

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Meeting Minutes
January 24-25, 2017
Yellowknife, NWT at Chateau Nova Hotel**

In attendance:	Representative for:
Jody Pellissey, Chairperson	Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
Leslie Wakelyn	Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
Fred J. Mandeville	Environment and Natural Resources (Day 1)
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Brett Elkin	Environment and Natural Resources
Amy Amos	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Josef Carnogursky	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Ron Allen	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Shin Shiga	North Slave Métis Alliance (Day 1)
Danny Beck	Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Joe Tetlichì	Porcupine Caribou Management Board
Deborah Simmons	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (by phone)
Sjoerd van der Wielen	Tłı̨chǫ Government (Day 1)
Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Jodie Maring	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat

[In-camera session call to order: 9:10am]

- Management Authorities (WMA (NWT), GRRB, WRRB, Tłı̨chǫ Government, and GNWT) conducted a short in-camera session. SRRB and Government of Canada absent. Notes and action items from that session are not presented here.

[Meeting called to order: 11:00am]

1. Introductions – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
2. Agenda - led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
Review of draft agenda

Decision #D2017012401: Decision to approve agenda with discussed changes.

3. Minutes from last meeting – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
Review of draft minutes from October, November, and December 2016. Note that the November meeting minutes need to be approved by both the CMA and SARC.

Decision #D2017012402: Decision to approve October, November, and December 2016 meeting minutes with changes agreed to in December 2016 minutes.

4. Review of action items - led by Claire Singer, Species at Risk Secretariat
Review of outstanding action items from past meetings and action items from previous meetings.
5. CMA decisions made since last meeting - led by Claire Singer, Species at Risk Secretariat
Review of decisions made since last meeting for incorporation into the minutes.

Decision #D2017012403: Decision to invite the BQCMB and PCMB to participate in discussions related to Beverly, Qamanirjuaq, and Porcupine caribou.

Decision #D2017012404: Decision to approve the NWT Amphibian Management Plan.

6. CMA letters sent and received since last meeting - led by Claire Singer, Species at Risk Secretariat
Review of letters sent and received since October 2016.
7. Member updates – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
Updates on actions taken since last CMA meeting and changes in representatives.

Government of the Northwest Territories

- Brett Elkin replaced Lynda Yonge as Director of Wildlife and will be a CMA representative.
- Norman Snowshoe replaced Stephen Charlie as Superintendent Inuvik Region and will be a CMA representative but sent his regrets for this meeting.
- Wood bison:
 - In 2016, surveys on the Mackenzie and Slave River Lowlands herds were conducted.
 - A working group is developing a Mackenzie herd management plan. This has gone out to consultation with the co-management boards and other parties. It will ultimately be provided to the co-management boards as a management proposal. Work on Nahanni herd management plan underway. There is no draft of this plan yet. The working group responsible for developing a management plan for the Slave River Lowlands herd is beginning its drafting work.
- A discussion document on the Bathurst barren-ground caribou herd's range plan has recently been completed. ENR has received Cabinet approval to begin engagement

with communities and decision makers on that document. Materials will be available for comment on ENR's website in February 2017. We will also be holding community meetings.

- South Slave collar deployment for boreal caribou was successful this year.

Tłchq Government

- With the WRRB, finished the consultation tour for the listing of wood bison. Results of consultation will be considered by their leadership in February 2017.
- In the middle of the harvest season for barren-ground caribou. Hunting is complicated by the fact that the herds are quite mixed-up this year.
- Started their own community-based wolf harvesting program. The program consists of two specialist wolf hunters from Wekweètì whose expenses are being covered by the Tłchq Government. In this context, confident that harvest reporting will be accurate. If successful, they will consider expanding the program to other Tłchq communities.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

