



**CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES
SPECIES AT RISK**

NWT CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

CONSENSUS AGREEMENT RESPECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR AMPHIBIANS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Conference of Management Authorities has reached a consensus (hereafter referred to as the "Consensus Agreement") respecting the implementation of the *Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories*.

The management goal is to maintain a healthy and viable population for each amphibian species across its NWT range. The recommended management approaches and the Management Authority's intent to undertake them are summarized in Annex A of this Consensus Agreement. Further information on amphibians and the management goal, objectives and approaches can be found in the *Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories*.

Implementation is subject to appropriations, priorities and budgetary constraints of the Management Authority.

Periodic co-management reviews of new information, management actions and progress made toward meeting management objectives, as outlined in approach 5.3, will allow for the implementation of the management plan to be periodically reviewed and adapted as appropriate.

The processes for developing the management plan and implementation agreement are outlined in Annex B.

GNWT Statements

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) makes the following statements about its intentions to implement the recommended approaches in the management plan, subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints:

- A. Implementation Underway** – The GNWT is actively implementing a number of the recommended actions in the management plan, in whole or in part. Many of these actions are long-term and progress is made gradually over time. The actions are being implemented with co-management partners as part of ongoing management, monitoring, research, conservation planning, and environmental assessment programs. The recommendations in the amphibian management plan provide advice to help guide these programs. This applies to recommended actions 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, and 5.2.
- B. Resources Required** – A number of the recommended actions in the management plan are important but implementing them would require additional resources and/or re-allocation of existing resources. The GNWT intends to pursue implementation of these actions as resources and capacity allow. The GNWT will seek additional resources and may consider re-allocation of existing resources to implement these actions. Re-allocation of existing resources could affect other commitments. This applies to recommended actions 1.2, 2.4, and 3.1.
- C. Periodic Reviews** – The management plan recommends periodic reviews of progress and information to enable adaptive management. The GNWT intends to undertake such reviews with the other management partners periodically as needed. Regularly scheduled Conference of Management Authorities meetings may be used for periodic reviews. In accordance with legal requirements under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the GNWT also intends to undertake a review of the management plan and report on progress every five years. This applies to recommended action 5.3.
- D. Not Pursuing** – Some actions in the management plan are more appropriately led by partners other than the GNWT, and some actions are not currently a high priority for the GNWT to implement given other higher priorities and resource constraints. The GNWT does not intend to actively pursue implementing these actions at this time. This does not prevent the GNWT from participating in implementation if opportunities arise and/or when other management partners take a lead role. This applies to recommended actions 1.5, 2.2, and 3.3.

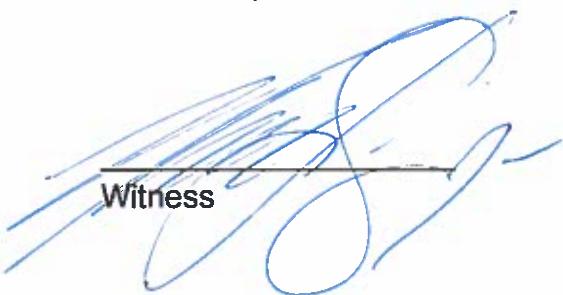
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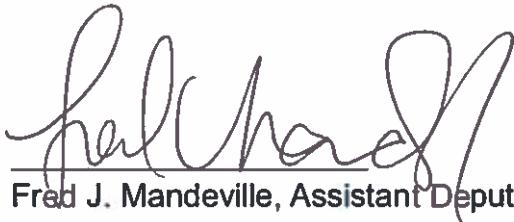
For greater certainty, terms and processes in this Consensus Agreement are as defined and described in the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

For greater certainty, although the *Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories* considers all amphibians in the Northwest Territories and was accepted by all wildlife Management Authorities in the Northwest Territories (Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, Tłı̨chǫ Government, and the Government of the Northwest Territories), only the western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) and northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) are considered species at risk under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

For greater certainty, the Management Authority for both western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) and northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) is the Government of the Northwest Territories.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, having reached this consensus on this 24TH day of November 2017, provide this Consensus Agreement to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories.


