



NWT CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON LISTING WESTERN TOAD (*Anaxyrus boreas*)

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

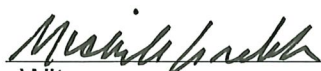
To add another 10-year term to the current expiration date for western toad as a Threatened species on the Northwest Territories List of Species at Risk.

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 Authority for western toad is the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, having reached consensus, provide this Consensus Agreement on this **27th day of May 2026**, to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories.



Witness



Dr. Brett Elkin, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Wildlife and Forest Management
Environment and Climate Change
Government of the Northwest Territories

ANNEX A

REASONS FOR THE CONSENSUS AGREEMENT

Western toad has been listed as a Threatened species in the Northwest Territories (NWT) since 2016. On May 26, 2025, the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) provided the reassessment and multi-species *Status Report for Canadian Toad, Western Toad and Northern Leopard Frog in the NWT* to the Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) and recommended that western toad remain on the NWT List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species. The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* provides a 12-month period for the CMA to develop a consensus agreement on listing.

The CMA has reached consensus under paragraph 50(3)(a)(ii) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* to add another 10-year term to the current expiration date for western toad as a Threatened species.

This Consensus Agreement was informed by the completed species status report, SARC's assessment and reasons for assessment, public input (solicited by the Management Authority), and the results of GNWT engagement with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. No information was provided to SARC by the CMA or the 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 Authority with respect to the required approvals and their preparation for the development of the Consensus Agreement on listing are described in Annex B of this Consensus Agreement.

Reasons for assessment that were noted by SARC:

SARC reassessed the biological status of western toad as a Threatened species in the NWT during its meeting on April 29-30, 2025. An assessment of Threatened means that SARC determined western toad is likely to become Endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction. The assessment process and objective biological criteria used by the Species at Risk Committee determined that western toad met criteria SK(D2) for Threatened under SARC's Species Assessment Process:

- SK (D2) where there is a restricted area of occupancy or number of locations such that it is prone to the effects of human activities or stochastic events within a very short time period (1-2 generations) in an uncertain future, and is thus capable of becoming Extinct, Extirpated or Critically Endangered in a very short period of time.

- Western toad has a restricted number of locations in the NWT; there are fewer than five locations for this species. Therefore, western toad is prone to the effects of human activities or stochastic events within a very short time period (1-2 generations) in an uncertain future, and is thus capable of becoming Extinct, Extirpated or Critically Endangered in a very short period of time.

Main factors:

- The population of western toad in the Northwest Territories is restricted to three locations based on known breeding sites; therefore, it is vulnerable to stochastic events within a very short period of time.
- The number of locations depends on the most serious plausible threat to a species. The most serious plausible threat to western toad is disease and pathogens. Therefore, the number of locations is based on the number of breeding areas where amphibians gather and may spread pathogens. A breeding area may contain overlapping sites or breeding ponds within close proximity. In this context, there are three locations based on 11 known breeding sites.
- In the NWT, chytridiomycosis has been found in western toads and there is evidence of ranavirus within the range of western toad. A disease outbreak could decimate the western toad population within a breeding area, particularly if coupled with additional stressors (e.g., drought, wildfire) or threats that reduce immunity to diseases.
- Additional threats include habitat degradation, drought, wildfires, roadkill, and increased UV-B radiation. These threats can have complex interactions with each other and are challenging to manage.
- Life-history characteristics (e.g., long lifespan, delayed maturity of females, and females breeding only once a lifetime) make populations especially vulnerable to threats and declines.

Additional factors:

- Currently, there is not enough information or data on abundance to determine population trends for western toads in the Northwest Territories.
- Although there are healthy populations of western toads in British Columbia and the Yukon that could contribute to a rescue effect, these populations may be subject to similar threats that are faced by the population in the NWT, particularly if there is not enough good habitat for re-establishing the population.
- Western toads in the NWT appear to be at or near the northern limit of species distribution, where they may be particularly vulnerable to stochastic events like drought and wildfire.

Decision of the Management Authority

After reviewing the assessment and the results of engagement, the Management Authority determined that adding another 10-year term to the current expiration date for western toad as a Threatened species is appropriate based on SARC's status report and assessment, including the threats to this species. The Government of the Northwest Territories' assessment is that the action of adding another 10-year term to the current expiration date for western toad as a Threatened species will not infringe on Aboriginal or treaty rights. Based on this, the Conference of Management Authorities has agreed that another 10-year term should be added to the current term for listing western toad as a Threatened species on the NWT List of Species at Risk.

ANNEX B

ACTIONS THE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY HAS UNDERTAKEN OR WILL UNDERTAKE WITH RESPECT TO LISTING

As provided for in section 50(3)(a)(ii) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Management Authority, having reached consensus on adding another 10-year term to the current term for western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) to the NWT List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species, is reporting the actions they have undertaken or agree to undertake with respect to the required approvals and their participation in listing the species:

Government of the Northwest Territories

The Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) position on re-listing was formed through review of the species status report and assessment and engagement with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, 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 assessment and proposed re-listing of western toad. The comment period was August 15 – November 1, 2025. The GNWT invited comments using a news release, print ads, fact sheets, radio announcements, social media posts, social media ads, programmatic advertising on commercial websites, an online survey, the NWT Species at Risk website, and an email distribution list.

The GNWT received five submissions on the listing of western toad through this process. All were in support of the listing. The comments were considered in forming the GNWT's position on listing.

Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations

The GNWT's assessment is that the action of adding another 10-year term to the current term for western toad as a Threatened species will not infringe on Aboriginal or treaty rights. There are no automatic prohibitions or protections for species or habitat that come into effect upon adding another 10-year term to the current term. The action of listing the species under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* will not change harvest quotas, regulations or land management already in place. The *Management Plan for Amphibians in the Northwest Territories*, completed in 2017, will continue to fulfill the requirements for a

recovery strategy under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* for western toad and provide conservation and recovery goals and objectives for the species.

The GNWT engaged with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations (IGIOs) through letters. IGIOs located in or near the NWT range of western toad were invited to comment on re-listing western toad to the NWT List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species for an additional term of 10 years. No responses were received through this process.

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

- Acho Dene Koe First Nation
- Dehcho First Nations
- Deh Gáh Got'ı̨ First Nation
- Fort Providence Métis Council
- The Métis Association Local 52 – Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
- Łı́ı́ı̨ Kų́ First Nation
- Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation
- West Point First Nation
- Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édélı̨) First Nation
- Sambaa K'e First Nation
- Pehdzéh Kı̨ First Nation
- Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Dene Tha' First Nation
- Liard First Nation