



NWT CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING THE *RECOVERY STRATEGY FOR PEARY CARIBOU IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES*

The Conference of Management Authorities has reached a consensus (hereafter referred to as the “Consensus Agreement”) on the following:

To accept, in accordance with section 66 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories* and to adopt the *Recovery Strategy for the Peary Caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) in Canada* as Part 2 in accordance with section 63 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

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 Peary caribou in the Northwest Territories are: the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, having reached this consensus, provide this Consensus Agreement on this **29th day of April 2024** to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories and the undersigned Management Authorities.



Witness



Larry Carpenter, Chair
Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)



Witness



Dr. Brett Elkin, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Wildlife and Forest Management
Dept. of Environment and Climate Change
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ANNEX A

REASONS FOR THE CONSENSUS AGREEMENT

On February 27, 2014, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories, acting on the direction provided by the Conference of Management Authorities in their *Consensus Agreement on Listing Peary Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) as *Threatened in the NWT*, added Peary caribou to the NWT List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species. If a species is listed as Threatened, the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* provides a two-year time period for the Conference of Management Authorities to prepare and complete a recovery strategy for that species.

In accordance with section 63 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Conference of Management Authorities agreed to adopt the applicable portions of the federal recovery strategy for Peary caribou. The recovery strategy was originally scheduled for completion on February 27, 2016; however, four extensions were granted in accordance with subsections 60(2) and 60(4) to accommodate the timelines of the federal process.

The *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories* was prepared in accordance with the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The NWT recovery strategy is made up of two parts: Part 1 – Northwest Territories addition to the *Recovery Strategy for the Peary Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) *in Canada*, prepared by the Conference of Management Authorities; and Part 2 – *Recovery Strategy for the Peary Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) *in Canada*, prepared by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Part 2 of the NWT recovery strategy, the national *Recovery Strategy for the Peary Caribou* (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) *in Canada*, was prepared in cooperation with co-management partners in the NWT and Nunavut and relies equally upon Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), local/community knowledge and scientific knowledge to inform stewardship and management activities.

Part 1 of the NWT recovery strategy, the NWT addition, was developed by the Conference of Management Authorities with input from the necessary parties. It was developed to include information required by the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* that was not found in the national recovery strategy, as well as other recent information important to the management of Peary caribou in the NWT. It also clarifies that Section 7 of the national recovery strategy, about critical habitat, is not being adopted by the Conference of Management Authorities as part of the NWT recovery strategy.

The entire NWT recovery strategy was reviewed by interested parties through an engagement and consultation process. Comments and concerns that the Management

Authorities heard regarding the NWT recovery strategy were meaningfully considered and addressed as described in Annex B of this Consensus Agreement.

The NWT recovery strategy includes appropriate recommended objectives, broad strategies and general approaches for the recovery of Peary caribou, as well as descriptions of threats and positive influences, as required under section 61 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The NWT recovery strategy will help the Management Authorities decide what actions to take, how to prioritize their work, and how to allocate their resources in order to manage Peary caribou in the NWT.

This Consensus Agreement was informed by the Species at Risk Committee's assessment and reasons for assessment, the approved species status report, the review of the national recovery strategy and NWT addition, public input (solicited by the Management Authorities), the results of consultation undertaken by WMAC (NWT) and the results of GNWT engagement with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. 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) and no written clarification was provided by the Species at Risk Committee under section 34 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Actions taken by the Management Authorities with respect to the required approvals and their preparation for the development of the Consensus Agreement are described in Annex B of this Consensus Agreement.

The Management Authorities for Peary caribou are confident that together, Part 1 and Part 2 of the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories* satisfactorily address conservation and recovery requirements for Peary caribou as required by the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The Government of the Northwest Territories' assessment is that the action of accepting Part 1 and adopting Part 2 will not infringe on Aboriginal or treaty rights.

For these reasons, the Management Authorities agree to accept Part 1 and adopt Part 2 of the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories*.

ANNEX B

ACTIONS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE UNDERTAKEN OR WILL UNDERTAKE WITH RESPECT TO ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING THE RECOVERY STRATEGY

As provided for in paragraph 66(3)(b) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Management Authorities, having agreed to accept the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories*, are reporting the actions each Management Authority has undertaken or agrees to undertake with respect to the required approvals and its participation in accepting the recovery strategy:

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) (WMAC (NWT)) is the co-management body responsible for terrestrial wildlife in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. During its annual community tours, the Council collects local knowledge about barren-ground caribou for co-management decisions and consults on species at risk processes.

No additional actions taken.

Government of the Northwest Territories

The Government of the Northwest Territory's (GNWT) position on the recovery strategy was formed through review of the recovery strategy and engagement with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations (IGOs), as well as the public. The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) also worked with other GNWT departments through the Inter-departmental Species at Risk Committee.

Public Engagement

The GNWT provided an opportunity for members of the public and interested organizations to comment on the proposed draft Recovery Strategy for Peary caribou. The comment period was July 5 - October 31, 2023. The GNWT invited comments using a news release, print ads, fact sheets, radio announcements, social media posts, an online survey, the GNWT public engagement portal and NWT Species at Risk website.

The GNWT received four submissions on the recovery strategy through the public engagement process. All were responses to the online survey. They included statements emphasizing the importance of conserving Peary caribou and implementing the actions in the Strategy, suggestions about the highest priority actions, and comments about

observed increases in Peary caribou populations. No significant concerns about the Recovery Strategy were raised. The GNWT recorded all comments. All comments were fully considered and revisions were made to the Recovery Strategy where appropriate. Detailed records of comments and how they were addressed are on file at the Wildlife Management Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Yellowknife.

Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations

The Government of the Northwest Territories' assessment is that the action of accepting Part 1 and adopting Part 2 will not infringe on Aboriginal or treaty rights. Completing the recovery strategy does not result in any automatic prohibitions or protections for species or habitat, or automatic harvesting restrictions for anyone.

The GNWT engaged with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations (IGIOS) through letters. IGIOS located in or near the NWT range of Peary caribou were invited to comment on the proposed recovery strategy. No responses were received through this process.

The IGIOS engaged are listed below. Full records of engagement are on file at the Wildlife Management Division, GNWT ECC, Yellowknife.

- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated