



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6236/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: IB Operations Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 45/359
Local Government Area: Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name: North Star Hematite Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
30		Mechanical Removal	Road and pipeline and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 2 October 2014

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
<p>The clearing permit application area has been broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex; and 619: Medium woodland; river gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>) (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey conducted over the application area and surrounding area by Ecologia Environment (Ecologia) in 2012 identified the following eight vegetation associations occurring within the application area:</p> <p>AaTb - <i>Acacia acradenia</i>, <i>Petalostylis labicheoides</i> and <i>Corchorus laniflorus</i> sparse shrubland, over <i>Triodia basedowii</i> sparse hummock grassland;</p> <p>AiTb - <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i>, <i>Acacia acradenia</i> and <i>Grevillea wickhamii</i> sparse shrubland, over <i>Triodia basedowii</i> and <i>Triodia wiseana</i> hummock grassland;</p> <p>AsTI - <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> sparse low shrubland, over <i>Triodia longiceps</i> hummock grassland;</p> <p>Eo - <i>Corchorus parviflorus</i> and <i>Heliotropium crispatum</i> sparse shrubland, over <i>Eriachne obtusa</i> open tussock grassland;</p> <p>GwTb - <i>Grevillea wickhamii</i> and <i>Corchorus parviflorus</i> sparse shrubland, over <i>Triodia basedowii</i> open hummock grassland;</p> <p>HcTb - <i>Heliotropium cunninghamii</i> and <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i> sparse shrubland, over <i>Triodia basedowii</i> and <i>Triodia pungens</i> open hummock grassland;</p> <p>MaCb - <i>Melaleuca argentea</i> open low woodland, over <i>Acacia tumida</i> var. <i>pilbarensis</i> mid shrubland, over <i>Cyperus blakeanus</i> open sedgeland; and</p> <p>PITi - <i>Petalostylis labicheoides</i> and <i>Corchorus parviflorus</i> sparse shrubland, over <i>Triodia lanigera</i> open hummock grassland;</p> <p>(Ecologia, 2012).</p>	<p>North Star Hematite project.</p> <p>IB Operations Pty Ltd (IB Operations) proposes to clear up to 30 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 359 hectares, for the purposes of a road, pipeline and associated activities. The project is located approximately 110 kilometres south-east of Port Hedland, within the Town of Port Hedland.</p>	<p>Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).</p> <p>To</p> <p>Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>The vegetation condition was described by Ecologia (2012) using the Trudgen scale and has been converted to the equivalent rating on the Keighery scale.</p> <p>The area of clearing required for the road and pipeline corridor is approximately 19 hectares, with an additional area of approximately 11 hectares required for infrastructure associated with the road and pipeline construction, for example borrow pits and laydown areas (IB Operations, 2014).</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is located within the Chichester subregion of the Pilbara Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). The Chichester subregion is described as undulating granite and basalt plains with significant areas of basaltic ranges. Plains support a shrub steppe characterised by *Acacia inaequilatera* over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grasslands, while *Eucalyptus leucophloia* tree steppes occur on the ranges (CALM, 2002).

The clearing permit application area is approximately six kilometres long, and approximately 500 metres wide, extending to approximately 1,100 metres wide at the western end. The clearing application area is significantly wider than the proposed 30 metre wide road and pipeline corridor, and allows for flexibility in the location of infrastructure associated with the construction, such as borrow pits and laydown areas.

Ecologia (2012) recorded the vegetation condition of the survey area as ranging from Good to Very Good, using the Trudgen scale, with the majority of the application area considered to be in Very Good condition. The application area is located within the Kangan pastoral lease (GIS Database), and previous vegetation disturbance has occurred from pastoral activities, including grazing by stock, and some isolated areas of weed invasion (Ecologia, 2012; IB Operations, 2014). Three weed species, *Aerva javanica* (Kapok Bush), *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass) and *Portulaca oleracea* (Purslane) were recorded during the survey (Ecologia, 2012). Further introduction or spread of weeds may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

A flora, vegetation, and fauna survey was conducted over the application area during May 2012 by Ecologia (2012). A total of 163 flora taxa and 51 fauna species were recorded during the flora and fauna survey of the application area and surrounding area, which was considered typical of the Pilbara region (Ecologia, 2012).

