

SPECIES AT RISK (NWT) ACT

SUMMARY OF ASSESSED AND LISTED SPECIES
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES UNDER THE ACT
2026

Introduction:

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* came into force in 2010. The Conference of Management Authorities (CMA), Species at Risk Committee (SARC), and NWT List of Species at Risk were established under the Act.

The CMA is the group of wildlife co-management boards and governments that share management responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT. The CMA includes Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB), ʔehdzo Got'ı̨nę Gots'ę́ Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board; SRRB), Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board (WRRB), Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG), Government of Canada, and Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). The CMA provides direction, coordination and leadership on species at risk. SARC is an independent committee of experts on species, habitat, northern ecosystems, and conservation. SARC's role is to assess the biological status of species that may be at risk in the NWT.

This document provides a summary of assessed and listed species under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* including timelines and a description of steps as required under the Act. The NWT List of Species at Risk is the legal list of species designated at risk under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

Following an 'at risk' assessment of a species by SARC, the following timelines apply under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*:

Start	The assessment of a species by the Species at Risk Committee (SARC)
+1 year	A CMA consensus agreement on listing is developed and submitted to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Minister of Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
+3 months	Minister of ECC legally lists the species consistent with the consensus agreement
+9-21 months	A CMA management plan or recovery strategy is developed and accepted for listed species
+3 months	Management plan or recovery strategy is released to the public by the Minister of ECC
+9 months	A CMA consensus agreement respecting the implementation of the management plan or recovery strategy is developed/released to the public
+5 years	A CMA progress report on implementation is prepared/released to the public

American white pelican – *Assessed as Special Concern, No Listed Status*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: April 2023 • **CMA consensus agreement on not listing**: May 2024	The GNWT is the only Management Authority for the American white pelican. SARC completed the assessment of American white pelican in April 2023. American white pelican was assessed as a species of Special Concern. A consensus agreement on not listing American white pelican was signed in May 2024.	No further action.

Barren-ground caribou (Porcupine – *Not at Risk*; Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, Bathurst, Beverly, Ahiak and Qamanirjuaq subpopulations – *Threatened*)

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: April 2017 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: April 2018 • **Legally listed**: July 2018 • **CMA recovery strategy accepted**: April 2020 • **CMA recovery strategy released**: July 2020 • **CMA implementation agreement released**: April 2021 • **Progress report/review**: April 2026 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **SARC reassessment:** Spring 2027	Management Authorities for barren-ground caribou are: GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, SRRB, WRRB and the Tłı̨chǫ Government. The Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, Bathurst, Beverly, Ahiak and Qamanirjuaq herds of barren-ground caribou were assessed and listed as Threatened. Although Porcupine caribou are a barren-ground caribou herd, they are considered geographically distinct and were assessed as Not at Risk. The recovery strategy was released in July 2020. It is the result of a collaborative effort by diverse groups across the range of barren-ground caribou. It provides overarching guidance on management and stewardship of barren-ground caribou in the NWT over the long term. Herd-specific requirements are met through more detailed herd-specific management plans (either existing or under development). Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. A progress report and review of the recovery strategy were completed in April 2026. Work is underway to prepare a species status report for barren-ground caribou in the NWT.	This species is scheduled for reassessment in Spring 2027. A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The next one is due in April 2031.

Boreal caribou - *Threatened*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: December 2012 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: November 2013 • **Legally listed**: February 2014 • **CMA recovery strategy accepted**: November 2016 • **Recovery strategy released**: February 2017 • **CMA implementation agreement released**: November 2017 • **SARC reassessment**: May 2022 • **Progress report/review**: November 2022 • **CMA consensus agreement on re-listing**: May 2023 • **Legally re-listed:** August 2023 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **Progress report due:** Spring 2027	Management Authorities for boreal caribou are: GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government. SARC assessed boreal caribou as Threatened in December 2012 and again in May 2022. Boreal caribou have been listed as Threatened in the NWT since February 2014. The recovery strategy was released in February 2017. Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. A progress report and review of the recovery strategy were completed in November 2022. A consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term to the current listing of boreal caribou was signed in May 2023 and boreal caribou was legally re-listed in August 2023.	A progress report on the implementation of the recovery strategy is required every five years. The next progress report (for 2022-2026) is due in Spring 2027.

Common muskrat – *Assessed as Special Concern, Under Consideration for Listing*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: April 2026 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: April 2027	Management Authorities for common muskrat are: GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government. In April 2026, SARC assessed common muskrat as a species of Special Concern. Engagement on listing common muskrat as a species of Special Concern is underway (August-November 2026).	A consensus agreement on listing common muskrat as a species of Special Concern is due April 2027.