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Fred J. Mandeville, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Operations
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories

ANNEX A

RECOMMENDED APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR AMPHIBIANS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Management Approach	GNWT Statements ¹	Partners intending to implement ²
Objective #1: Fill knowledge gaps and enhance understanding of NWT amphibians, including traditional, community, and scientific knowledge, to inform sound management decisions.		
1.1 Identify knowledge gaps and encourage research and monitoring focused on amphibian health/disease, biology, population, distribution, habitat, threats, climate change, and cumulative effects.	A – Implementation Underway	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB), Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB)
1.2 Periodically survey known breeding sites, especially for at risk amphibian species.	B – Resources Required	
1.3 Encourage people to report observations of amphibians to WILDLIFEOS@gov.nt.ca , and periodically compile all records.	A – Implementation Underway	GRRB, SRRB, Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)
1.4 Encourage the collection and recording of traditional and community knowledge about amphibians.	A – Implementation Underway	SRRB
1.5 Explore sources and background reports from land use	D – Not Pursuing	

¹ This column refers to the GNWT Statements found on page 2 of this Consensus Agreement.

² The co-management partners in this column intend to undertake the approach indicated, subject to appropriations, priorities and budgetary constraints.

planning and other regulatory processes for relevant traditional knowledge on amphibians.		
Objective #2: Identify and maintain key amphibian habitats.		
2.1 Identify and map key amphibian habitats using information from 1.1 to 1.5.	A – Implementation Underway	
2.2 At key sites where amphibians are concentrated, promote measures that aim to prevent mass mortality from motorized vehicles.	D – Not Pursuing	
2.3 Identify and avoid or mitigate human impacts at key amphibian habitats through the regulatory process (permitting, screening, and environmental assessment), legislation, land use planning, conservation areas, stewardship, or other effective mechanisms.	A – Implementation Underway	
2.4 Develop standard advice for industry and government to mitigate the impacts of development projects, timber harvesting, and roads on amphibians.	B – Resources Required	GRRB
Objective #3: Mitigate, monitor, and manage the effects of disease and other important threats to amphibians.		
3.1 Monitor amphibian diseases (chytridiomycosis and ranavirus) and their impacts in the NWT.	B – Resources Required	
3.2 Develop and/or adopt best practices to prevent the spread of disease in wetlands and ponds.	A – Implementation Underway	

3.3 Ensure that introductions of live fish follow the National Code on Introductions and Transfer of Aquatic Organisms; and consider potential impacts on amphibians.	D – Not Pursuing	
Objective #4: Increase public awareness and stewardship of amphibians and their habitats.		
4.1 Raise awareness of NWT amphibians and the threats they face through various means (e.g., posters, brochures, web, social media, interpretive signs, presentations, school programs).	A – Implementation Underway	SRRB, WRRB
4.2 Encourage and support stewardship projects that benefit amphibians and their habitat.	A – Implementation Underway	
Objective #5: Manage amphibians using an adaptive and collaborative approach, and the best available information.		
5.1 NWT co-management partners collaborate with each other and with other jurisdictions and research institutions on management and monitoring of NWT amphibians.	A – Implementation Underway	SRRB
5.2 Encourage flow of information among researchers, co-management partners, regulatory boards, and the public.	A – Implementation Underway	GRRB
5.3 Conduct periodic co-management reviews of new information, management actions and progress made toward meeting management objectives.	C – Periodic Reviews	

ANNEX B

DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

On March 19, 2015 and February 25, 2016, respectively, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), acting on the direction provided by the Conference of Management Authorities in their *Consensus Agreement on Listing Northern Leopard Frog (Lithobates pipiens)* (December 2014) and *Consensus Agreement on Listing Western Toad (Anaxyrus boreas)* (December 2015), added northern leopard frog and western toad to the NWT List of Species at Risk as threatened species. A multi-species *Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories* was developed by the Conference of Management Authorities to address the management requirements of all amphibians in the NWT. The management plan includes appropriate recommended objectives and approaches for the conservation and recovery of the two amphibian species at risk (northern leopard frog and western toad), as well as descriptions of threats and positive influences, as required under section 61 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The Management Plan was completed on February 25, 2017, in accordance with subsection 60(1) and sections 65-68 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

This *Consensus Agreement Respecting Implementation of the Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories* was informed by discussions of the Conference of Management Authorities, the management plan, the *Consensus Agreement on Listing Northern Leopard Frog*, the *Consensus Agreement on Listing Western Toad*, the *Consensus Agreement on Accepting and Adopting the Management Plan for Amphibians in the NWT*, the Species at Risk Committee's assessment and reasons for assessment, clarification on the assessments provided by the Species at Risk Committee under section 34 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, and the approved species status reports. It was also informed by public input (solicited by the Management Authorities) and the results of Crown consultation duties performed by the GNWT during the listing process and the development of the management plan. No information was provided to the Species at Risk Committee by the Conference of Management Authorities or a Management Authority under paragraph 31(1)(c) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.