

that allows Coulston to carry out federally funded research with animals.

The foundation was formed in 1993 when businessman Frederick Coulston united his several primate care ventures and created the nation's largest chimpanzee facility. At its peak, Coulston cared for more than 600 chimpanzees with a staff of 120.

Foundation spokesperson Don McKinney declined to comment on the number of chimps currently housed at the facility, the foundation's financial condition, or the size of its workforce. But available records suggest that the loss of federal funding will be a heavy blow. In the 1999–2000 fiscal year, 63% of the foundation's \$4.1 million in annual revenues came from the government, according to tax returns obtained by animal-rights groups. And its ability to solicit contracts with private U.S. companies is restricted by a 1999 decision by the Food and Drug Administration that the center does not comply with good laboratory practice regulations, to which all advanced animal trials must adhere.

McKinney says the foundation has active private contracts but that all details are proprietary. According to tax records, the foundation's private contracts declined by 35% from the 1998 to 2000 fiscal years. Ronald Couch, former president of the foundation, says that investigations into possible animal welfare violations hurt the foundation's ability to attract private clients during his brief tenure in 2000. Coulston still faces an investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over the deaths of two chimps in 1999 and 2000.

If history is any guide, the foundation's future may depend on the size of Frederick Coulston's personal cash reserves. The 86-year-old Coulston has reported giving the foundation more than \$7.5 million, according to NIH records and the foundation's tax returns.

—JOSH GEWOLB

## CANADA

### Scientists Want Tougher Endangered Species Law

Canadian biologists are trying to toughen proposed legislation designed to protect endangered species in Canada. Their stance puts them in the awkward position of resisting government efforts, almost a decade in the making, to pass the nation's first federal law on the issue.

After changes in government derailed two previous attempts (*Science*, 13 December 1996, p. 1827), the chances of passage of the proposed Species at Risk Act (SARA) this fall appear good. But many scientists believe that it doesn't do enough to protect species' habitat, and they want a scientific panel, not politicians, to have the final say in

deciding which species are listed.

SARA differs from the equivalent U.S. Endangered Species Act in seeking first to work cooperatively with landowners and industry, offering incentives and financial compensation; enforcement of yet-to-be written regulations would be used only as a last resort. "We do not want to hamstring our own efforts to recover species with a confrontational and immediately prohibitive approach," Environment Minister David Anderson told *Science*. "We want to promote voluntary action, individual responsibility, and cooperative, community-based solutions." The goal, Anderson adds, is to produce "legislation that is effective



**A house but no home?** The nests of marbled murrelets, one of a growing number of endangered species proposed for listing (*inset*), would be protected under the proposed Canadian law—but not necessarily their rainforest habitat.

on the ground, not just 'strong' on paper."

But a number of scientists say that this particular carrot-and-stick approach is too much carrot and not enough stick. The bill provides no mandatory protection for species' habitats, they say, safeguarding "residences" such as dens or nest sites but leaving the designation of habitat and enforcement mechanisms open to influence from local and regional officials, landowners, and industry. "Anyone with Ecology 101 knows that without habitat, it is impossible for species to survive," says ecologist David Schindler of the University of Alberta, one of the organizers of a letter being drafted to Prime Minister Jean Chretien ([www.scientists4species.org](http://www.scientists4species.org)) that lays out their arguments.

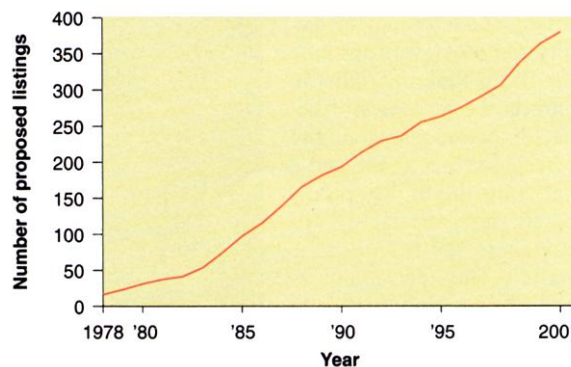
Scientists also find fault with the proposed listing process. A panel of experts, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), has long maintained a

list of species recommended for protection under the act (see graph), and scientists would like to see COSEWIC have the legal authority for listing species. But the bill leaves the decision on listing to Cabinet ministers.

Scientists also worry that the federal government will defer to provincial governments in enforcing the act. "Appealing the provinces seems to be in vogue in Canada, so when the provincial bullies snarl, federal ministers turn and run," Schindler says. He and others say that federal control is key for the 70% of threatened and endangered species, such as grizzly bears, wolves, and migratory birds, whose ranges extend into the United States. "It's really embarrassing that both

Mexico and the United States have stronger laws," says environmental lawyer Kate Smallwood of Sierra Legal Defense Fund, who is working with the scientists.

Not all of Canada's scientists oppose the bill, however, and many fear that too much criticism from biologists may derail it. "Anderson has gone an awful long way for this and is really doing a lot to make it happen," says Fred Cooke, an ornithologist at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British



Columbia. Canada's collaboration with industry, he adds, seems to be working better than the U.S. approach in helping such species as the marbled murrelet.

In contrast, a prominent legislator suggests that scientists might want to make an even bigger fuss. Charles Caccia, a longtime proponent of strong endangered species legislation and chair of Parliament's Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, says that some members of his committee "wish that scientists would be more forthcoming, more politically explicit" in explaining what changes are needed. Caccia's committee will consider amendments to the bill next month before forwarding it to the House of Commons. —JAY WITHGOTT  
Jay Withgott writes from San Francisco.