



MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

9:00am – Call to order (everyone)

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey	CMA Chairperson/Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Sam Bullock	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
William Koe	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Ron Allen	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Heather Sayine-Crawford	Environment and Natural Resources
Bruno Croft	Environment and Natural Resources
Brett Elkin	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Luke Ridgway	Acho Dene Koe First Nation
Jessica Hurtubise	North Slave Métis Alliance
Jessica Smart	North Slave Métis Alliance
Bruce Laurich	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Rosemin Nathoo	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Deborah Simmons	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Manisha Singh	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Secretariat
Mélanie Routh	Species at Risk Secretariat

1. Introductions – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Roundtable introductions.

Action A20210917-01: The Secretariat will reach out to the Management Authorities and participants to verify contact information.

2. Agenda – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review of draft agenda.

Agenda approved without changes.



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3. Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) – led by Mélanie Routh, Secretariat

Nominations for a new Species Conservation and Recovery Fund subcommittee member.

The Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) is seeking a new member to participate in the subcommittee as Amy Amos has indicated that she is taking a new position starting in October 1, 2021.

The regular membership is composed of four representatives designated by the CMA, including one representative from the GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The terms of reference for the subcommittee does not indicate a membership term. The current subcommittee members are:

- Brett Elkin (ENR)
- Chukita Gruben (WMAC-NWT)
- Jessica Hurtubise (NSMA)
- Amy Amos (GRRB)

The SCARF subcommittee meets at minimum twice a year to approve the application material (~November) and to evaluate applications (~March).

The Secretariat is reaching out to the CMA to solicit nominations by September 24, 2021.

Action A20210917-02: The Secretariat is soliciting nominations from the CMA for a Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) subcommittee member by September 24, 2021.

4. Progress Reports and Reviews – led by Michele Grabke, Secretariat

Discuss approval process. Overview of upcoming species progress report and review workplans and timelines.



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Approval Process

Recall that progress reports and reviews are required under sections 73 and 74 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. However, the Act does not indicate a process for approving these documents.

How does the CMA foresee the approval process for these documents going? What steps will Management Authorities need to take to approve the species progress reports/review (for instance, will these documents be approved at board meetings)?

Approval options:

- Approval during CMA meetings (like the meeting minutes and other decisions) with the approval shown in the minutes.
- A separate meeting with the species management authorities to approve.

The CMA noted a practice of sharing documents with board members and would like to have the final draft progress report and review documents in August to allow time for inclusion in fall board meetings. The CMA noted that the process for approval may depend on the species reported on and that some species may require more formal approvals. The CMA agreed that final approval for progress reports will be stated during a CMA meeting and the decision will be captured in meeting notes.

Decision D20210917-01: The CMA agreed that final approval of species progress reports and reviews will take place and be recorded during CMA meetings.

Overview of upcoming progress reports/reviews

Next year the following progress reports/reviews will be required:

- Boreal caribou
- Amphibians (Northern leopard frog and Western toad)
- Polar bear

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Progress reports and reviews are required 5-years after an implementation agreement is signed. Boreal caribou and amphibians are due in November 2022 while polar bear is due in March 2023 (4 months after boreal caribou and amphibians). The Secretariat is suggesting lining polar bear up with the November 2022 deadlines. The February implementation summaries are used to inform the progress reports/reviews, so this would also align with when Management Authorities submit implementation summaries (rather than a month before summaries are due).

The Secretariat provided a brief overview of the progress report and review workplans for boreal caribou, amphibians and polar bear. The Secretariat will revise the workplans to line up with board meetings and to provide the final draft for approval in August.

GNWT agreed that lining up the timelines but expressed concern for the Secretariat's workload. The Secretariat is anticipating that much of the work for the progress reports will be drafted in the fall/early winter.

Action A20210917-03: The Secretariat will revise the workplans for boreal caribou, amphibians and polar bear to line up with board meetings and plan to provide the final draft progress reports and reviews for approval in August.

Decision D20210917-02: Decision to prepare the polar bear progress report and review under the same timeline as the boreal caribou and amphibians reports/reviews (November 2022).