- Last regular meeting held December 2016.
- Have secured Jodie Maring as full-time resource person. Also received supplementary funding to hire Allison Thompson as a Species at Risk/Wildlife Biologist for a one-year term. The Council will be submitting a supplementary funding proposal for next fiscal year and is hopeful it continues to be accepted until negotiations with Canada are complete to permanently increase IFA implementation funding.
- Accepted ISR Polar Bear Management Plan along with the WMAC (NS) and IGC. Letter to the GNWT indicating acceptance is imminent.
- Received a good presentation from Alaska regarding thermal detection survey methods, which could have an impact on how polar bears are surveyed and reflects a desire to avoid collaring or handling polar bears during surveys.
- Number of beaver-related complaints is increasing. They are seen to be destroying and disrupting habitat. Will be considering harvesting incentives to address this concern.
- Next board meeting scheduled for March 7-9, 2017.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

- Successful recruitment for fisheries/forestry biologist (Sarah Lord). Start date is January 30, 2017. Kaytlin Cooper's (Species at Risk Biologist) term has been extended until August. Hoping for permanent funding for this position pending negotiations to increase implementation funding.
- Holding regional RRC meeting next week in Aklavik.

- Next board meeting scheduled for February 21-23, 2017 in Inuvik.
- Will be holding an insect traditional knowledge workshop in Inuvik on February 15, 2017. A Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute report will be the result, which will be distributed.
- Reports of bats in Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, and Fort McPherson; hoping for funding to purchase and install bat detectors in these communities. Have agreed to share Aklavik bat sighting information with WMAC (NWT) given Aklavik is a shared community.
- Applied for funding to conduct a federal/territorial workshop on species at risk processes. This will likely take place in summer 2017. It will focus on barren-ground caribou.
- Reviewing several federal species at risk documents at the moment.

Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

- Submitted a report on the Bluenose-East caribou hearing and received a response from the Minister of ENR that included requests for revisions. The Board subsequently follow-up with a response letter. Currently pending response from Minister.
- Involved in supporting communities in developing their community conservation plans.
- Supporting and following-up on community requests to better involve youth in training for Board program so that there are more people who can contribute meaningfully to wildlife management in the Sahtú Settlement Area. Will be holding a 2-week, on the land course starting in the second week of February.

Wek'èzhì Renewable Resources Board

- Joint consultation on wood bison listing is now complete. A formal position will be supplied after February 8-9, 2017 board meeting.
- Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou Part B reports (self-regulation, biological and environmental monitoring, and cumulative effects) submitted and have received responses from the Tłı̨chǫ Government and GNWT. Board will be reviewing these responses at their next meeting and responding.
- Wolf feasibility assessment is underway for the Bathurst barren-ground caribou range. This is being done by a working group and WRRB is participating. Putting together assessment of wolf control options. That will be provided to leadership who will make final decisions on whether wolf control is something they want to proceed with. Anticipating that the assessment will be done in March or April 2017. Will be having a meeting with experts at the end of February to conduct some peer review of the work that has been done. The working group is taking this very seriously and is focused on providing a good product for leadership. There will be discussion about whether this assessment can be shared with other regions as well.

North Slave Métis Alliance

- Sent a letter to the GNWT in support of the Mackenzie wood bison management plan.
- Also sent a letter to the GNWT in support of the listing of wood bison as threatened. For clarity, NSMA's support of the listing can be included here as part of the public record.
- Participating in the aforementioned wolf assessment working group.

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

- First CMA meeting that they've attended.
- Thanked the CMA for the opportunity to participate as an observer. Earl Evans, Chair of the BQCMB, sends his regrets as he is at a land claims negotiation meeting.
- Not a land claims-based board; rather, a co-management board set up in 1982.
- The BQCMB's current management plan for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds is in place for 2013-2022, and is the fourth 10-year plan developed by the Board.
- No one from the BQCMB is available to attend the next CMA meeting scheduled for May 9-11, 2017, as these are the same dates as the next BQCMB meeting.

Porcupine Caribou Management Board

- First CMA meeting that they've attended.
- Thank the GRRB, Yukon Government, and WMAC (NWT) for giving them the opportunity to attend.
- Have worked hard to make sure Porcupine caribou remain healthy and well-managed. If Porcupine caribou are assessed by SARC as at risk, then it must also be noted that the Board already has a management plan and evidence that the herd is currently doing well.

8. Chairperson/Alternate Chairperson selection – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
Report from the nomination sub-committee. Extended appointments expire at the end of this meeting. New appointments or re-appointments are required.

