



NWT CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

CONSENSUS AGREEMENT RESPECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOVERY STRATEGY FOR PEARY CARIBOU IN THE NWT

The Conference of Management Authorities has reached consensus (hereafter referred to as the "Consensus Agreement") respecting the implementation of the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) in the Northwest Territories: Adoption of the Recovery Strategy for the Peary Caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) in Canada* (known as the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories*).

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 (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) 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 2025** to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for the 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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The national *Recovery Strategy for the Peary Caribou in Canada* establishes the following population and distribution objectives, which reflect the species' need for large areas, and maintained access to available habitat, as well as connectivity on both the land and sea ice. These objectives are crucial to achieve a recovery state at an appropriate scale for this species:

- Maintain Peary caribou in all areas of Canada where they currently exist.
- All Peary caribou local populations are healthy (self-sustaining) and available for future generations.
- Peary caribou populations fluctuate within the normal bounds of population cycles.
- Peary caribou are able to move freely on the land and sea ice (within and between islands) to ensure natural (limit unnatural movements / not forced to move) habitat use and movements during extreme weather events.
- Peary caribou local populations are able to support a sustainable Inuit/Inuvialuit harvest that is responsive to fluctuations in populations.

The *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories* adopts these objectives for the conservation and recovery of Peary caribou, as well as the broad strategies and general approaches outlined in the national recovery strategy to achieve the objectives and to address the threats to the survival and recovery of Peary caribou.

The approaches recommended in the recovery strategy, and the Management Authorities' intent to undertake them, are summarized in this Consensus Agreement. Further information can be found in the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories*.

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

The processes for developing the recovery strategy 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 recovery strategy, subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints.

- A. **Implementation Underway** – The GNWT is actively implementing a number of the recommended approaches in the recovery strategy 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 recovery strategy provide advice to help guide these programs. This statement applies to recommended approaches 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16, 18, 19, 21 - 23, 26, 27, 29, 32, 34 - 44, and 46 - 49.
- B. **Resources Required** – This recommended approach in the recovery strategy 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 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 24, 33, and 45.
- C. **Not Pursuing** – Some approaches in the recovery strategy 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, 12, 13, 20, 25, 28, 30, and 31.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) Statements

WMAC (NWT) acknowledges it is a responsible Management Authority for Peary caribou under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. WMAC (NWT) intends to work with partners to move forward on implementation of the objectives and approaches identified in the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories*. WMAC (NWT) will implement the management approaches as indicated in Annex A, subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints.

ANNEX A

RECOMMENDED APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY OBJECTIVES FOR PEARY CARIBOU IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Research and Management Approaches ¹	Partners intending to implement ² (Statements)
Broad Strategy Category: Monitoring and Research	
1. Utilize IQ/TEK ³ , local knowledge and scientific knowledge for monitoring, surveying and research, respecting the importance of IQ/TEK and local knowledge to Peary caribou conservation and recovery.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
2. Develop and maintain a central repository (database) for Peary caribou monitoring/research to ensure timely sharing of data.	GNWT (Not Pursuing)
3. Explore opportunities for community-based monitoring programs.	GNWT (Implementation Underway)
4. Conduct IQ/TEK studies to capture knowledge on Peary caribou ecology and their habitat (e.g. important habitat attributes).	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Resources Required)
5. Identify calving areas and other key habitats critical at different life stages or times of the year.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)

¹ To achieve the objectives for the conservation and recovery of Peary caribou, research and management approaches were identified to address several broad strategies organized under four categories (monitoring and research; habitat and species conservation and management; education and awareness, stewardship, and partnerships; and law and policy). Further information on these strategies and approaches can be found in Part 2 of the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories*.