The CMA discussed the need for a press release to satisfy the requirement under section 73 of the Act to make the progress report public. A press release would spread awareness about the objectives, approaches and actions that the Management Authorities and participants of the CMA have completed or are working toward for species management, conservation and recovery in the NWT. A press release on the progress report would help get the message out that the CMA is not just listing species but it would also highlight the work that the CMA is doing to implement actions. In some ways, a progress report is about accountability and reminds people that the CMA is working to make things better for species.

The CMA supports a press release and would like an opportunity to review and respond to what is being reported.



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Decision D20210917-03: Decision to prepare a press release with the Management Authorities on the progress report.

Polar Bear Joint Management Plan

The polar bear management plan is a joint plan and thus requires some additional discussion. The CMA Management Authorities for polar bear are WMAC-NWT and ENR; and the ISR polar bear management agencies are WMAC-NWT, WMAC-NS and Inuvialuit Game Council.

[Excerpt from the Polar Bear Joint Management Plan]: Five years after the signing of the plan, the management agencies for polar bear in the ISR will report on progress under this management plan.

In five years the management agencies for polar bear in the ISR will formally report on progress under this management plan. In ten years, or at the request of a management partner, this management plan and the accompanying Framework for Action will be reviewed and revised as required. This process will continue as long as polar bear is listed as a species of special concern under the Species at Risk (NWT) Act and/or the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

Prior to starting work on the polar bear progress report and review, the Secretariat will need direction. Some questions to consider:

- When were the management agencies in the ISR planning to do a 5-year report on progress?
- Should we consider a joint progress report and review?

Action A20210917-04: Management Authorities for polar bear will have a separate meeting to discuss the approach for the polar bear progress report and review process.

5. Species at Risk Committee (SARC) – led by Michele Grabke, Secretariat *Update on membership and status report progress.*

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Membership

The following memberships have been renewed:

- Leon Andrew, SARC membership renewed to May 30, 2026
- Leon Andrew, SARC Chairperson renewed to May 13, 2023
- Deborah Simmons, SARC membership renewed to May 30, 2026
- Suzanne Carriere, SARC Alternate Chairperson renewed to May 13, 2023

Memberships are 5-years terms; Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson positions are 2-year terms.

Note the following SARC members and associated membership expiration dates:

SARC MEMBER:	Expires	ALTERNATE:	Expires
Leon Andrew (Chairperson ¹)	May 30, 2026	Dr. Deborah Simmons	May 30, 2026
Dr. Suzanne Carrière (Alternate Chairperson)	March 31, 2025	n/a	
Alestine Andre	Feb. 1, 2026	n/a	
Rosemin Nathoo	Jan. 14, 2026	Allison Thompson	Jan. 14, 2023
Arthur Beck	Sept. 20, 2023	Daniel Beck	Sept. 20, 2023
Kaytlin Cooper	March 27, 2025	James Firth	March 27, 2025
Lynda Yonge	March 23, 2022	n/a	
Moise Rabesca	March 15, 2025	Aimee Guile	July 19, 2023
Dr. Nicholas (Nic) Larter	March 31, 2025	n/a	
Petter Jacobsen	Dec. 19, 2024	n/a	

Status Reports

SARC released the draft species status reports for the legislated 6-month review period for the following species that are scheduled to be assessed/re-assessed in Spring 2022:

- Boreal Caribou

¹ Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson are selected for 2-year terms. Current selections expire on May 12, 2021.

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- Peary Caribou
- Peregrine Falcon

Comments on the draft reports must be submitted to the Species at Risk Secretariat by no later than January 7, 2022.

Contracts were awarded for the following species status reports:

- Dolphin and Union Caribou (ICK/SK)
- American White Pelican (SK only)

These species will be assessed/re-assessed in Spring 2023.

6. Next meeting – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Overview of upcoming meetings.

- **December 10, 2021:** to review consultation/engagement results from fall & progress report/review.
- **February 22-23, 2022** in Inuvik or ZOOM (to be decided in December).
- **May 24-27, 2022** in Yellowknife or ZOOM.