Decision #D2017012405: Consensus for Jody Pellissey and Amy Amos to be re-appointed as Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson, respectively, for a 2-year term.

9. Media tracking – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
Report of CMA-related media occurrences.

Secretariat requested guidance on whether this was still needed as a regular meeting item. Support for this to be removed as a regular agenda item, but if there's something noteworthy, the CMA requests that those items still be relayed to membership.

10. Stewardship Program – led by Amy Amos, Stewardship Sub-committee
2017/18 Stewardship Program application period is open from January 15-March 1, 2017. Solicitation of new sub-committee members.

- 2017/18 Stewardship Program application period is now open (until March 1).
- Current applications reflect earlier agreed to changes in the structure of the program; that is, more flexibility in financial allocation (\$30,000 total versus \$5,000 maximum per project). Everyone is encouraged to spread the word.
- Solicitation of new members of the Stewardship Sub-committee given departure of Marjorie and Lynda.

Decision #D2017012406: Consensus for Brett Elkin (with Joanna Wilson as alternate) and Jodie Maring to sit on Stewardship Sub-committee.

11. Next meeting – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson

- Consensus to move May 9-11, 2017 CMA meeting to May 2-4, 2017 to accommodate board meeting schedule of the BQCMB.
- Meeting will be held in Fort Smith.

12. Barren-ground caribou – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
Preliminary discussion on actions to prepare for listing. Preliminary discussion on possible upcoming need for a management plan/recovery strategy. Assessment to be submitted by SARC in April 2017.

- SARC's assessment of barren-ground caribou in the NWT will be released in April 2017. It was noted that COSEWIC recently assessed barren-ground caribou as threatened in all of Canada. The CMA will likely need to prepare a consensus agreement on an NWT listing by mid-April 2018.
- Coordination of consultation and engagement on the listing with the federal government is likely not possible since they are not able to start their consultation until early 2018. Further, federal adoption of territorial consultation is likely not possible because the impacts of listing, federal versus territorial, are very different.

- Consultation on listing, especially for the GNWT, will likely need to start immediately after the assessment results are received from SARC. Consultation package will need to be ready for Management Authorities in May. Standard package (PPT, fact sheet, template letter) is sufficient for the time being.
 - Consultation, at least from a GNWT perspective, will include groups with rights in or near the NWT range of the species. Engagement will include solicitation of comments from governments and Boards in neighbouring jurisdictions who help to manage populations. Although the listing is NWT specific, all this information would be considered.

Action #A2017012501: Secretariat to prepare consultation materials for barren-ground caribou listing (as well as grizzly bears and bats) for May 2017.

- Regarding recovery/management planning, there will likely be a strong push to adopt existing plans/strategies that fulfill CMA requirements. Options include:
 - Option A - Adoption of to-be-renewed NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy. The current version is expired, but is scheduled to be revised this year. If the CMA likes this option, then it is an ideal time to inform that revision process.
 - This would depend on whether Management Authorities feel there is a need for an over-arching, umbrella plan. If there is a desire for an over-arching plan, then this may be a faster option than adoption of the future federal recovery strategy, or creation of a new NWT strategy.
 - Option B - Adoption of future federal recovery strategy. The parties at the CMA table would need to be involved in that process anyway as it develops.
 - Canada is currently unsure what their recovery approach will be. In the case of polar bear, they built an umbrella plan that adopts smaller regional plans as part of it. However, this is an atypical approach for Canada. For interjurisdictional/migratory species, it becomes harder for them to adopt regional plans. It's much easier if the species only occurs in one region. They're also quite strict about the content of their recovery documents. Timelines here are also a consideration. It would be quite a while before a federal recovery strategy would be available for adoption.
 - Option C - Adoption of existing herd-specific management plans and creation of herd-specific management plans for those not covered by existing plans (Ahiak, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Bathurst).

