CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES
SPECIES AT RISK

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



ANNUAL REPORT

Under subsection 16(1) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Conference of Management Authorities (the Conference) must submit an annual report to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change by September 30 each year. This annual report covers the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.



Northern leopard frog – Photo credit: Leslie Bol

THE *SPECIES AT RISK (NWT) ACT*

The *Species at Risk (NWT) 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 that is 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 claim agreement.



Polar bear – Photo credit: Steve Baryluk, GNWT

PROGRESS APRIL 1, 2025 TO MARCH 31, 2026

The Conference of Management Authorities held three meetings during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The Conference accomplished the following tasks:

Listing

- **Hairy braya** – Completed consensus agreement on extending the listing of hairy braya as a Threatened species in the NWT.
- **Red-sided garter snake** – Completed consensus agreement on not listing red-sided garter snake as a species at risk in the NWT.

Management and Recovery

- **Peary caribou** – Completed consensus agreement on the implementation of the recovery strategy for Peary caribou in the NWT.
- **Wood bison** – Completed a progress report on the recovery of wood bison in the NWT.
- **Barren-ground caribou** – Prepared a progress report on the recovery of barren-ground caribou in the NWT for completion in 2026.
- **Bats** – Prepared a progress report on the management of bats in the NWT for completion in 2026.
- **Dolphin and Union caribou** – Prepared a recovery strategy for Dolphin and Union caribou in the NWT for completion in 2026/2027.

Species Conservation and Recovery Fund – Awarded $60,000 in funding among eight projects for 2026-27:

- **Athabasca Denesųłiné Harvest Monitors Program** – Athabasca Denesųłiné Né Né Land Corporation
- **Voices of the Land: Elders and Youth Sharing Caribou Teachings** – Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB)
- **Identification and Closing Knowledge Gaps of Critical Habitat for Northern Leopard Frog in the South Slave** – Fort Smith Métis Council
- **Nin Nihlinehch'ì' – Li' hàh Guk'àndehtr'inahtìi (Animals at Risk - Animals we are Watching Closely)** – Gwich'in Tribal Council (Dept. of Culture and Heritage)
- **Merging Advanced Technologies with Traditional Knowledge for Species at Risk Protection in the North Slave Region** – North Slave Métis Alliance
- **White-nose Syndrome Surveillance at Bat Hibernacula in the South Slave Region** – Jesika P. Reimer and Laura A. Kaupas; Independent researchers
- **Sump Monitoring and Species at Risk in the Sahtú Settlement Area** – ʔehdzo Got'ı̨nę Gots'ę́ Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- **Post-fire Status of Snakes in the NWT** – Thompson Rivers University

Details on Conference activities are available on the NWT Species at Risk website: **www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca**

THE CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

The Conference, established under the Act, is made up of the wildlife co-management boards and governments in the NWT that share responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT (Management Authorities). The Conference builds consensus among Management Authorities on the conservation of species at risk and provides direction, coordination and leadership with respect to the assessment, listing, conservation and recovery of species at risk while respecting the roles and responsibilities of Management Authorities under land claim and self-government agreements.

The Management Authorities are:

- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Ɂehdzo Got'ı̨nę Gots'ę́ Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board
- Tłı̨chǫ Government
- Government of Canada
- Government of the Northwest Territories

Each Management Authority may have three representatives attend Conference meetings. The Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Akaitcho Territory Government, Athabasca Denesųłiné, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, Dehcho First Nations, Kátł'odeeche First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation and Salt River First Nation are also invited to observe or participate in Conference meetings.

The Conference develops consensus agreements on listing species at risk, conservation measures, management plans and recovery strategies. The Conference also reviews management plans and recovery strategies every five years and reports on progress toward meeting objectives.

NWT LIST OF SPECIES AT RISK

SPECIES	MANAGEMENT PLAN/RECOVERY STRATEGY	IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT	PROGRESS REPORT AND REVIEW
ENDANGERED			
Dolphin and Union caribou	Management Plan Completed 2018	Completed 2018	Completed 2023
	Recovery Strategy due August 2027	*Uphold the 2018 Implementation Agreement*	*Due 2029**
THREATENED			
Barren-ground caribou	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	*Due 2031* Completed 2026
Boreal caribou	Completed 2017	Completed 2017	*Due 2028** Completed 2022
Hairy braya	Completed 2015	Completed 2016	*Due 2027** Completed 2021
Northern leopard frog	Completed 2017	Completed 2017	*Due 2028** Completed 2022
Peary caribou	Completed 2024	Completed 2025	*Due 2030*
Western toad	Completed 2017	Completed 2017	*Due 2028** Completed 2022
Wood bison	Completed 2019	Completed 2020	*Due 2030* Completed 2025
SPECIAL CONCERN			
Northern mountain caribou	Completed 2023	Completed 2024	*Due 2029*
Little brown myotis	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	*Due 2031* Completed 2026
Northern myotis	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	*Due 2031* Completed 2026
Polar bear	Completed 2017	Completed 2018	*Due 2028** Completed 2022

* Progress reporting timelines have been adjusted so that reporting occurs at the same time of year for all species (April).



Photo credit: Tłı̨chǫ Government

Boreal caribou habitat monitoring



Photo credit: Kevin Xu

Barren-ground caribou fitted with a satellite collar. The collars are used to study seasonal range distribution, measure annual variations in rut and calving locations, and determine spring and fall migration routes.

CONTACT

For more information about the Conference of Management Authorities and its activities, please visit:
www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca

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Respectfully submitted,

Jody Pellissey

Jody Pellissey, Chairperson
Conference of Management Authorities

CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES
SPECIES AT RISK

Cover Photo:
Common muskrat – Photo credit: Reid Hildebrandt