Dolphin and Union caribou – *Endangered*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: December 2013 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: December 2014 • **Legally listed as Special Concern**: March 2015 • **CMA management plan accepted**: December 2017 • **Management plan released**: March 2018 • **CMA implementation agreement released**: December 2018 • **SARC reassessment**: April 2023 • **Progress report**: December 2023 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: May 2024 • **Legally listed as Endangered:** August 2024 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **Recovery strategy due:** August 2027	Management Authorities for Dolphin and Union caribou are: GNWT and WMAC (NWT). SARC assessed Dolphin and Union caribou as Special Concern in December 2013. Dolphin and Union caribou were listed as Special Concern in the NWT in March 2015. A management plan was developed cooperatively by the GNWT, Government of Nunavut, and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), working with co-management partners. Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. The progress report on the management plan was completed in December 2023. The review of the management plan was postponed until after the listing decision in 2024. SARC reassessed Dolphin and Union caribou in April 2023 as Endangered. Dolphin and Union caribou was legally listed as Endangered in August 2024. A notice of extension on the development of the recovery strategy for Dolphin and Union caribou was issued with a deadline of August 1, 2027. The CMA is working to adopt the existing management plan (2017), together with an NWT addition that points to the most recent Indigenous, community and scientific knowledge, as the required recovery strategy. A review of the Dolphin and Union caribou management plan was completed through the development of the recovery strategy.	A recovery strategy is required by August 2027.

Grizzly bear – *Assessed as Special Concern, No Listed Status*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: April 2017 • **CMA consensus agreement on not listing**: March 2018	Management Authorities for grizzly bear are: GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government. SARC completed the assessment of grizzly bear in April 2017. Grizzly bear was assessed as a species of Special Concern. A consensus agreement on not listing grizzly bear was signed in March 2018.	No further action.

Hairy braya – *Threatened*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: December 2012 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: November 2013 • **Legally listed**: February 2014 • **CMA recovery strategy accepted**: November 2015 • **Recovery strategy released**: February 2016 • **CMA implementation agreement released**: November 2016 • **Progress report/review**: November 2021 • **SARC reassessment**: April 2024 • **CMA consensus agreement on re-listing**: May 2025 • **Legally re-listed**: August 2025 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **Progress report due**: Spring 2027	Management Authorities for hairy braya are: GNWT and WMAC (NWT). SARC assessed hairy braya as Threatened in December 2012 and again in April 2024. Hairy braya has been listed as Threatened under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* since February 2014. The recovery strategy was released in February 2016. Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. A progress report and review of the recovery strategy were completed in November 2021. A consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term to the current listing of hairy braya was signed in May 2025 and hairy braya was legally re-listed in August 2025.	A progress report on the implementation of the recovery strategy is required every five years. The next progress report (for 2022-2026) is due in Spring 2027.

Little brown myotis - *Special Concern*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: April 2017 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: April 2018 • **Legally listed**: July 2018 • **CMA management plan accepted**: April 2020 • **CMA management plan released**: July 2020 • **CMA implementation agreement**: April 2021 • **Progress report/review**: April 2026 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **SARC reassessment**: Spring 2027	Management Authorities for little brown myotis are: GNWT, SRRB, WRRB, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government. SARC completed the assessment of little brown myotis in April 2017 and it was assessed as Special Concern. Little brown myotis was legally listed in July 2018. A multi-species management plan was released in July 2020 that addresses the management needs of all bat species in the NWT. Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. A progress report and review of the recovery strategy were completed in April 2026. Work is underway to prepare a species status report for re-assessing little brown myotis and northern myotis in the NWT.	This species are scheduled for reassessment in Spring 2027. A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The next progress report (for 2026-2030) is due in April 2031.

Northern leopard frog - *Endangered*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: December 2013 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: December 2014 • **Legally listed as Threatened**: March 2015 • **CMA management plan accepted**: November 2016 • **Management plan released**: February 2017 • **CMA implementation agreement released**: November 2017 • **Progress report/review**: November 2022 • **SARC reassessment**: April 2025 • **CMA consensus agreement on up-listing to Endangered:** May 2026 • **Legally listed as Endangered:** August 2026 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **Progress report due**: November 2027	The GNWT is the only Management Authority for northern leopard frog. SARC assessed northern leopard frog as Threatened in December 2013. Northern leopard frog was legally listed in March 2015. Recovery strategy requirements were met through the CMA's adoption of the multi-species *Management Plan for Amphibians in the NWT*. The plan addresses the management needs of all NWT amphibians. Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. The Minister extended the term of northern leopard frog on the Northwest Territories List of Species at Risk as Threatened species by request of the CMA. The listing term for northern leopard frog was extended to March 19, 2027. A progress report and review of the management plan for amphibians were completed in November 2022. In April 2025, SARC reassessed northern leopard frog as Endangered. Northern leopard frog was legally listed as Endangered in August 2026. The Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories will continue to fulfill the requirements for a recovery strategy.	A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The next progress report (for 2022-2026) is due in November 2027.