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

³ IQ/TEK refers to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

6. Conduct population studies of Peary caribou to understand/refine local population delineations, population structure, demographic parameters, trends, movement patterns and exchange rates.	GNWT (Implementation Underway)
7. Investigate factors affecting reproductive output, survival and fidelity to calving areas.	GNWT (Resources Required)
8. Determine/refine knowledge of migratory routes, connectivity and identify sea-ice crossings (e.g. location and frequency of use) within the species' distribution.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
9. Investigate patterns of habitat use at a finer scale (e.g. local population scale, improved location data in association with habitat types or attributes).	GNWT (Implementation Underway)
10. Determine current Peary caribou habitat condition and monitor habitat change/alteration.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Resources Required)
11. Develop and conduct in-depth studies on vegetation used by Peary Caribou (e.g. diet, grazing impact, vegetation recovery after grazing, plant growth).	GNWT (Resources Required)
12. Identify crossing locations on ice fields.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Not Pursuing)
13. Maintain standardized protocols and survey designs (data collection and analysis) for local populations and their habitat.	GNWT (Not Pursuing)
14. Assess the current and future potential impact of climate change on Peary caribou and their sea ice and land habitats throughout their distribution.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Resources Required)
15. Determine the relative importance of known and potential threats to Peary caribou across their range, and their cumulative impacts to the species.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Resources Required)

16. Investigate the relationship between Peary caribou and muskoxen, wolves, other caribou and predators.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
17. Assess the extent, distribution, and possible consequences of sensory disturbance (e.g. aircraft traffic, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, tourism, research, and the equipment associated with industrial exploration and development) on Peary caribou and investigate mitigation measures to reduce its effects, particularly during sensitive periods (e.g. seasonal movements, calving seasonal conditions).	GNWT (Resources Required)
18. Investigate parasites and diseases from other species (e.g. muskoxen, migratory birds) and their potential impact on Peary caribou, as parasites and diseases could increase with climate change.	GNWT (Implementation Underway)
19. Minimize sensory disturbance to Peary caribou during monitoring and research programs, investigate new techniques that cause less disturbance to animals, and select monitoring and research techniques that have a minimal disturbance (e.g. non-invasive techniques such as genetics, remote sensing, IQ/TEK collection).	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
20. Monitor marine vessel traffic through the range of Peary caribou for routes, timing of travel and ship type.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Not Pursuing)
21. Investigate the extent and impact of harvest or potential harvest, including sport hunting, and determine mitigation activities, if required, in cooperation and accordance with land claim agreements.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
Broad Strategy Category: Habitat and Species Conservation Management	
22. Conserve habitat for Peary caribou across their range for all their life stages (e.g. calving, summer, rut, winter, movement corridors (sea-ice and land)).	WMAC (NWT)

	GNWT (Implementation Underway)
23. Undertake coordinated land and resource planning to ensure that all development activities are planned and implemented in a manner that protect Peary caribou important habitat (e.g. consider sensitive periods/areas such as sea-ice movement corridors between seasonal ranges, calving, etc.).	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
24. Develop cumulative effects assessment approaches that are appropriate for Peary caribou local populations across their vast range.	GNWT (Resources Required)
25. Develop a long-term protected areas strategy for Peary caribou, which considers the fact that Peary caribou may return to an area after abandoning it for many years.	GNWT (Not Pursuing)
26. Effectively manage and implement precautionary measures across Peary caribou range to meet Peary caribou needs and reduce impacts.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
27. Participate in initiatives aimed at reducing climate change (local, regional, national and international scale), at reducing/eliminating contamination and other toxic substances.	GNWT (Implementation Underway)
28. Establish a mitigation hierarchy approach to limit the negative impacts from disturbance in key areas such as calving grounds and sea-ice crossings.	GNWT (Not Pursuing)
29. Mitigate sources of mortality that may have detrimental impacts on Peary caribou populations.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
30. Investigate approaches such as a threshold of disturbance, tiered identification or temporal protection to assist management of Peary caribou and their habitat.	GNWT (Not Pursuing)

