

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

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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, 2026.

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.



Dall's sheep – Photo credit: Boyan Tracz, GNWT

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 Tłı̨chǫ 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 **Dr. Jan Adamczewski** as a new member appointed in 2025-26.



Snowy owl – Photo credit: Gordon Court

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. Aimee Guile – alternate to Mr. Bobby Migwi
- Mr. Robert Charlie-Tetlichi – alternate to Ms. Alissa Sallans
- Mr. Dang Dang Gruben – alternate to Ms. Jessica Norris
- Ms. Donna Schear – alternate to Mr. Leon Andrew

Biographies of members and alternates are available at **www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca**

COMMITTEE PROGRESS APRIL 1, 2025 TO MARCH 31, 2026

The Species at Risk Committee held two meetings in 2025-2026. The Committee assessed northern leopard frog and western toad in April 2025. SARC also made progress on the status reports for common muskrat and wood bison in preparation for the 2026 assessments of these species.

An assessment schedule detailing species to be assessed or reassessed from 2027 to 2031 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 assessments, are available on the NWT Species at Risk website: **www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca.**

RECORD OF SPECIES ASSESSMENTS

SPECIES	CURRENT ASSESSMENT	DATE OF CURRENT ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT HISTORY
Wolverine	Not at Risk	December 2014	
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 bat	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)*
Canadian toad	Not Assessed*	April 2025	
Common muskrat	Special Concern	April 2026	
Wood bison	Threatened	April 2026	Threatened *(April 2016)*



Photo credit: Petter Jacobsen, Tłı̨chǫ Government

Barren-ground caribou, Bathurst herd, cooling off in Contwoyto Lake

ASSESSMENT/REASSESSMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2027-2031

Spring 2027	**Reassess**	Barren-ground caribou *(Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus)*
	Reassess	Northern myotis *(Myotis septentrionalis)*
	Reassess	Little brown myotis *(Myotis lucifugus)*
Spring 2028	**New**	Muskoxen *(Ovibos moschatus)*
	New	Rock cranberry (lingonberry) *(Vaccinium vitis-idaea)*
Spring 2029	**New**	Dall's sheep *(Ovis dalli)*
	Reassess	Yellow-banded bumble bee *(Bombus terricola)*
	Reassess	Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee *(Bombus bohemicus)*
	Reassess	McKay's bumble bee *(Bombus mckayi)*
	New	Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee *(Bombus suckleyi)*
Spring 2030	**Reassess**	Northern mountain caribou *(Rangifer tarandus caribou)*
	New	Snowy owl *(Bubo scandiacus)*
Spring 2031	**Reassess**	Polar bear *(Ursus maritimus)*
	New	Rusty blackbird *(Euphagus carolinus)*

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

Canadian toad was included in the multi-species Status Report for NWT amphibians but was not assessed because this species only occurs in Wood Buffalo National Park.



Photo credit: Julien Schroder

CONTACT

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

Or contact:
Species at Risk Secretariat
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Toll-free: 1 (855) 783-4301
Fax: (867) 873-0221
E-mail: SARA@gov.nt.ca
www.facebook.com/NWTSpeciesAtRisk

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Andrew, Chairperson
Species at Risk Committee

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPECIES AT RISK
COMMITTEE

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**.

Cover Photo:
Northern myotis bat – Photo credit: Cori Lausen