Bryum:

"To maintain or increase the number of colonies, and sub-populations for all known extant populations of Porsild's Bryum, while also maintaining or increasing the distribution of colonies and sub-populations within each population, and, where feasible, to re-establish the species to locations where it has been extirpated and previously known to exist."

This action plan should be considered along with the recovery strategy. The recovery strategy provides more details on the strategic direction and approaches for recovery of Porsild's Bryum, critical habitat information, and background information on the species and its threats. Recovery measures in this proposed final action plan address 5 broad strategies: (1) inventory and monitoring, (2) research, (3) outreach/stewardship, (4) habitat management, and (5) reintroduction and/or population re-establishment.

Under the *SARA*, habitat that must be protected in order for a species to survive and recover is called 'critical habitat.' Once an area is identified as critical habitat (in a recovery strategy or an action plan), the federal government is legally responsible to make sure that the habitat is properly protected.

Critical habitat was partially identified for Porsild's Bryum in the recovery strategy. The recovery strategy also contains details about the identified critical habitat, its extent, habitat characteristics, and activities that are likely to destroy critical habitat. No additional critical habitat can be identified in this proposed final action plan because it is not possible at this time given the best available information. Critical habitat will likely be updated in an updated recovery strategy or later action plan.

The direct financial and social costs of implementing these recovery measures (and thus this action plan) are anticipated to be low over the short term (2019 to 2023 years) and the long term (2023 onward).

Community Consultation:

Since the locations of Porsild's Bryum are strictly within the Quttinirpaaq National Park, in 2016 the Parks Canada Agency conducted consultations on a draft version of the action plan for Porsild's Bryum in two communities: Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, NU. In response to the consultations, and upon reviewing a draft of the proposed action plan, both the Iviq Hunters and Trappers Organization of Grise Fiord, and the Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association acknowledged and supported the proposed action plan through the submission of support letters and emails addressed to Parks Canada in April and June of 2016, respectively. The proposed action plan was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry on December 22, 2017, for a 60-day public comment period, which ended on February 20, 2018. Comments were taken into consideration and the current proposed final action plan was drafted.

Next Steps:

We are coming to the NWMB to ask for approval of the proposed final action plan. Once the action plan is finalized it will be re-evaluated and updated every 5 years or as necessary.

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14 April 2019