- Important to note that the current suite of plans are all very different in terms of approaches, backgrounds, and consultation.
- Regardless of the final approach, it's clear that something is needed for the herds that don't currently have management plans.
- Some Management Authority representatives indicated their views that Option C may be the best path forward at this time. It would allow the limited capacity and resources to be focused where they can have the most benefit, on developing herd-specific management plans for the herds that do not have them yet. A formal CMA decision on the path forward is not required yet. This should be revisited at the May CMA meeting.
- With respect to adherence to the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the CMA is permitted to adopt existing plans, in whole or in part, to fulfill the recovery/management requirements for a species. However, the CMA must ensure that whatever is used contains all the information required under the Act (e.g., threats, positive influences) and must also contain everything that the CMA's guidelines on recovery strategies/management plans say that it must contain.
 - A review of the guidelines in light of the pending release of recovery strategies and management plans under the Act showed that meeting the guideline requirements is untenable, and, having been developed before the CMA was required to prepare a recovery strategy/management plan, no longer meet the needs of the CMA.
 - Consensus to remove the restrictive words in the guidelines immediately, with broader changes to the guidelines to be considered at the May 2017 meeting of the CMA. Immediate changes as follows:
 - Pg. 4, Process and Timelines – “The **usual** process and timelines for developing a management plan or recovery strategy are outlined...”.
 - Pg. 4, Process and Timelines – “The management plan or recovery strategy ~~will~~ **may** use the standard *Template*...”.
 - Pg. 6, What ~~must be~~ **is** included in a management plan or recovery strategy – “The following items ~~must be~~ **are typically** included in a management plan or recovery strategy. Items marked with a star (*) are specified in the Act (section 61 (7, 9, and 10)). Other items **may include:** ~~are required under these guidelines:~~”
 - Pg. 9 – An Acceptance Statement **may** ~~will~~ be added to the management plan or recovery strategy ~~before it is provided to the Management Authorities and made public.~~”

Action #A2017012502: Secretariat to update web version of *Guidelines for Management Plans and Recovery Strategies* to reflect the changes made during this meeting.

Action #A2017012503: Secretariat to work with report preparer to draft revisions to the *Guidelines for Management Plans and Recovery Strategies* for review and approval at the May 2017 CMA meeting.

13. Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
Development of preliminary implementation agreement for recovery strategy. Implementation agreement is due on November 25, 2017.

Reviewed all the recommended actions included in the NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy and discussed which actions each Management Authority may want to lead, or be engaged in, over the next 5 years. ‘Annual review’ actions will be included as standing agenda items in all future January face-to-face CMA meetings.

Action #A2017012504: Secretariat to compile table of actions for implementation by early February 2017, so members can discuss implementation with their Boards before the May 2-4, 2017 meeting. Management Authorities should come to the meeting with a clear idea of which actions they will be able to implement or participate in.

14. Boreal caribou range planning – led by Joanna Wilson, ENR
Presentation on boreal caribou range planning.

Presentation on boreal caribou range planning by Joanna Wilson. Questions and answers from the presentation were as follows:

Q: How to you define ‘disturbance’?

A: ‘Human disturbance’ in the context of boreal caribou critical habitat is the human footprint that can be seen on Landsat images, plus a 500 meter buffer. Things like roads, well pads, seismic lines, communities, and cut blocks. It captures physical changes to the landscape.

Q: Are you expecting any blips in the area of disturbed habitat as a result of fire history?

A: Yes, there will be some years when large burned areas become ‘undisturbed’ (i.e. turn 41 years post-fire) as well as years when much less area becomes ‘undisturbed’. Fire history analysis has been completed and is reflected in the forward-looking disturbance projections; however, we are not able to predict where disturbance from new fires will occur.

Q: How would you ensure that the 65% habitat threshold is met?

A: The general idea we’re exploring is that each region would have a target of undisturbed habitat and that those targets would be tied to land use decision making.

Q: Is the range plan binding?

A: Not at this time. However, we're exploring options for adding 'teeth' to the plan; in other words, using various tools to ensure that the range plan is considered in decisions about land use.

Q: What impact is climate change likely to have on your models?

A: We think fire disturbance is likely going to increase (longer fire seasons, more extreme fire years). This is one reason why we're looking at the option of setting interim targets and then correcting them over time, so we can make adjustments as conditions change.

Q: Would the pine beetle affect caribou habitat?

