



## NWT CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

### CONSENSUS AGREEMENT RESPECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NORTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU IN THE NWT


The Conference of Management Authorities has reached consensus (hereafter referred to as the "Consensus Agreement") respecting the implementation of the *Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou in the Northwest Territories: Adoption of the Management Plan for the Northern Mountain Population of Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) in Canada*.

#### INTERPRETATION

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, the Management Authorities for northern mountain caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in the Northwest Territories are: Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board), and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

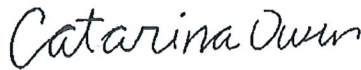
WE THE UNDERSIGNED, having reached this consensus, provide this Consensus Agreement on this **29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024** to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, and ʔehdzo Got'ine Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board).



Witness



Robert Charlie-Tetlichı, Chair  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board



Witness



Donna Schear, A/Chair  
ʔehdzo Got'ine Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú  
Renewable Resources Board)



Witness



Dr. Brett Elkin, Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Wildlife and Forest Management  
Dept. of Environment and Climate Change  
Government of the Northwest Territories

The overall goal of the adopted national management plan recognizes that caribou, like other wildlife, have ecological, cultural and spiritual values along with consumptive uses.

The management goal for northern mountain caribou in the Northwest Territories is to prevent northern mountain caribou from becoming Threatened or Endangered by having responsible agencies cooperatively work together to carefully manage these caribou and their habitat.

To achieve this goal, the following results must be achieved:

1. Populations of each northern mountain caribou subpopulation are maintained or recovered, such that the population operates within its natural range of variability;
2. Ecological integrity of key habitats and ecosystems required by northern mountain caribou are maintained; and
3. Stewardship of northern mountain caribou and its habitat are promoted among Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, co-management boards, government agencies, and other interested parties.

The recovery measures recommended in the management plan, and the Management Authorities' intent to undertake them, are summarized in this Consensus Agreement. Further information can be found in the *Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou in the Northwest Territories*.

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

The processes for developing the management plan and this Consensus Agreement are outlined in Annex B.

## STATEMENTS FROM MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

### 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 approaches in the management plan in whole or in part. Additional resources may be needed to fully implement these approaches. 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 management plan provide advice to help guide these programs. This statement applies to recommended approaches 2.1, 3.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3.

- B. Resources Required** – This recommended approach in the management plan is important but implementing it would require additional resources and/or re-allocation of existing resources. The GNWT intends to pursue implementation of this approach as resources and capacity allow. The GNWT will seek additional resources and may consider re-allocation of existing resources to implement this approach. Re-allocation of existing resources could affect other commitments. This applies to recommended approaches 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 4.1, and 5.1.
- C. Not Pursuing** – Some approaches in the management plan are more appropriately led by co-management partners other than the GNWT, including partners that are not signatories to this agreement, and some approaches are not currently a high priority for the GNWT to implement given other priorities and resource constraints. The GNWT does not intend to actively pursue implementation of these approaches 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 approaches 2.2, 2.3, 4.2, 5.2, and 6.2.

## Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Statements

GRRB is a Management Authority for northern mountain caribou and therefore is committed to the management and recovery of the species, as outlined in the *Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou in the Northwest Territories: Adoption of the Management Plan for the Northern Mountain Population of Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) in Canada*. GRRB will implement the management approaches as identified in Annex A, subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints.

## ?ehdzo Got'ine Gots'ë Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB) Statements

The Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) serves as the Management Authority for Northern Mountain Caribou in the Sahtú region, committed to implementing the Management Plan for the species. Emphasizing a holistic approach, the SRRB actively engages in monitoring, harvest management, health risk assessment, and habitat

identification through initiatives like the Trails of the Mountain Caribou Management Plan and Geospatial (GIS) Hub. While acknowledging limitations in capabilities, the SRRB prioritizes community-centric strategies like the Protected Areas Framework and the Dene béré community harvesting pilot program. The ongoing Public Listening Sessions and participation in environmental assessments underscore the SRRB's dedication to conservation, knowledge-sharing, and community involvement in safeguarding the Northern Mountain Caribou population.

## ANNEX A

### RECOMMENDED APPROACHES<sup>1</sup> TO ACHIEVE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR NORTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Management Approaches <sup>1</sup>	Partners intending to implement <sup>2</sup> (Statements)
<b>Objective #1: Determine herd status and trends over time.</b>	
1.1 Conduct monitoring to track herd distributions, trends and composition.	GRRB SRRB GNWT (Resources Required)
1.2 Collect baseline information (numbers and map distribution).	GRRB SRRB GNWT (Resources Required)
1.3 Based on priorities, conduct census of herd.	GNWT (Resources Required)
<b>Objective #2: Manage harvest for sustainable use.</b>	
2.1 Track harvest data to provide information on age and composition of herd.	SRRB GNWT (Implementation Underway)
2.2 Use population modelling to develop sustainable harvest rates and thresholds below which harvesting restrictions should be considered.	GNWT (Not Pursuing)

<sup>1</sup> NWT recovery documents refer to "Management Approaches", whereas the national Recovery Strategy refers to "recovery measures".

