



## ***SPECIES AT RISK (NWT) ACT***

SUMMARY OF ASSESSED AND LISTED SPECIES  
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES UNDER THE ACT

2024

## Introduction:

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* came into force in 2010. The Conference of Management Authorities on Species at Risk (CMA), Management Authorities, Species at Risk Committee (SARC), and NWT List of Species at Risk were established under the Act.

The CMA is the group of wildlife co-management boards and governments that share management responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT. The CMA provides direction, coordination and leadership on species at risk. The Management Authorities are the individual members of the CMA, as established under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. SARC is an independent committee of experts on species, habitat, northern ecosystems, and conservation. SARC's role is to assess the biological status of species that may be at risk in the NWT.

This document provides a summary of assessed and listed species under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* including timelines and a description of steps as required under the Act. The NWT List of Species at Risk is the legal list of species designated at risk under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

Following the assessment of a species as at risk by SARC, the following timelines apply under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*:

Start	The assessment of a species by the Species at Risk Committee (SARC)
+1 year	A CMA consensus agreement on listing is developed and submitted to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Minister of Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
+3 months	Minister of ECC legally lists the species consistent with the consensus agreement
+9-21 months	A CMA management plan or recovery strategy is developed and accepted for listed species
+3 months	Management plan or recovery strategy is released to the public by the Minister of ECC
+9 months	A CMA consensus agreement respecting the implementation of the management plan or recovery strategy is developed/released to the public
+5 years	A CMA progress report on implementation is prepared/released to the public

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This summary is considered an uncontrolled document. Refer to the NWT Species at Risk website ([www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca)) for the latest information on the status of species at risk in the Northwest Territories.

## American white pelican

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>American white pelican</b> – assessed as <i>Special Concern</i>, not listed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> April 2023</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on not listing:</b> May 2024</li> </ul>	<p>The GNWT is the only Management Authority for the American white pelican.</p> <p>SARC completed the assessment of American white pelican in April 2023. American white pelican was assessed as a species of Special Concern.</p> <p>A consensus agreement on not listing American white pelican was signed in May 2024.</p>	<p>No further action.</p>

## Barren-ground caribou

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>Barren-ground caribou - Threatened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> April 2017</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> April 2018</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> July 2018</li> <li>• <b>CMA recovery strategy accepted:</b> April 2020</li> <li>• <b>CMA recovery strategy released:</b> July 2020</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement released:</b> April 2021</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progress report due:</b> April 2026</li> <li>• <b>SARC reassessment:</b> Spring 2027</li> </ul>	<p>Management Authorities for barren-ground caribou are: GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, SRRB, WRRB and the Tłıchǫ Government.</p> <p>The recovery strategy was released in July 2020. It is the result of a collaborative effort by diverse groups across the range of barren-ground caribou. It provides overarching guidance on management and stewardship of barren-ground caribou in the NWT over the long term. Herd-specific requirements are met through more detailed herd-specific management plans (either existing or under development).</p> <p>'Barren-ground caribou' in this case includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, Bathurst, Beverly, Ahiak and Qamanirjuaq herds.</p> <p>Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing.</p> <p>Work is underway to prepare a species status report for barren-ground caribou and Porcupine caribou in the NWT.</p>	<p>A progress report on the implementation of the recovery strategy is required every five years. The first one is due in April 2026.</p> <p>This species is scheduled for reassessment in Spring 2027.</p>

## Boreal caribou

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b><u>Boreal caribou</u></b> - <i>Threatened</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> December 2012</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> November 2013</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> February 2014</li> <li>• <b>CMA recovery strategy accepted:</b> November 2016</li> <li>• <b>Recovery strategy released:</b> February 2017</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement released:</b> November 2017</li> <li>• <b>SARC reassessment:</b> May 2022</li> <li>• <b>Progress report/review released:</b> November 2022</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on re-listing:</b> May 2023</li> <li>• <b>Legally re-listed:</b> August 2023</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Upcoming:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progress report due:</b> November 2027</li> </ul>	<p>Management Authorities for boreal caribou are: GNWT, WMAC (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB), Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB), Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB), and the Tłı̨chǫ Government.</p> <p>Implementation activities by the Management Authorities are ongoing.</p> <p>SARC completed the reassessment of boreal caribou in May 2022. Boreal caribou was reassessed as Threatened.</p> <p>The progress report and review of the recovery strategy were completed in November 2022.</p> <p>A consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term to the current listing of boreal caribou was signed in May 2023 and boreal caribou was legally re-listed in August 2023.</p>	<p>A progress report on the implementation of the recovery strategy is required every five years. The next one is due in November 2027.</p>