Northern mountain caribou – *Special Concern*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment:** April 2020 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing:** April 2021 • **Legally listed:** July 2021 • **CMA management plan accepted**: April 2023 • **CMA management plan released**: July 2023 • **CMA implementation agreement**: April 2024 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **Progress report due**: April 2029	Management Authorities for northern mountain caribou are: GNWT, GRRB, and SRRB. SARC assessed northern mountain caribou as Special Concern in April 2020. Northern mountain caribou were listed as Special Concern in July 2021. The CMA developed and released a management plan for the NWT that adopts the federal management plan and points to the Sahtú community-led plan (*Nío Nę P'ęnę́ Begháré Shúhta Goɔepę́ Narehɔá – Trails of the Mountain Caribou Management Plan*) as an important regional initiative. A consensus agreement on implementation of the management plan was signed April 2024.	A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The first one is due in April 2029.

Northern myotis - *Special Concern*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: April 2017 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: April 2018 • **Legally listed**: July 2018 • **CMA management plan accepted**: April 2020 • **CMA management plan released**: July 2020 • **CMA implementation agreement**: April 2021 • **Progress report/review**: April 2026 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **SARC reassessment:** Spring 2027	The GNWT is the only Management Authority for northern myotis. SARC completed the assessment of northern myotis in April 2017 and it was assessed as Special Concern. Northern myotis was legally listed in July 2018. A multi-species management plan was released in July 2020 that addresses the management needs of all bat species in the NWT. Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. A progress report and review of the recovery strategy were completed in April 2026. Work is underway to prepare a species status report for re-assessing little brown myotis and northern myotis in the NWT.	This species are scheduled for reassessment in Spring 2027. A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The next progress report (for 2026-2030) is due in April 2031.

Peary caribou - *Threatened*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: December 2012 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: November 2013 • **Legally listed**: February 2014 • **SARC reassessment**: May 2022 • **CMA consensus agreement on re-listing**: May 2023 • **Legally re-listed:** August 2023 • **CMA recovery strategy accepted**: April 2024 • **Recovery strategy released**: July 2024 • **CMA implementation agreement**: April 2025 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **Progress report due:** April 2030	Management Authorities for Peary caribou are: GNWT and WMAC (NWT). SARC assessed Peary caribou as Threatened in December 2012 and again in May 2022. Peary caribou have been listed as Threatened in the NWT since February 2014. A consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term to the current listing of Peary caribou was signed in May 2023 and Peary caribou was legally re-listed in August 2023. The CMA developed and released a recovery strategy for the NWT that adopts the applicable portions of the federal recovery strategy. A consensus agreement on implementation of the recovery strategy was signed April 2025.	A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The first one is due in April 2030.

Polar bear - *Special Concern*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: December 2012 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: November 2013 • **Legally listed**: February 2014 • **CMA management plan accepted**: March 2017 • **Management plan released**: June 2017 • **CMA implementation agreement released**: March 2018 • **SARC reassessment**: April 2021 • **CMA consensus agreement on re-listing:** April 2022 • **Legally re-listed:** July 2022 • **Progress report/review**: November 2022 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **Progress report due**: November 2027	Management Authorities for polar bear in the NWT are: GNWT and WMAC (NWT). SARC assessed polar bear as Special Concern in December 2012 and again in April 2021. Polar bear has been listed as Special Concern in the NWT since February 2014. The *Inuvialuit Settlement Region Polar Bear Joint Management Plan* describes management objectives for polar bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), which includes both the NWT and Yukon. Management of polar bears in the ISR is jurisdictionally complex and the plan facilitated an integrated and common approach across all jurisdictions. Implementation activities by the Management Authorities are ongoing. A consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term to the current listing of polar bear was signed in April 2022 and polar bear was legally re-listed in July 2022. A progress report and review of the management plan were completed in November 2022.	A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The next progress report (for 2022-2026) is due in November 2027.

Red-sided garter snake – *Assessed as Special Concern, No Listed Status*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: April 2024 • **CMA consensus agreement on not listing**: May 2025	The GNWT is the only Management Authority for the red-sided garter snake. SARC completed the assessment of red-sided garter snake in April 2024. Red-sided garter snake was assessed as a species of Special Concern. A consensus agreement on not listing red-sided garter snake was signed in May 2025.	No further action.

