



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015



ANNUAL REPORT

Under subsection 23(1) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Species at Risk Committee must submit an annual report to the Conference of Management Authorities by July 1 each year. This annual report covers the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

THE SPECIES AT RISK (NWT) ACT

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (the Act) provides a process to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Act applies to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It applies in most areas of the NWT, on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claims agreement.

Barren-ground caribou – Photo Credit: Rob Gau, ENR



Grizzly bear tracks – Photo Credit: Rob Gau, ENR



THE SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

The Species at Risk Committee (the Committee) was established under the Act. It is an independent committee of experts responsible for assessing the biological status of species at risk in the NWT.

Species status assessments are done at the territorial level and results may be different from assessments done at the national level. Assessments are based on species status reports that include the best available Aboriginal traditional knowledge, community knowledge and scientific knowledge of the species. The Committee must use objective biological criteria in its assessments and does not consider socio-economic factors.

The Committee uses the assessments to make recommendations on the listing of species at risk. The assessment categories for the legal list of species at risk are Extinct, Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern. Species can also be assessed as Not at Risk or Data Deficient. The Committee identifies threats and positive influences to species and their habitats, and may make recommendations on conservation measures for species at risk.

The Committee makes its recommendations to the Conference of Management Authorities, a group of boards and governments that share responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT. The Conference of Management Authorities includes wildlife co-management boards established under land claim and self-government agreements, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the Government of Canada.



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Species at Risk Committee members are appointed by the four wildlife co-management boards established under settled land claim and self-government agreements and the federal government. The Government of the Northwest Territories, represented by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, appoints the other members. Appointments are for up to five years.

Committee members must have significant expertise of species, habitat, northern ecosystems or conservation. Members act independently and not as representatives of their appointing bodies.

Members:

- **Chairperson:** Mr. James Firth
- **Alternate Chairperson:** Dr. Suzanne Carrière
- Mr. Arthur Beck
- Ms. Joanna Wilson
- Mr. Leon Andrew
- Mr. Moise Rabesca
- Dr. Nicholas (Nic) Larter

Alternates:

- Mr. Boyan Tracz
- Mr. Daniel Beck
- Dr. Deborah Simmons
- Ms. Cindy Allen

Biographies of members and alternates are available at www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca



Big brown bat – Photo Credit: Cori Lausen

COMMITTEE PROGRESS APRIL 1, 2014 TO MARCH 31, 2015

The Species at Risk Committee released the results of the 2014 species assessments in December 2014. This is the third year assessments have been done since the Act came into force in 2010. Species assessed in 2014 were wolverine (Not at Risk) and western toad (Threatened).

The Conference of Management Authorities will decide whether or not to add western toad to the NWT List of Species at Risk by December 12, 2015.

The Species at Risk Committee held four meetings in 2014-2015 and continued work on species status reports for wood bison, which is scheduled to be assessed in 2015, and barren-ground caribou, grizzly bears and bats (big brown bat, little brown myotis, long-eared myotis, long-legged myotis and northern myotis), which are scheduled to be assessed in 2016.

The Committee did not receive any referrals or applications for species to be assessed under subsection 26(1) or section 27 of the Act. An assessment schedule detailing species to be assessed from 2015 to 2020 was developed and has been approved by the Conference of Management Authorities. The assessment schedule is revised annually.

All Species at Risk Committee documents, including species status reports and assessments, are available on the NWT Species at Risk website: www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca



Peregrine falcon – Photo Credit: Gordon Court

RECORD OF SPECIES ASSESSMENTS

SPECIES	ASSESSMENT	DATE OF ASSESSMENT
Peary caribou	Threatened	December 2012
Boreal caribou	Threatened	December 2012
Hairy braya	Threatened	December 2012
Polar bear	Special Concern	December 2012
Dolphin and Union caribou	Special Concern	December 2013
Northern leopard frog	Threatened	December 2013
Wolverine	Not at Risk	December 2014
Western toad	Threatened	December 2014



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, provides full administrative and financial support to the Species at Risk Committee. Contracts for preparing species status reports are advertised on www.contractregistry.nt.ca.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2015-2020 (CURRENT AS OF JUNE 19, 2015)

DECEMBER 2015	Wood bison (<i>Bison bison athabascae</i>)
DECEMBER 2016	Barren-ground caribou (except Dolphin and Union population) (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) Grizzly bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) Little brown bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)* Northern myotis (bat) (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)* Long-eared myotis (bat) (<i>Myotis evotis</i>)* Long-legged myotis (bat) (<i>Myotis volans</i>)* Big brown bat (<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>)*
	* The five bat species will be bundled together into one species status report, but assessed separately.
DECEMBER 2017	Banks Island alkali grass (plant) (<i>Puccinellia banksiensis</i>)* Sand bluegrass (plant) (<i>Poa ammophila</i>)* Drummond bluebell (plant) (<i>Mertensia drummondii</i>)* Yellow-banded bumble bee (<i>Bombus terricola</i>)* Western bumble bee (<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>)* Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>)*
	* The three bumble bee species and the three plant species will be bundled together into one species status report, but assessed separately.
DECEMBER 2018	Collared pika (<i>Ochotona collaris</i>) Woodland caribou (northern mountain population) (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>)
DECEMBER 2019	American white pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>) Red-sided garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>)
DECEMBER 2020	Peregrine falcon anatum-tundrius complex (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) Rusty blackbird (<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>) Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)

*The Assessment Schedule is subject to annual review and modification.

CONTACT

For more information about the Species at Risk Committee and its activities, please visit our website:

www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca

Or contact:

Species at Risk Secretariat
c/o SC6, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Toll-free: 1 (855) 783-4301
Fax: (867) 873-0293
E-mail: SARA@gov.nt.ca

Respectfully submitted,



James Firth, Chairperson
Species at Risk Committee

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

Cover Photo:
Western bumble bee – Photo Credit: Alistair Fraser