A: If there is a pine beetle infestation and a significant number of affected trees are logged, then that logging would likely show up as disturbance on Landsat images.

Q: You're starting with range plans in the Dehcho and South Slave. How are range plans going to be rolled out for the other regions?

A: Once the framework is determined we will start with the Dehcho and South Slave range plans. Hoping to produce a timeline to completion for all regions by summer 2017.

Action #A2017012505: Joanna to share boreal caribou range plan presentation with CMA members.

15. Amphibian Management Plan – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson

Development of preliminary implementation agreement for management plan.

Implementation agreement due on November 25, 2017.

Reviewed all the recommended approaches included in the NWT Amphibian Management Plan and discussed which actions each Management Authority may want to lead, or be engaged in, over the next 5 years. For both this implementation agreement and the boreal caribou implementation agreement - because these are no longer abstract recommendations and will constitute public commitments - internal GNWT work for approval is going to be quite substantial. Will need a final agreement for processing by about the end of July 2017 in order to ensure approval before November 25, 2017.

Action #A2017012506: Secretariat to compile table of actions for implementation by early February 2017, so members can discuss implementation with their Boards before the May 2-4, 2017 meeting. Management Authorities should come to the meeting with a clear idea of which actions they will be able to implement or participate in.

16. Grizzly bears – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson

Preliminary discussion on actions to prepare for listing. Preliminary discussion on possible upcoming need for a management plan/recovery strategy. Assessment to be submitted by SARC in April 2017.

If SARC assesses as at risk, then consultation materials for listing will be required at the same time as those for the listing of barren-ground caribou (May 2017).

For future recovery/management planning, both the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit settlement areas have grizzly bear management plans that could possibly be considered for adoption. However, the other regions don't have management plans in place. Therefore, if assessed and listed as an at risk species, a management plan or recovery strategy will likely need to be created.

17. Bats – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson

Preliminary discussion on actions to prepare for listing. Preliminary discussion on possible upcoming need for a management plan/recovery strategy. Assessment to be submitted by SARC in April 2017.

If SARC assesses any of the bat species as at risk, then consultation materials for listing will be required at the same time as those for the listing of barren-ground caribou and grizzly bears (May 2017).

A number of bat sightings have been reported outside of the known range of little brown myotis. These sightings are reflected in SARC's status report. In the context of the Aklavik sighting, WMAC (NWT) is wondering whether this would therefore define them as a Management Authority for this species. No clear answer as there's a lot of uncertainty about the range of this species.

With respect to recovery/management planning, there are no regional bat management plans to consider for adoption. However, there will be a federal recovery strategy for little brown and northern myotis. The federal strategy is almost complete now. The CMA could consider adopting part of that recovery strategy.

**GRRB members left at this point. WMAC (NWT) representatives, Danny Beck, and Leslie Wakelyn remained as observers.*

18. Wood bison – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson

Management Authority positions on listing. Consensus agreement on listing must be submitted to Minister of ENR by April 15, 2017. Path forward for preparing the recovery strategy.

The WRRB and Tłıchq Government finished their consultation and will be finalizing their positions on listing at their respective February meetings. A formal GNWT endorsement of listing is still pending, but GNWT representatives are planning on recommending listing as threatened. It will take approximately two months for formal GNWT endorsement to be received. If formal WRRB and Tłıchq Government positions recommend something other than listing as threatened, Management Authorities will need to discuss how to proceed in the absence of clear consensus.

Action #A2017012507: If WRRB or Tłıchq Government positions on listing wood bison differ from threatened, Secretariat to organize a teleconference for Management Authorities as soon as possible (week of February 13, 2017).

At an earlier meeting, the GNWT agreed to come to this meeting with a proposal for a wood bison recovery strategy (assuming they are listed as threatened). The GNWT proposes using the existing management documents for wood bison in the NWT. This results in two options:

- Option A - Adopting the Wood Bison Management Strategy for the NWT.
- Option B - Adopting the herd-specific management plans (Mackenzie, Nahanni, Slave River Lowlands) that are currently under development.