## Canadian toad

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>Canadian toad</b> – <i>No status</i></p> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> Spring 2025</li></ul>	<p>The GNWT is the only Management Authority for Canadian toad.</p> <p>Work is underway to prepare a multi-species status report for northern leopard frog, western toad and Canadian toad in the NWT.</p>	<p>Canadian toad is scheduled for assessment in Spring 2025.</p>

## Dolphin and Union caribou

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b><u>Dolphin and Union caribou – Endangered</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> December 2013</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> December 2014</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> March 2015</li> <li>• <b>CMA management plan accepted:</b> December 2017</li> <li>• <b>Management plan released:</b> March 2018</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement released:</b> December 2018</li> <li>• <b>SARC reassessment:</b> April 2023</li> <li>• <b>Progress report released:</b> December 2023</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> May 2024</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> August 2024</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Upcoming:</u></b></p> <p><b>Recovery strategy due:</b> August 2027</p>	<p>Management Authorities for Dolphin and Union caribou are: GNWT and WMAC (NWT).</p> <p>A management plan was developed cooperatively by the GNWT, Government of Nunavut, and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), working with co-management partners.</p> <p>Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing.</p> <p>The progress report on the management plan was completed in December 2023. The review of the management plan was postponed until after the listing decision in 2024.</p> <p>SARC completed the reassessment of Dolphin and Union caribou in April 2023. Dolphin and Union caribou was reassessed as Endangered.</p> <p>A consensus agreement listing Dolphin and Union caribou as Endangered was signed in May 2024 and Dolphin and Union caribou was legally listed as Endangered in August 2024.</p> <p>A notice of extension on the development of the recovery strategy for Dolphin and Union caribou was issued with an extension to August 1, 2027.</p>	<p>A recovery strategy is required by August 2027.</p> <p>A review of the Dolphin and Union caribou management plan will be completed through the development of the recovery strategy.</p>

## Hairy braya

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>Hairy braya</b> - <i>Threatened</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> December 2012 (Threatened)</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> November 2013</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> February 2014</li> <li>• <b>CMA recovery strategy accepted:</b> November 2015</li> <li>• <b>Recovery strategy released:</b> February 2016</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement released:</b> November 2016</li> <li>• <b>Progress report/review released:</b> November 2021</li> <li>• <b>SARC reassessment:</b> April 2024 (Threatened)</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on re-listing:</b> May 2025</li> <li>• <b>Progress report due:</b> November 2026</li> </ul>	<p>Management Authorities for hairy braya are: Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC (NWT)).</p> <p>Hairy braya has been listed as Threatened under the <i>Species at Risk (NWT) Act</i> since February 2014. Implementation activities by the Management Authorities are ongoing.</p> <p>The progress report and review of the recovery strategy were completed in November 2021.</p> <p>SARC completed the reassessment of hairy braya in April 2024. Hairy braya was reassessed as Threatened.</p> <p>Engagement on re-listing hairy braya as Threatened under the <i>Species at Risk (NWT) Act</i> is underway.</p>	<p>A consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term to the current listing of hairy braya as Threatened is due May 2025.</p> <p>A progress report on the implementation of the recovery strategy is required every five years. The next one is due in November 2026.</p>



## Little brown myotis/Northern myotis

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b><u>Little brown myotis/Northern myotis</u></b> - Both are <i>Special Concern</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> April 2017</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> April 2018</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> July 2018</li> <li>• <b>CMA management plan accepted:</b> April 2020</li> <li>• <b>CMA management plan released:</b> July 2020</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement:</b> April 2021</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Upcoming:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progress report due:</b> April 2026</li> </ul>	<p>Management Authorities for the little brown myotis are: GNWT, SRRB, WRRB, and the Tłıchǫ Government.</p> <p>The GNWT is the only Management Authority for northern myotis.</p> <p>The management plan was released in July 2020. The multi-species management plan addresses the management needs of all bat species in the NWT.</p> <p>Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing.</p>	<p>A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The first one is due in April 2026.</p> <p>These species are scheduled for reassessment in Spring 2027.</p>