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) are known to occur within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). No TECs, PECs, or Threatened flora species were recorded in the survey (Ecologia, 2012). One Priority flora species (*Heliotropum muticum*, Priority 1), was recorded at four locations within the survey area, with a total population estimated at approximately 50-100 plants (Ecologia, 2012). Ecologia (2012) report that this species has been recorded from several sites outside the application area, and that due to the small size and inconspicuous appearance of the plant and the scattered distribution of known populations, this species is likely to be more widespread than currently known. Clearing of *Heliotropum muticum* will be avoided where practicable, and only a small number of plants are likely to be directly impacted by the proposed clearing (IB Operations, 2014). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the conservation status of this species.

The vegetation associations and fauna habitat types found in the application area are well represented and widespread within the region (Ecologia, 2012; IB Operations, 2014; GIS Database), and the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

CALM (2002)
Ecologia (2012)
IB Operations (2014)
Keighery (1994)
GIS Database:
- Pastoral Leases
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A fauna survey conducted by Ecologia (2012) identified the following four broad habitat types within the application area:

- Rocky plains with spinifex;
 - Eriachne tussock grassland;
 - Creek line; and
 - Acacia shrubland on hard soil;
- (Ecologia, 2012).

Substantial areas of similar habitat occur outside of the application area and in the broader Pilbara region, and the application area was considered unlikely to represent significant habitat for fauna in comparison to surrounding areas (Ecologia, 2012; IB Operations, 2014).

A search of relevant databases identified several fauna species of conservation significance with the potential to occur within the application area, based on known distributions and habitat preferences. Three of these species: Rainbow Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus*; Western Pebble Mound Mouse, *Pseudomys chapmani*; and Australian Bustard, *Ardeotis australis*; were recorded within the application area during the fauna survey (IB Operations, 2014). These species are widely distributed in the region, and the proposed clearing for a road and pipeline corridor is unlikely to have any significant impact on the available fauna habitats, or on the conservation status of these fauna species.

Other conservation significant fauna species may pass through or forage within the application area, however abundant areas of similar habitat occur outside of the application area and no conservation significant species are considered likely to be reliant on the habitat found within the application area (Ecologia, 2012).

The proposed clearing of up 30 hectares of native vegetation for a road and pipeline corridor and associated activities is unlikely to have any significant impact on available fauna habitats at either a local or regional scale.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Ecologia (2012)
IB Operations (2014)
GIS Database:
- Threatened Fauna
- Pre-European Vegetation

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A flora survey of the application area and surrounding areas did not record any species of Threatened flora (Ecologia, 2012).

The vegetation associations recorded within the application areas are well represented in surrounding areas (Ecologia, 2012; IB Operations, 2014; GIS Database), and the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any species of rare flora.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Ecologia (2012)
IB Operations (2014)
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List
- Pre-European Vegetation

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, there are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) recorded within a 100 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database).

Surveys of the application area did not identify any TECs (Ecologia, 2012).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Ecologia (2012)
GIS Database:
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The area applied to be cleared is located within the Pilbara IBRA bioregion (GIS Database). There is approximately 99% of Pre-European vegetation remaining within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations: 93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex; and 619: Medium woodland; river gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) (GIS Database).

Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of these vegetation associations remains uncleared at both the state and bioregion level (Government of Western Australia, 2013). Hence, the vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent a significant remnant of vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DPaW Managed Lands
IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara	17,808,657	17,733,584	~ 99	Least Concern	8.37
Beard vegetation association - State					
93	3,044,310	3,040,641	~ 99	Least Concern	1.96
619	119,374	118,239	~ 99	Least Concern	0.20
Beard vegetation association - Bioregion					
93	3,042,114	3,038,472	~ 99	Least Concern	1.96
619	118,920	118,117	~ 99	Least Concern	0.20

* Government of Western Australia (2013)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Government of Western Australia (2013)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments Proposal is at variance to this Principle

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database; IB Operations, 2014).

The proposed road and pipeline corridor crosses the Turner River West and a few minor, non-perennial watercourses (GIS Database; IB Operations, 2014). The Turner River is a large well developed watercourse and aerial imagery shows a sandy riverbed approximately 300 meters wide at the point where the application area crosses the Turner River West tributary (GIS Database). However, this and all other drainage lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly following significant rainfall events (IB Operations, 2014).