The GNWT is proposing the first option. The Wood Bison Management Strategy for the NWT is already in place, and includes within it references to the herd-specific management plans. The goals, principles, challenges, key strategies, etc. in the management strategy all seem to be appropriate for CMA use. Some of the background information would need to be updated (from 2010), and positive influences would need to be included somehow. There's also some financial information in the management strategy that isn't relevant to the CMA that can be removed.

Meeting participants indicated general support for this approach. The adopted content from the management strategy would be re-packaged, updated, and tailored for the CMA.

The GNWT will solicit policy advice on the degree of consultation that will be required to adopt the content of the management strategy. Consultation and engagement was undertaken during the development of the management strategy. Uncertain at this point whether the changes proposed by the CMA will be sufficient to warrant additional consultation and to what degree.

Action #A2017012508: Report preparer to complete a draft wood bison recovery strategy for review at the January 2018 CMA meeting. Guidance on what updates are required should be solicited from the GNWT, WRRB, and Tłıchǫ Government to inform this work.

**Jody Pellissey and Danny Beck left. Leslie Wakelyn remained as an observer.*

19. Dolphin and Union caribou – led by Rob Gau, Ad-hoc Chairperson
Progress update on management plan development. Consensus agreement must be submitted to the Minister of ENR by December 31, 2017.

The revised draft management plan went out for second jurisdictional review to WMAC (NWT), the GNWT, and the Government of Nunavut in September; at that time, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) requested support to post on their public registry. The plan was reviewed by the GNWT, Government of Nunavut, WMAC (NWT), and other partners. Revisions were made based on these comments and in December 2016, ECCC sent the proposed draft plan to their headquarters. It's currently proceeding through translation. ECCC anticipates posting the draft on the SARA Registry for 60-day review starting on March 31, 2017 (ending May 30, 2017). The GNWT will post this proposed draft to their website at the same time. Although this is a joint management plan, two documents will ultimately be produced, with different ISBN numbers, to accommodate Canada's formatting requirements. On track to meet completion deadline.

20. Peary caribou – led by Rob Gau, Ad-hoc Chairperson
Progress update on federal recovery strategy development. Consensus agreement must be submitted to the Minister of ENR by November 27, 2017.

The CMA has been dove-tailing with federal processes for Peary caribou recovery planning. Teleconference Wednesday last week to address issues with critical habitat. WMAC (NWT) is anticipating writing a letter to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Inuvialuit Land Administration to advise them that they should be engaged in the process because of the implications of critical habitat identification.

ECCC plans to conduct additional community consultation via letter in March 2017. After integrating comments from this process, the recovery strategy is scheduled to go out for its second jurisdictional review in May 2017. During this review period, ECCC will be asking for comments and support to post the draft to the SARA Registry.

The CMA does not anticipate adopting any part of the recovery strategy related to critical habitat. During jurisdictional review, Management Authorities need to consider whether

the report is otherwise adoptable. Management Authorities also need to verify whether the federal recovery document includes positive influences (which is a requirement of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*).

Another extension will be required to accommodate Canada's timelines. Extension to be determined.

21. Polar bear – led by Rob Gau, Ad-hoc Chairperson

Progress update on finalization of management plan. Consensus agreement must be submitted to the Minister of ENR by March 27, 2017.

Approval letter from WMAC (NWT), IGC and WMAC (NS) is ready to be sent. For GNWT approvals, the draft consensus agreement will be required by mid-February.

Action #A2017012509: WMAC (NWT) and GNWT to send Secretariat summary of actions taken to prepare for consensus agreement accepting ISR Polar Bear Management Plan for inclusion in the draft consensus agreement (by no later than mid-February 2017).

Is there interest in a CMA media advisory going out once the consensus agreement has been submitted to the Minister? Yes. Secretariat to make necessary arrangements.

With respect to the implementation agreement, Management Authorities agree that the same process that was used for boreal caribou and amphibians should be used. This should be done at the May 2017 CMA meeting. However, because this management plan includes partners who do not sit at the CMA table, engagement with them will be important. Management Authorities suggested soliciting the sub-working group about how they'd like to be engaged during implementation planning.

[Meeting adjourned: 4:30pm]