## Northern mountain caribou

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>Northern mountain caribou – Special Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> April 2020</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> April 2021</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> July 2021</li> <li>• <b>CMA management plan accepted:</b> April 2023</li> <li>• <b>CMA management plan released:</b> July 2023</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement:</b> April 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <p><b>Progress report due:</b> April 2029</p>	<p>Management Authorities for northern mountain caribou are: GNWT, GRRB and SRRB.</p> <p>SARC completed the assessment of northern mountain caribou in April 2020. Northern mountain caribou was assessed as a species of Special Concern.</p> <p>A consensus agreement on listing was signed in April 2021 and northern mountain caribou were legally listed in July 2021.</p> <p>The CMA developed and released a management plan for the NWT that adopts the federal management plan and points to the Sahtú community-led plan (<i>Níio Nę P'ęnę Begháré Shúhta Goęepę Narehąá – Trails of the Mountain Caribou Management Plan</i>) as an important regional initiative.</p> <p>A consensus agreement on implementation of the management plan was signed April 2024.</p>	<p>A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The first one is due in April 2029.</p>

## Northern leopard frog/western toad

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b><u>Northern leopard frog/western toad</u></b> - Both are <i>Threatened</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> December 2013/December 2014</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> December 2014/November 2016</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> March 2015/February 2016</li> <li>• <b>CMA management plan accepted:</b> November 2016</li> <li>• <b>Management plan released:</b> February 2017</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement released:</b> November 2017</li> <li>• <b>Progress report/review released:</b> November 2022</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Upcoming:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC reassessment:</b> Spring 2025</li> <li>• <b>Progress report due:</b> November 2027</li> </ul>	<p>The GNWT is the Management Authority for northern leopard frog and western toad. The Management Authorities for amphibians are: GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, SRRB, WRRB and the Tłıchǫ Government.</p> <p>Recovery strategy requirements were met through the CMA's adoption of the <i>Management Plan for Amphibians in the NWT</i>, which is a multi-species plan that addresses the management needs of all NWT amphibians.</p> <p>Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing.</p> <p>The Minister extended the term of northern leopard frog and western toad on the Northwest Territories List of Species at Risk as Threatened species by request of the CMA. The listing term for northern leopard frog was extended to March 19, 2027 and the listing term for western toad was extended to February 25, 2027.</p> <p>The progress report and review of the management plan for amphibians were completed in November 2022.</p> <p>Work is underway to prepare a multi-species status report for northern leopard frog, western toad and Canadian toad in the NWT.</p>	<p>Northern leopard frog and western toad are both scheduled for reassessment in Spring 2025.</p> <p>A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The next one is due in November 2027.</p>

## Peary caribou

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>Peary caribou</b> - <i>Threatened</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> December 2012</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> November 2013</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> February 2014</li> <li>• <b>SARC reassessment:</b> May 2022</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on relisting:</b> May 2023</li> <li>• <b>Legally re-listed:</b> August 2023</li> <li>• <b>CMA recovery strategy accepted:</b> April 2024</li> <li>• <b>Recovery strategy released:</b> July 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement due:</b> April 2025</li> </ul>	<p>Management Authorities for Peary caribou are: GNWT and WMAC (NWT).</p> <p>SARC completed the reassessment of Peary caribou in May 2022. Peary caribou was reassessed as Threatened.</p> <p>A consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term to the current listing of Peary caribou was signed in May 2023 and Peary caribou was legally re-listed in August 2023.</p> <p>The CMA developed and released a recovery strategy for the NWT that adopts the applicable portions of the federal recovery strategy.</p>	<p>A consensus agreement on implementation of the recovery strategy is due in April 2025.</p>