7. Polar bear – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Timelines and updates on consultation and engagement activities.

Polar bear was re-assessed by SARC as a species of Special Concern in April 2021.

Timelines

- **April 28, 2021:** SARC provided the re-assessment of polar bear to the Management Authorities.
- **July 28, 2021:** Management Authorities developed actions needed to prepare for a CMA consensus agreement on listing.
- **August-November 2021:** Consultation/engagement period.
- **September 17, 2021:** CMA check-in regarding consultation/engagement period.
- **December 10, 2021:** CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.

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- **April 18, 2022:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.
- **April 28, 2022:** Deadline for consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term.

Updates on consultation and engagement

- **WMAC-NWT:** WMAC-NWT is looping in species consultation/engagement with community visits that will occur in early October to November, all 6 communities. WMAC-NWT will provide an update after that in December.
- **GNWT:** GNWT is advertising a public comment period inviting anybody to comment on the potential relisting and have requested comments by October 15. The public comment period is being shared in a few different ways and the GNWT will be sending letters to IGOs – they anticipate that those letters will be out shortly.

8. Northern mountain caribou – led by Mélanie Routh, Secretariat

Management plan proposed approach and outline. Presentation by SRRB

Presentation by Deb Simmons (SRRB) on the Nío Né P'éné plan

Deb Simmons provided a presentation on the Nío Né P'éné plan including the community conservation plan approach which is an adaptation of the Healthy Country Planning approach. The three key principles of the Nío Né P'éné plan include: Biocultural Diversity, Self-Regulation, and Ethical Space.

The presentation also reviewed the complimentary goals between the federal *Management Plan for the Northern Mountain Population of Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) in Canada* and the *Nío Né P'éné Begháré Shúhta Go̱epé Nareh̡á – Trails of the Mountain Caribou Management Plan*. The federal management plan seeks to prevent the northern mountain caribou from becoming threatened or endangered, by having responsible agencies cooperatively work together to carefully manage these caribou and their habitat. The Nío Né P'éné Plan indicates that if communities are healthy, including economies, then caribou are still healthy (increase numbers). Both plans have objectives in stewardship, landscape/habitat conservation, cumulative impacts, research and monitoring.

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The presentation also mentioned that the Canadian Mountain Network recently funded a Hub (corridor of land in the Mackenzie Mountains).

The CMA discussed the differences between the Nío Né P'ëné plan and the federal management plan and how SRRB foresees braiding the two.

Both plan address similar topics and do not have conflicting objectives. The Nío Né P'ëné plan has a biocultural diversity approach rather than just biodiversity approach. A lot of work [in the Federal Management Plan] does not include Article 8J of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which points to the role of Indigenous people in decision making. Braiding science and Indigenous knowledge is essential. Research questions are not just around biology, but also questions around place names and stories and governance, as well as economic questions.

Management plan proposed approach

On July 29, 2021, northern mountain caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) were listed as a species of Special Concern in the NWT by the Minister of ENR. Under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, this means that a management plan must be completed within 2 years of its listing (by July 2023). During the February 2021 CMA meeting, Management Authorities agreed to adopt the federal *Management Plan for the Northern Mountain Population of Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) in Canada* as a nested approach using the national management plan as a high-level umbrella plan covering the entire NWT range. In addition, the management plan will point to the Sahtú community-led plan (*Nío Né P'ëné Begháré Shúhta Go̱epé Nareh̡á – Trails of the Mountain Caribou Management Plan*) as an important regional initiative that gives applied direction on how to conserve caribou in the area of the Sahtú that is covered by the management plan. This approach would recognize and support the good work that has already been completed, and that is underway, to plan for northern mountain caribou conservation in the NWT. Therefore, more time and resources can be focused on the implementation of northern mountain caribou conservation actions rather than developing a new management plan.