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

2.3 Develop harvest strategies within and among jurisdictions, particularly for transboundary herds (adhere to Management Principle 3 <sup>3</sup> ).	GRRB GNWT (Not Pursuing)
<b>Objective #3: Assess health risks and maintain caribou health.</b>	
3.1 Assess natural and human-caused health risks that limit or influence the population (disease and parasites, contaminants, genetic composition and climate change).	GRRB SRRB GNWT (Implementation Underway)
<b>Objective #4: Increase understanding of the dynamics of predator-prey systems and potential competition with other herbivores.</b>	
4.1 Map distribution and conduct census of predators and other large herbivores.	GNWT (Resources Required)
4.2 Assess the relative importance of predators and/or competitors when identified as a possible limiting factor (e.g., determine if intensive management of other species applicable to Northern Mountain caribou).	SRRB GNWT (Not Pursuing)
<b>Objective #5: Identify and assess the quality, quantity and distribution of important habitats.</b>	
5.1 Delineate key habitats (e.g., winter range, calving grounds, post-calving summer range, rutting range, insect avoidance areas, travel/movement corridors, mineral licks, predator avoidance sites or other locally important sites).	SRRB GNWT (Resources Required)
5.2 Map and evaluate current habitat availability in relation to human footprint, hunting activity, connectivity, fire, forest disease outbreaks, access and development (including seasonal shifts, barriers to movement and overlaps).	SRRB GNWT (Not Pursuing)

<sup>3</sup> Management Principle 3 (in the Management Plan) states: Harvest management must reflect priorities as set out in Land Claim Agreements, First Nation Treaties and the inherent rights of non-treaty First Nation communities and individuals.

<b>Objective #6: Manage and conserve important habitats to support healthy caribou herds.</b>		
6.1 Conserve key habitats utilizing existing land designation tools (Appendix 7 of Management Plan).	GRRB SRRB GNWT (Implementation Underway)	
6.2 Manage human disturbances of caribou and their habitat including mechanized (e.g., off-road vehicles, snowmobiles) and non-mechanized access.	SRRB GNWT (Not Pursuing)	
<b>Objective #7: Promote conservation of northern mountain caribou through environmental and cumulative effects assessments.</b>		
7.1 Provide input into land and resource use planning forums (e.g. Environmental Assessment/Land Use Planning), including cumulative effects, to maintain caribou populations.	GRRB SRRB GNWT (Implementation Underway)	
<b>Objective #8: Foster opportunities to share knowledge, information and develop education and stewardship programs.</b>		
8.1 Develop products (e.g., print, web-based) to disseminate information about the NMP and management plan implementation.	GRRB SRRB GNWT (Implementation Underway)	
8.2 Develop educational programs (or existing programs) about caribou.	GRRB SRRB GNWT (Implementation Underway)	
8.3 Support and develop stewardship programs and projects (Appendix 8 of Management Plan).	SRRB GNWT (Implementation Underway)	



## ANNEX B

### DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

On July 29, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), acting on the direction provided by the Conference of Management Authorities in their *Consensus Agreement on Listing Northern Mountain Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) (April 2021), added northern mountain caribou to the Northwest Territories (NWT) List of Species at Risk as species of Special Concern.

The *Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou in the Northwest Territories* was developed by the Conference of Management Authorities to address the conservation and management requirements of northern mountain caribou in the NWT. Section 63 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* allows the Conference of Management Authorities to incorporate into a management plan all or part of an existing plan prepared by any person or body. The NWT management plan adopts the national *Management Plan for the Northern Mountain Caribou Population of Woodland Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Canada, which outlines the overall goals, objectives and approaches for northern mountain caribou management across the NWT. The NWT management plan also includes a Northwest Territories addition which presents additional information required by the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* that was not found in the national management plan, as well as other recent information important to the management of northern mountain caribou in the NWT. The CMA reached consensus to accept the *Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou in the Northwest Territories* on April 29, 2023 in accordance with section 66 and 63 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The management plan was published on July 28, 2023 in accordance with section 68 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

This *Consensus Agreement Respecting Implementation of the Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in the Northwest Territories was informed by discussions of the Conference of Management Authorities, the NWT management plan, the *Consensus Agreement on Listing Northern Mountain Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), the *Consensus Agreement on Accepting the Management Plan for Northern Mountain Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in the Northwest Territories, the Species at Risk Committee's assessment and reasons for assessment, and the approved species status report. It was also informed by public input solicited by the Management Authorities and the results of engagement as part of the decision to accept 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*.