



UNDERSTANDING THE ***SPECIES AT RISK*** **(NWT) ACT**

No wild species should be lost from the NWT as a result of human activities



The biological diversity of the NWT should be conserved for the future

Most species in the Northwest Territories (NWT) are not at risk of extinction, but a few species will need extra protection. The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (the Act) is a tool to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the NWT.

The Act provides a process to assess which species are at risk in the NWT, identify threats facing those species, and identify actions needed to help them recover.

The Act applies to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). It applies everywhere in the NWT, on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claims agreement.

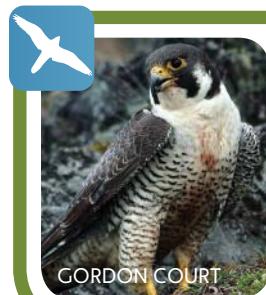
Why is there a *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*?

Between 1995 and 2003, governments in Canada signed the *National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk* agreeing to establish legislation and programs to provide effective protection of species at risk throughout Canada. The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* is complementary to the federal *Species at Risk Act* and addresses concerns at the territorial level.



Many amphibian populations, like this Northern Leopard Frog, are in decline across North America.

Between 1999 and 2009, the GNWT held extensive consultations with the public and worked collaboratively with land claims organizations and wildlife co-management boards to develop a *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* that also recognizes land claims agreements and Aboriginal and treaty rights. The Act became a law in February 2010.



The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* establishes two groups to assess, manage and recover species at risk: the Conference of Management Authorities and the Species at Risk Committee.

Conference of Management Authorities

The Conference of Management Authorities is a group of wildlife co-management boards and governments that share responsibility for managing species at risk in the NWT. As of 2011, the Conference includes wildlife co-management boards established under the four completed land claims agreements (Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, and Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board), the Tł'ichǫ Government, the Government of



The Peregrine Falcon (above) is a species at risk success story. Efforts over the last 30 years across North America have helped their recovery.

Species at Risk Committee

Canada, and the GNWT. When wildlife co-management boards are set up under future land claims agreements, they will become part of the Conference.

The Conference of Management Authorities provides direction, coordination and leadership on species at risk. The group operates by building consensus among Management Authorities. It respects the roles and responsibilities of Management Authorities under land claim and self-government agreements.

The Conference of Management Authorities will develop consensus agreements on listing species at risk, conservation measures, management plans and recovery strategies. As part of reaching consensus, each co-management board carries out the consultation and processes required under their land claim agreement. The GNWT is responsible for Aboriginal consultation in areas without a settled land claim and for consultation with all stakeholders such as industry, outfitters, resident hunters, environmental groups, and the public.



The Species at Risk Committee assesses the biological status of species that may be at risk in the NWT. The Committee members are appointed by the members of the Conference of Management Authorities based on their knowledge of NWT plants and animals.

Species status assessments tell us whether a species is at risk in the NWT. This may be different from assessments done at the national level. Assessments are based on species status reports that include the best available traditional, community and scientific knowledge. The Species at Risk Committee uses objective biological criteria to determine if a species is at risk and may not consider socio-economic factors.

The Species at Risk Committee makes recommendations to the Conference of Management Authorities on the listing of species at risk. The Committee will identify threats and positive influences to species and their habitats, and may make recommendations on conservation measures. To find out which species the Committee is assessing, visit: www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca.



GORDON COURT



JOHN NAGY

Grizzly bear (left photo) numbers are sensitive to declines because they don't have cubs until they are 6-8 years old, and have small litters only every 3-5 years.

Conservation of species at risk will use the best available information, including traditional, community and scientific knowledge.



The overall population of Peary Caribou (right photo) has declined since the 1960s.

What are the status categories?

NWT List of Species at Risk

- Extinct – no longer exists anywhere
- Extirpated – no longer exists in the wild in the NWT
- Endangered – facing imminent extirpation or extinction
- Threatened – likely to become endangered if nothing is done
- Special Concern – may become endangered or threatened because of threats and biological factors

Assessed but not listed

- Not at Risk – not currently at risk of extinction
- Data Deficient – not enough information to determine status

Stewardship

Help protect NWT species at risk! All NWT residents can do things to help species at risk recover, and help prevent other species from becoming at risk. The NWT Species at Risk Stewardship Program provides funding for projects that support the long-term protection and recovery of species that are at risk or of concern in the NWT.

For more information on the Stewardship Program visit the species at risk website at www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca.

All people in the NWT have a responsibility to take care of our plants and animals.

The Hairy Rockcress (left photo) is found nowhere else in the world other than Cape Bathurst, NWT.

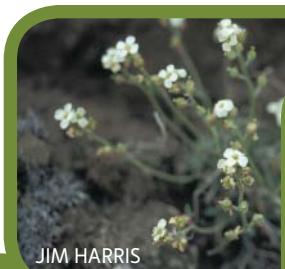
Conserving species at risk and their habitat is important

Conservation measures are developed on a species by species basis. As soon as a species has been assessed as a species at risk, the Conference of Management Authorities can develop consensus agreements on actions to protect the species or its habitat. If the Conference cannot reach consensus, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) can take action but must consider advice from the wildlife co-management boards.

Some of the possible conservation measures under the Act are:

- Agreements with land owners to conserve habitat;
- Regulations to conserve the species;
- Regulations to conserve the habitat; and
- Designation of habitat that is necessary for the species to recover.

If a species is listed as Special Concern, Threatened or Endangered, a management plan or recovery strategy is required. After the management plan or recovery strategy is complete, the Minister of ENR must identify actions the GNWT intends to take to implement it. A progress report is required every 5 years.



JIM HARRIS



JO OVERHOLT

The Drummond Bluebell (right photo) is a globally rare plant known to occur in the NWT, Nunavut and Alaska.

What can I do?

- Learn about species at risk in the NWT, and spread the word.
- Do you have an idea for how to help a species? Funding is available for stewardship projects.
- Are you concerned about a species in the NWT? Contact your regional Environment and Natural Resources office, your Renewable Resources Council or Hunters and Trappers Committee, or the Species at Risk Secretariat.

To learn more about the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, please contact:

Species at Risk Secretariat
SC6, Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the NWT
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
867-920-6362
sara@gov.nt.ca

OR

Visit your regional Environment and Natural Resources office

Visit the species at risk website
www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca

