



Pierre-Emmanuel Chpillon

## NWT SPECIES AT RISK

# WOOD BISON

**UPCOMING ASSESSMENT: APRIL 2026**

**CURRENT STATUS IN THE NWT:  
THREATENED**

Wood bison were **assessed** in 2016 and added to the **NWT List of Species at Risk** in 2017 as a **Threatened** species.

A draft **species status report** for the upcoming reassessment is available for review until **January 9, 2026**.

➔ [CLICK HERE](#)

to read the draft wood bison status report



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
**SPECIES  
AT RISK**  
COMMITTEE

## WOOD BISON STATUS REPORT

The Species at Risk Committee uses the best available knowledge from Indigenous, community and scientific sources to determine whether a species is at risk of disappearing from the NWT.

Species on the **NWT List of Species at Risk** are reassessed every 10 years to evaluate new information and determine if its status has changed. Wood bison are scheduled for reassessment in 2026.

### What is in a status report?

The status report includes information about species biology, population, distribution, threats and positive influences. Community observations and concerns and impacts on cultural practices such as harvesting are also considered in the assessment.

### How can my knowledge help the next assessment?

We need your help to ensure the status assessment is based on the most complete and accurate information. If you are interested in reviewing the report and submitting comments, please use the following questions to guide your review:

- Has the report fully investigated the best available sources of information?
- Is the information from those sources portrayed accurately?

### Submit your comments to:

**NWT Species at Risk Secretariat**

PO Box 1320

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Toll-free: 1 (855) 783-4301

Fax: (867) 873-0221

Email: [SARA@gov.nt.ca](mailto:SARA@gov.nt.ca)



[www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca)

# ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

These are some of the questions SARC will use to determine the current biological status of wood bison in the NWT.

## POPULATION

- How often are wood bison seen out on the land compared to the past (more, less, same)?
- What are people saying about these changes?

## DISTRIBUTION

- Have wood bison disappeared from areas where they used to be? Are they found in new areas?
- Are these changes considered normal or unusual for this species? Could wood bison have gone elsewhere?
- What are people saying about these changes?

## HABITAT

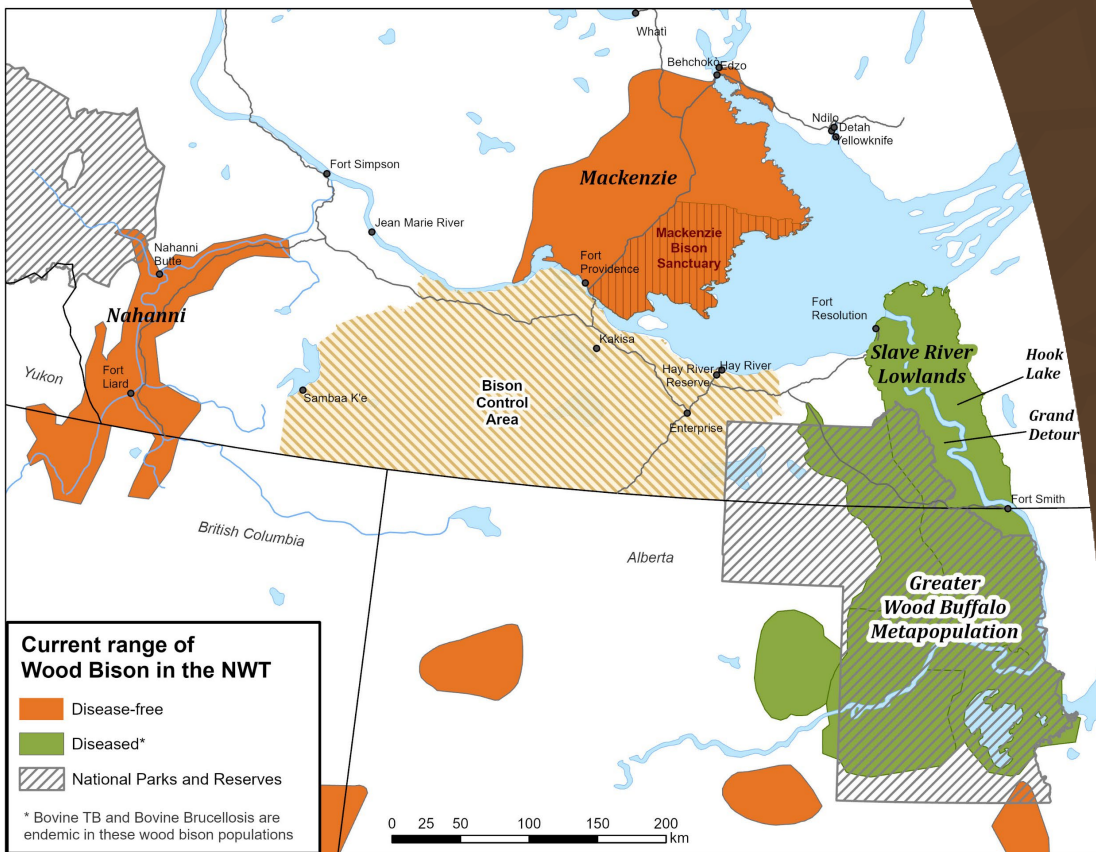
- How healthy is the habitat where wood bison live?
- How has the amount of habitat changed over time? Is there more, less, or the same?
- Have certain areas dried out or become more wet compared to the past? Have there been any changes in the time of year when things are wet or dry?

## THREATS

- How sensitive are wood bison to natural or human-caused threats?
- What specific threats are known to impact wood bison in the NWT?
- How concerned are people about these threats?

## RELATIONSHIPS

- Have changes to wood bison populations or their habitat affected traditional ways of life?
- Have cultural connections to wood bison changed? If so, how?
- Are community members concerned about the future of wood bison in the NWT? Why or why not?



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Top: Current known ranges of NWT wood bison populations (Nahanni, Mackenzie, and the Greater Wood Buffalo metapopulation). Map courtesy of GNWT.