



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025



ANNUAL REPORT

Under subsection 23(1) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Species at Risk Committee must submit an annual report to the Conference of Management Authorities by July 1 each year. This annual report covers the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

THE SPECIES AT RISK (NWT) ACT

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (the Act) provides a process to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Act applies to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It applies in most areas of the NWT, on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claims agreement.



Wood bison – Photo credit: Pierre-Emmanuel Chailion

THE SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

The Species at Risk Committee (the Committee) was established under the Act. It is an independent committee of experts responsible for assessing the biological status of species at risk in the NWT.

Species status assessments are done at the territorial level and results may be different from assessments done at the national level. Assessments are based on species status reports that include the best available Indigenous knowledge, community knowledge and scientific knowledge of the species. The Committee uses two sets of objective biological criteria in its assessments: one based in Indigenous and community knowledge, and one based in science. It does not consider socio-economic factors.

The Committee uses the assessments to make recommendations on the listing of species at risk. The assessment categories for the legal list of species at risk are Extinct, Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern. Species can also be assessed as Not at Risk or Data Deficient. The Committee identifies threats and positive influences on species and their habitats, and may make recommendations on conservation measures for species at risk.

The Committee makes its recommendations to the Conference of Management Authorities, a group of boards and governments that share responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT. The Conference of Management Authorities includes wildlife co-management boards established under land claim and self-government agreements, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Tłıchǫ Government, and the Government of Canada.



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Species at Risk Committee members are appointed by the four wildlife co-management boards established under settled land claim and self-government agreements and the federal government. The Government of the Northwest Territories, represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, appoints the other members. Appointments are for up to five years.

Committee members must have significant expertise of species, habitat, northern ecosystems or conservation. Members act independently and not as representatives of their appointing bodies.

The Species at Risk Committee would like to welcome new members and alternate members appointed in 2024-25: Alissa Sallans, Jessica Norris, Dang Dang Gruben, and Donna Schear.

Members:

- Chairperson: Mr. Leon Andrew
- Alternate Chairperson: Dr. Suzanne Carrière
- Ms. Lynda Yonge
- Mr. Petter Jacobsen
- Mr. Sam Bullock
- Mr. Robert (Bobby) Migwi
- Ms. Alissa Sallans
- Ms. Jessica Norris
- Ms. Kelby Ogryzlo
- Ms. Kristi Benson
- Dr. Jan Adamczewski

Alternates:

- Ms. Amanda Weltman – alternate to Mr. Robert (Bobby) Migwi
- Mr. Robert Charlie-Tetlich – alternate to Ms. Alissa Sallans
- Mr. Dang Dang Gruben – alternate to Ms. Jessica Norris
- Ms. Donna Schear – alternate to Leon Andrew

Biographies of members and alternates are available at www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca



Common muskrat – Photo credit: Liam Cowan

The Committee would also like to recognize **Dr. Nic Larter** for his 15 years of service (2010-2025). His enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of the natural world have had an important and lasting impact on species status reports and assessments in the NWT.

COMMITTEE PROGRESS APRIL 1, 2024 TO MARCH 31, 2025

The Species at Risk Committee held two meetings in 2024-2025. The Committee assessed hairy braya and red-sided garter snake in April 2024 and responded to a request for clarification on the assessment of red-sided garter snake. SARC also made progress on the multi-species status report for Canadian toad, western toad and northern leopard frog in preparation for the 2025 assessments of these species.

An assessment schedule detailing species to be assessed or reassessed from 2025 to 2029 was developed and submitted to the Conference of Management Authorities for approval. The assessment schedule is revised annually.

All Species at Risk Committee documents, including species status reports and assessment, are available on the NWT Species at Risk website: www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca.

RECORD OF SPECIES ASSESSMENTS

SPECIES	CURRENT ASSESSMENT	DATE OF CURRENT ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT HISTORY
Wolverine	Not at Risk	December 2014	
Wood bison	Threatened	April 2016	
Porcupine caribou	Not at Risk	April 2017	
Barren-ground caribou	Threatened	April 2017	
Grizzly bear	Special Concern	April 2017	
Big brown bat	Data Deficient	April 2017	
Little brown myotis	Special Concern	April 2017	
Northern myotis	Special Concern	April 2017	
Long-eared myotis	Data Deficient	April 2017	
Long-legged myotis	Data Deficient	April 2017	
Western bumble bee	Data Deficient	April 2019	
Yellow-banded bumble bee	Not at Risk	April 2019	
Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee	Data Deficient	April 2019	
Northern mountain caribou	Special Concern	April 2020	
Polar bear	Special Concern	April 2021	Special Concern (December 2012)
Peary caribou	Threatened	May 2022	Threatened (December 2012)
Boreal caribou	Threatened	May 2022	Threatened (December 2012)
Peregrine falcon	Not at Risk	May 2022	
Dolphin and Union caribou	Endangered	April 2023	Special Concern (December 2013)
American white pelican	Special Concern	April 2023	
Hairy braya	Threatened	April 2024	Threatened (December 2012)
Red-sided garter snake	Special Concern	April 2024	
Northern leopard frog	Endangered	April 2025	Threatened (December 2013)
Western toad	Threatened	April 2025	Threatened (December 2014)

ASSESSMENT/REASSESSMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2026-2030

Spring 2026	New	Common muskrat (<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>)
	Reassess	Wood bison (<i>Bison bison athabasca</i>)
Spring 2027	Reassess	Barren-ground caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>)
	Reassess	Northern myotis (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)
	Reassess	Little brown myotis (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)
Spring 2028	New	Muskoxen (<i>Ovibos moschatus</i>)
	New	Rock cranberry (lingonberry) (<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>)
Spring 2029	New	Dall's sheep (<i>Ovis dalli</i>)
	Reassess	Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>)
	Reassess	McKay's bumble bee (formerly western bumble bee) (<i>Bombus mckayi</i>)
	New	Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>)
Spring 2030	Reassess	Northern mountain caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>)

*The assessment schedule is subject to annual review and modification.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories, provides full administrative and financial support to the Species at Risk Committee. Contracts for preparing species status reports are advertised on contracts.opennwt.ca.



Muskoxen – Photo credit: Joel Koop

CONTACT

For more information about the Species at Risk Committee and its activities, please visit our website:

www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca

Or contact:

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Respectfully submitted,



Leon Andrew, Chairperson
Species at Risk Committee

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Cover Photo:

Yellow-banded bumble bee – Photo credit: Anthony Colangelo

Rainbow near Mackay Lake, NWT – Photo credit: Joel Koop

