



Corporation of the County of Bruce
Planning and Development
30 Park St. P.O. Box 848
Walkerton, Ontario N0G2V0

brucecounty.on.ca

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Attn: Amy Boyko, Species at Risk Biologist

Bruce County Comments - Redside Dace Recovery Strategy Action Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Recovery Strategy and Action Plan for the Redside Dace. The efforts to protect this valuable species are very much appreciated.

The recommendations for protecting upstream headwater areas are generally reflected existing natural heritage policies.

Only a small portion of Critical Habitat occurs within Bruce County, a roughly 4km stretch of Meux Creek within the municipality of South Bruce, flowing through roughly 8 rural properties.

The 'Environmental Protection (EP)' Zone for the Municipality of South Bruce's Zoning By-law generally captures the Critical Habitat, as does the Hazard Land Areas for the County of Bruce Official Plan.

The zoning by-law regulates the use of land but does not regulate site alteration. Conservation authorities regulate site alteration in regulated areas in the context of hazards.

We will await the finalized strategy to determine whether critical habitat may fall outside of the existing EP zone.

As an agency requested to aid in implementing these strategies at a local level, we would note that clarifying language related to the 30m buffer may be valuable. The definition includes the "associated 30 m of vegetated area extending from the meander belt width" and specifically excludes anthropogenic structures, but remains unclear whether cultivated lands or manicured lawns should be included. Based on the accompanying description of features in section 8.1.3, we are of the understanding that these areas are still to be considered as critical habitat and candidates for rehabilitation, but it may be challenging to implement the recommendations in these areas, and municipal efforts to protect a 30m setback (for instance, recommending a lawn that is within 30m of the meander belt, but beyond typical hazard land setbacks, be rezoned to EP environmental protection) may likewise be challenging.

Recognizing that municipal planning documents such as Official Plans and Zoning by-laws do not regulate site alteration, we support the proposed recovery measures which focus on landowner awareness, in particular with a focus on agricultural and rural property owners relevant to our area.

We look forward to future updates on the proposed strategy.

Sincerely,

Jake Bousfield-Bastedo
Intermediate Planner, Bruce County