The vegetation where the application area intersects the Turner River West was recorded as vegetation association 'MaCb', and was considered to be groundwater dependant (Ecologia, 2012). Approximately 57.5 hectares of this vegetation association was recorded during the vegetation survey (Ecologia, 2012), and it was considered likely to extend further along the river outside of the survey area (IB Operations, 2014). Approximately 1.5 hectares of this vegetation association is proposed to be cleared for the road and pipeline corridor (IB Operations, 2014), and the impacts to this vegetation association are expected to be minimal.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle. However, the proposed clearing for a road and pipeline corridor is unlikely to result in any significant impact on the Turner River West and its associated vegetation, the ephemeral watercourses, or any other watercourse or wetland.

Methodology Ecologia (2012)
IB Operations (2014)
GIS Database:
- Geodata, Lakes
- Hydrography, linear
- Wodgina 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area falls within the Macroy, Platform and River land systems (GIS Database).

The Macroy land system is characterised by stony plains and occasional tor fields based on granite, supporting hard and soft spinifex grasslands. This land system has low or very low erosion hazard (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The Platform land system is characterised by dissected slopes and raised plains supporting hard spinifex grasslands. This land system is not susceptible to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The River land system is characterised by active flood plains and major rivers supporting grassy eucalypt woodlands, tussock grasslands and soft spinifex grasslands. Susceptibility to erosion is high or very high if vegetative cover is removed (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). However only a small section of the application area occurs within this system, associated with the Turner River West (GIS Database).

The proposed clearing of a long narrow corridor for a road and pipeline is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation. Management practices will be implemented to minimise the risk of erosion, particularly where the corridor crosses the Turner River West (IB Operations, 2014).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology IB Operations (2014)
Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)
GIS Database:
- Rangeland Land System Mapping

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The nearest conservation area is the Mungarooka Range Nature Reserve, approximately 60 kilometres southwest of the application area, at its nearest point (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to have any impacts on the environmental values of this or any other conservation area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- DEC proposed 2015 pastoral lease exclusions
- DEC Tenure

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is not within a Public Drinking Water Source Area. There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). Several seasonal watercourses pass through the application area, the most significant of which is the Turner River West, a major tributary of the Turner River (GIS Database). The Turner River West and other drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (IB Operations, 2014). Management practices will be implemented to minimise the risk of erosion and potential impacts to surface water quality (IB Operations, 2014). Culverts and floodways will be used where the road crosses drainage lines, to ensure continued surface water flows (IB Operations, 2014).

The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in any significant increase in sedimentation of any watercourse, or cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology IB Operations (2014)
GIS Database:
- Hydrography, Linear
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The climate of the region is semi-arid, with a low average rainfall of approximately 300-400 millimetres per year (IB Operations, 2014; Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (IB Operations, 2014).

There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Several seasonal water courses pass through the application area. Temporary localised flooding may occur during heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology IB Operations (2014)
Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)
GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There is one native title claim (WC1999/003) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

This clearing proposal for an access road and pipeline corridor is associated with a new minesite development known as the Northstar Hematite Project. The proponent referred the Northstar Hematite Project to the (WA) Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* in July 2012. The EPA determined that the environmental impacts of the proposal did not warrant assessment by the EPA and on 6 August 2012 advertised the level of assessment as 'Not Assessed - Public Advice Given'. No appeals were received against the EPA's determination (EPA, 2012).

The proponent also referred the Northstar Hematite Project to the (Commonwealth) Department of the Environment for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The project was approved under the EPBC Act on 14 June 2013.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Water, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 1 September 2014 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology EPA (2012)
GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

4. References

- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- Ecologia (2012) Fortescue Metals Group Ltd North Star Access Corridor - Flora, Vegetation, Vertebrate Fauna and Fauna Habitat assessment. Ecologia Environment, September 2012.
- EPA (2012) Public Advice under Section 39A(7) Environmental Protection Act 1986. Northstar Hematite Project. Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, 29 August 2012.
- Government of Western Australia (2013) 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- IB Operations (2014) Application to Clear Native Vegetation (Purpose Permit) for L45/359. North Star Hematite Project. FMG, August 2014.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Hennig, P., and Leighton, K.A. (2004) An Inventory and Condition Survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

- T** **Threatened species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).

Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by the Department according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.

Rankings:
CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- X** **Presumed Extinct species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA** **Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S** **Other specially protected fauna:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1** **Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2** **Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.
- P3** **Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.
- P4** **Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- P5** **Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:**
Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.