



Risky Business

A **AS THE NUMBER OF HUMANS IN THE WORLD** increases, so does the amount of resources we consume. As we harvest these resources, we affect plant and animal habitats. Our goal is to manage our consumption and harvesting practices so we can meet our own needs while still protecting species at risk. In this issue, we look at how we are (or are not) achieving this in BC.

There are several articles in this issue which talk about what we are doing to protect species at risk. *Planning for Mountain Caribou: Habitat Management for a Species at Risk* by Harold Armleder, RPF, RPBio, and Michaela Waterhouse, RPF, RPBio, explains how caribou habitat is being maintained in managed high-elevation forests. Jeff Waatainen, LLB, MA, BA (Hons), our regular Legal Perspective contributor, writes about how the nooksack dace, a minnow native to the Lower Mainland, recently won a big *Species at Risk Act* decision in the federal courts. Within the concept of working together for the common good, both Ben Van Drimmelen, RPF, RPBio, LLB and Pamela Zevit, RPBio, talk about guidance that's been developed to advise resource professionals on species at risk and what their roles entail.

However, while many people are working hard to protect species at risk, there are some big holes in our processes. *Global Weirding and Vanishing Animals* by Fred Bunnell, PhD, RPBio, starts off the Viewpoints section by asserting just how big a problem species at risk is worldwide. In *Species at Risk Management in BC: The Will to Simply Get On With It* by Darlene Oman and Bruce Fraser, PhD, we learn there's only so much that research, planning and consultation can achieve. At some point, we need to act more and plan less. Finally, Keith Ferguson, PhD, and Susan Pinkus, RPBio, discuss how stronger legal protection is needed for species at risk in BC.

While there are several different perspectives offered in this magazine, it seems we all agree that species at risk is an ongoing dilemma that won't go away. And that is a big first step. As it stands, we are making inroads with research, court cases and on-the-ground programs. The next twenty years will be important ones for species at risk in BC. But if this issue of **BC Forest Professional** shows us nothing else, it shows us that there are many people working hard to make a difference. 🐾