## Polar bear

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>Polar bear</b> - <i>Special Concern</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> December 2012</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> November 2013</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> February 2014</li> <li>• <b>CMA management plan accepted:</b> March 2017</li> <li>• <b>Management plan released:</b> June 2017</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement released:</b> March 2018</li> <li>• <b>SARC reassessment:</b> April 2021</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on re-listing:</b> April 2022</li> <li>• <b>Legally re-listed:</b> July 2022</li> <li>• <b>Progress report/review released:</b> November 2022</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progress report due:</b> November 2027</li> </ul>	<p>Management Authorities for polar bear in the NWT are: GNWT and WMAC (NWT).</p> <p>The <i>Inuvialuit Settlement Region Polar Bear Joint Management Plan</i> describes management objectives for polar bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), which includes both the NWT and Yukon. Management of polar bears in the ISR is jurisdictionally complex and the plan is intended to facilitate an integrated and common approach across all jurisdictions.</p> <p>Implementation activities by the Management Authorities are ongoing.</p> <p>The progress report and review of the management plan were completed in November 2022.</p> <p>SARC completed the reassessment of polar bear in April 2021. Polar bear was reassessed as a species of Special Concern.</p> <p>A consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term to the current listing of polar bear was signed in April 2022 and polar bear was legally re-listed in July 2022.</p>	<p>A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The next one is due in November 2027.</p>

## Red-sided garter snake

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>Red-sided garter snake</b> – assessed as <i>Special Concern</i>, listing under consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> April 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing due:</b> May 2025</li> </ul>	<p>The GNWT is the only Management Authority for the red-sided garter snake.</p> <p>SARC completed the assessment of red-sided garter snake in April 2024. Red-sided garter snake was assessed as a species of Special Concern.</p> <p>Engagement on listing red-sided garter snake as a species of Special Concern under the <i>Species at Risk (NWT) Act</i> is underway.</p>	<p>A consensus agreement on listing is due May 2025.</p>

## Wood bison

Species and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
<p><b>Wood bison</b> - <i>Threatened</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SARC assessment:</b> April 2016</li> <li>• <b>CMA consensus agreement on listing:</b> April 2017</li> <li>• <b>Legally listed:</b> July 2017</li> <li>• <b>CMA recovery strategy accepted:</b> April 2019</li> <li>• <b>CMA recovery strategy released:</b> July 2019</li> <li>• <b>CMA implementation agreement released:</b> April 2020</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progress report due:</b> April 2025</li> <li>• <b>SARC reassessment:</b> Spring 2026</li> </ul>	<p>Management Authorities for wood bison are: GNWT, WRRB, and the Tłıchǫ Government.</p> <p>The recovery strategy was released in July 2019. The recovery strategy was developed collaboratively by co-management partners. More specific recovery actions for each wood bison population are captured in herd-specific management plans.</p> <p>Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing.</p> <p>Work is underway to prepare a progress report on the recovery strategy (due April 2025). Work is underway to prepare a species status report for wood bison in the NWT in preparation for reassessment in 2026.</p>	<p>A review of the recovery strategy is scheduled for November 2024.</p> <p>A progress report on the implementation of the recovery strategy is required every five years. The first one is due in April 2025.</p> <p>Wood bison is scheduled for reassessment in Spring 2026.</p>

## Other completed assessments:

The following species were assessed by SARC and found to be Not at Risk or Data Deficient in the NWT. No further steps will be taken under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* for these species:

Assessment	Species	Assessment Year
Not at Risk	Wolverine	2014
	Porcupine caribou <sup>1</sup>	2017
	Yellow-banded bumble bee	2019
	Peregrine falcon	2022
Data Deficient	Long-legged myotis	2017
	Long-eared myotis	2017
	Big brown bat	2017
	Western bumble bee	2019
	Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee	2019

<sup>1</sup> Porcupine caribou is scheduled to be reassessed alongside barren-ground caribou in 2027.

The following species were assessed by SARC, but were not listed by the CMA:

Assessment	Species	Assessment Year	CMA Listing Decision
Special Concern	Grizzly bear	2017	Not listed (2018)
	American white pelican	2023	Not listed (2024)



### Scheduled assessments/reassessments:

The following species are scheduled to be assessed by SARC:

Assessment Year	Species
2025	Northern leopard frog (reassessment)
	Western toad (reassessment)
	Canadian Toad
2026	Wood bison (reassessment)
	Common muskrat
2027	Barren-ground caribou and Porcupine caribou (reassessment)
	Little brown myotis (reassessment)
	Northern myotis (reassessment)
2028	Muskoxen
	Rock cranberry (lingonberry)
2029	Dall's sheep