The *Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou in the Northwest Territories* will adopt the federal *Management Plan for the Northern Mountain Population of Woodland*



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Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) in Canada as it is (i.e., no modifications/revisions), but will also include the content listed above to fulfill the requirements for a management plan under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

The Secretariat (Mélanie Routh) provided the CMA with a thorough overview of the northern mountain caribou management plan proposed approach and outline. The CMA determined that the proposed approach is longer than anticipated and they would like something shorter (1–2 pages) than what is being proposed by the Secretariat. The CMA suggested including only a couple of paragraphs in Part 1 of the management plan (i.e., CMA's addition to the federal management plan) which points to the SARC status report and the Sahtú community-led plan as a place for additional and up-to-date information on northern mountain caribou in the NWT, Management Authorities envisioned that rather than only focusing on the Nío Né P'ëné Plan (Sahtú community-led plan) that it should be highlighted, noting that it is currently being approved through a process.

Concern was also raised with regard to pointing to other community-led conservation plans in other regions [outside of the Sahtú]. We want to make sure that other parts of the NWT and the people that are most closely related to caribou (the stewards) are appropriately reflected.

The federal management plan does lack Indigenous and Community knowledge, however, it was noted that the process for the development of the federal management plan was a collaborative process that included GNWT, SRRB and GRRB. The CMA suggested referring to the SARC status report and regional community-led plans for information on Indigenous and community knowledge as well as more recent species information (e.g., population, distribution, and threats).

Action A20210917-05: The Secretariat will revise the proposed approach and outline based on input provided by the CMA.

9. Hairy braya – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)
Progress report and review final approval/acceptance

Outcome.

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Decision D20210917-04: The Management Authorities for Hairy Braya approved the Hairy Braya progress report and review.

Action A20210917-06: The Secretariat will finalize the document and publish the Hairy Braya Progress Report to the website and prepare a press release.

WMAC – NWT: Board met this week and they approved the progress report and review. Larry is likely on board with a press release.

GNWT: CMA delegates are also ready to approve the progress report and review.

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Species at Risk Workplan – At a Glance

Year	Activity	Species
2021	Listing	Listing of northern mountain caribou (29 July 2021)
	Assessment	Polar bear (re-assessment)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Hairy Braya
2022	Listing	Polar bear (proposed 10-year listing term extension)
	Assessment	Peary caribou (re-assessments)
		Boreal caribou (re-assessments)
		Peregrine falcon
	Progress Reporting and Review	Boreal caribou
		Northern leopard frog (Amphibian Management Plan)
		Western toad (Amphibian Management Plan)
		Polar bear
2023	Assessment	American White pelican
		Dolphin and Union caribou (re-assessment)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Dolphin and Union caribou
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	Northern mountain caribou (management plan)
2024	Assessment	Hairy Braya (re-assessment)
		Muskrat
2025	Assessment	Northern leopard frog (re-assessment)
		Western toad (re-assessment)
		Canadian Toad (assessment)
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	Peary caribou (adoption of Federal recovery strategy by September 30, 2024)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Wood bison
2026	Assessment	Wood bison (re-assessment)
		Red-sided garter snake

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Summary of Actions:

Action A20210917-01: The Secretariat will reach out to the Management Authorities and participants to verify contact information.

Action A20210917-02: The Secretariat is soliciting nominations from the CMA for a Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) subcommittee member by September 24, 2021.

Action A20210917-03: The Secretariat will revise the workplans for boreal caribou, amphibians and polar bear to line up with board meetings and plan to provide the final draft progress reports and reviews for approval in August.

Action A20210917-04: Management Authorities for polar bear will have a separate meeting to discuss the approach for the polar bear progress report and review process.

Action A20210917-05: The Secretariat will revise the proposed approach and outline based on input provided by the CMA.

Action A20210917-06: The Secretariat will finalize the document and publish the Hairy Braya Progress Report to the website and prepare a press release.

Summary of Decisions:

Decision D20210917-01: The CMA agreed that final approval of species progress reports and reviews will take place and be recorded during CMA meetings.

Decision D20210917-02: Decision to prepare the polar bear progress report and review under the same timeline as the boreal caribou and amphibians reports/reviews (November 2022).

Decision D20210917-03: Decision to prepare a press release with the Management Authorities on the progress report.

Decision D20210917-04: The Management Authorities for Hairy Braya approved the Hairy Braya progress report and review.

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