Western toad – *Threatened*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: December 2014 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: November 2016 • **Legally listed as Threatened**: February 2016 • **CMA management plan accepted**: November 2016 • **Management plan released**: February 2017 • **CMA implementation agreement released**: November 2017 • **Progress report/review**: November 2022 • **SARC reassessment**: April 2025 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing as Threatened**: May 2026 • **Legally re-listed as Threatened:** August 2026 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **Progress report due**: November 2027	The GNWT is the only Management Authority for western toad. SARC assessed western toad as Threatened in December 2014. Western toad was legally listed in February 2016. Recovery strategy requirements were met through the CMA's adoption of the multi-species *Management Plan for Amphibians in the NWT*. The plan addresses the management needs of all NWT amphibians. Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. The Minister extended the term of western toad on the NWT List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species by request of the CMA. The listing term for western toad was extended to February 25, 2027. A progress report and review of the management plan for amphibians were completed in November 2022. In April 2025, SARC reassessed western toad as Threatened. Western toad was legally re-listed as Threatened in August 2026. The Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories will continue to fulfill the requirements for a recovery strategy.	A progress report on the implementation of the management plan is required every five years. The next progress report (for 2022-2026) is due in November 2027.

Wood bison – *Threatened*

Status and Timelines	Steps Taken	Next Steps
• **SARC assessment**: April 2016 • **CMA consensus agreement on listing**: April 2017 • **Legally listed**: July 2017 • **CMA recovery strategy accepted**: April 2019 • **CMA recovery strategy released**: July 2019 • **CMA implementation agreement released**: April 2020 • **Progress report/review**: April 2025 • **SARC reassessment**: April 2026 **<u>Upcoming:</u>** • **CMA consensus agreement on re-listing due:** April 2027	Management Authorities for wood bison are: GNWT, WRRB, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government. SARC assessed wood bison as Threatened in April 2016. Wood bison were listed as Threatened in July 2017. The recovery strategy was released in July 2019. The recovery strategy was developed collaboratively by co-management partners. More specific recovery actions for each wood bison population are captured in herd-specific management plans. Implementation activities by Management Authorities are ongoing. A progress report and review of the recovery strategy were completed in April 2025. In April 2026, SARC reassessed wood bison as Threatened. Engagement on extending the listing of wood bison as a Threatened species is underway (August-November 2026).	A consensus agreement on listing wood bison as a Threatened species is due April 2027. A progress report on the implementation of the recovery strategy is required every five years. The next progress report (for 2025-2029) is due in April 2030.

Other status reports and assessments:

The following species were included in a status report and/or assessed by SARC and found to be Not at Risk or Data Deficient in the NWT.

Assessment	Species	Assessment Year
Not Assessed	Canadian toad[1]	n/a
Not at Risk	Wolverine	2014
	Porcupine caribou[2]	2017
	Yellow-banded bumble bee	2019
	Peregrine falcon	2022
Data Deficient	Long-legged myotis	2017
	Long-eared myotis	2017
	Big brown bat	2017
	Western bumble bee	2019
	Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee	2019

[1] Canadian toad was scheduled for assessment in 2025 and included in the Species Status Report for Canadian Toad, Western Toad, and Northern Leopard Frog in the Northwest Territories. However, all confirmed occurrences of Canadian toad are within Wood Buffalo National Park. National Park lands are under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada and, therefore, CMA does not have responsibility for Canadian toad.

[2] Porcupine caribou is scheduled to be reassessed alongside barren-ground caribou in 2027.

The following species were assessed as at risk by SARC, but were not listed by the CMA:

Assessment	Species	Assessment Year	CMA Listing Decision
Special Concern	Grizzly bear	2017	Not listed (2018)
	American white pelican	2023	Not listed (2024)
	Red-sided garter snake	2024	Not listed (2025)

Scheduled assessments/reassessments:

The following species are scheduled to be assessed by SARC:

Assessment Year	Species
2027	Barren-ground caribou and Porcupine caribou (reassessment)
	Little brown myotis (reassessment)
	Northern myotis (reassessment)
2028	Muskoxen
	Rock cranberry (lingonberry)
2029	Dall’s sheep
	Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (reassessment)
	McKay's western bumble bee (reassessment)
	Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee
	Yellow-banded bumble bee (reassessment)
2030	Northern mountain caribou (reassessment)
	Snowy owl
2031	Polar bear (reassessment)
	Rusty blackbird