31. Determine the location of sites containing waste/contaminants and investigate clean-up options.	GNWT (Not Pursuing)
32. For local populations that are jointly managed (i.e. territorial transboundary), undertake collaborative management among responsible federal, territorial, co-management jurisdictions and agencies to ensure equitable efforts are underway.	WMAAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
33. Communicate among key rights holders/stakeholders (e.g. governments, wildlife management boards, regional wildlife management boards, land claims organizations, Inuit/Inuvialuit, researchers, mining/oil and gas, shipping and tourism industry, non-government organizations and the public) and other organizations responsible for land and/or resource management and/or conservation within the Peary caribou range to ensure coordination of planning and management, and where possible, coordinate cross-jurisdictional cooperation and implementation.	WMAAC (NWT) GNWT (Resources Required)
Broad Strategy Category: Education and Awareness, Stewardship and Partnerships	
34. Communicate the importance of Peary caribou to Inuit/Inuvialuit culture, economies, the ecosystem and biodiversity.	WMAAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
35. Develop and/or deliver outreach products to key rights holders/stakeholders and the general public on the importance of Peary caribou, their habitat and how to mitigate threats.	WMAAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
36. Promote the collection/sharing of incidental observations of Peary caribou and publicize the need for public reporting of caribou observations (e.g. researchers, government, industry).	WMAAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
37. Communicate the importance of participation in body condition monitoring, harvest reporting and sample submissions.	WMAAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)

38. Encourage stewardship of Peary caribou habitat among industry, interest groups, Inuit/Inuvialuit communities and organizations.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
39. Foster cooperative relationships with key rights holders/stakeholders (e.g. governments, wildlife management boards, regional wildlife management boards, land claims organizations, Inuit/Inuvialuit, researchers, mining/oil and gas, shipping and tourism industry), and others to coordinate activities, mitigate threats, and provide information about sensitive areas and seasons to Peary caribou and their habitat.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
40. Promote education of Inuit and Inuvialuit hunters and youth about traditional and best practices to minimize wastage, alternative food sources, identification of various caribou subspecies and awareness of illegal harvest activities.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
41. Promote national and international (e.g. Greenland) cooperation and collaboration to fill knowledge gaps and to mitigate range-wide threats in Canada (e.g. climate change, pollution, contaminants).	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
42. Promote compliance with federal (e.g. <i>Species at Risk Act</i>), territorial, land claims acts and policies, as well as beneficial management practices that protect Peary caribou and their habitat.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
43. Identify opportunities and approaches that can align and integrate with groups and initiatives working toward Peary caribou and/or arctic conservation (e.g. The Last Ice Area project (World Wildlife Fund 2015)).	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
Broad Strategy Category: Law and Policy	
44. Create opportunities for public involvement in habitat and species conservation and other conservation initiatives.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)

45. Engage and influence existing regulatory structures to ensure that strong and up-to-date regulations are in place for protecting Peary caribou and their habitat at local, regional, territorial, national and international scales (e.g. shipping, climate change reduction, resource extraction).	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Resources Required)
46. Develop, implement and promote beneficial management practices for the species and their habitat (e.g. timing windows, flight height, wildlife plans for the mining/oil and gas exploration/industry, shipping seasons, noise disturbance, etc.).	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
47. Implement existing policies and programs to reduce and/or mitigate threats and develop new policies and programs where gaps exist.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
48. Support enforcement of existing acts and regulations pertaining to threats facing Peary caribou and their habitat, and encourage additional protection where necessary (e.g. community conservation plans, land use plans).	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)
49. Consider Peary caribou requirements in management plans and policies for public lands, private Inuit/Inuvialuit lands, environmental assessments and land-use (energy, mining, shipping, tourism, etc.) planning initiatives.	WMAC (NWT) GNWT (Implementation Underway)

ANNEX B

DEVELOPMENT OF RECOVERY STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION 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.

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 national 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 CMA reached consensus to accept the *Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in the Northwest Territories* on April 29, 2024, in accordance with sections 66 and 63 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The recovery strategy was published on July 29, 2024, in accordance with section 68 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

This *Consensus Agreement Respecting Implementation of the Recovery strategy for Peary Caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) in the Northwest Territories* was informed by discussions of the Conference of Management Authorities, the NWT recovery strategy, the *Consensus Agreement on Listing Peary Caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi)*, the *Consensus Agreement on Accepting the Recovery strategy for Peary Caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) 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 recovery strategy. 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*.