



NWT CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON LISTING NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG (*Lithobates pipiens* = *Rana pipiens*)

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

To list northern leopard frog in a higher risk category on the Northwest Territories List of Species at Risk, as an Endangered species.

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 northern leopard frog 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

Northern leopard frog has been listed as a Threatened species in the Northwest Territories (NWT) since 2015. 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 northern leopard frog be listed in a higher risk category on the NWT List of Species at Risk as an Endangered 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)(iii) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* to list northern leopard frog as an Endangered 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 northern leopard frog as an Endangered species in the NWT during its meeting on April 29-30, 2025. An assessment of Endangered means that SARC determined northern leopard frog is facing imminent extirpation or extinction. The assessment process and objective biological criteria used by the Species at Risk Committee determined northern leopard frog met criteria SK (B2) with conditions (a) and (b) (iii, iv, v) for Endangered under SARC's Species Assessment Process:

- Endangered SK (B2) where the area of occupancy is <500 km² (The index area of occupancy for northern leopard frog is approximately 116 km²); and (a) the number of locations is ≤5 (the number of locations for northern leopard frog is three with disease/pathogens as the most plausible threat), and (b) there is a continuing decline, observed, estimated, inferred, or projected, in (iii) area, extent, or quality

of habitat, (iv) number of locations or subpopulations, (v) number of mature individuals.

Main factors:

- In the Northwest Territories (NWT), northern leopard frog is at the northern-most limit of its range in the world and is limited to the southern NWT where suitable overwintering sites exist.
- Using all observations in the NWT, the extent of occurrence is estimated to be 14,247 km² and the index of area of occupancy (IAO) is an estimated 116 km².
- The number of locations depends on the most serious plausible threat to a species. The most serious plausible threat to northern leopard frogs is disease and pathogens. Therefore, the number of locations is based on the number of breeding areas where amphibians gather and may spread pathogens. In this context, there are three locations based on three known breeding sites.
- Knowledge holders have indicated that northern leopard frogs have been present in the area north of Trudel Lake towards Fort Resolution likely since the 1980s, possibly even the 1950s. They are currently present in the Fort Resolution area and the Slave River delta based on multiple reports and local knowledge. One observation of northern leopard frog in Fort Resolution was recorded in 2016. Northern leopard frogs have not been reported in the area between the Slave River Delta and 64.7 degrees north since before 2000. This knowledge suggests an inferred decline in the area, extent, and/or quality of habitat, number of locations or subpopulations, and in the number of mature individuals.
- Other threats to northern leopard frogs include drought, wildfire, and the proposed Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion project. A decline in the quality of habitat, number of locations, and number of individuals is projected from the threats.
- The population of northern leopard frog that occurs in the NWT, northern Alberta and northern Saskatchewan is geographically disjunct from the main distribution of the species in North America. Northern leopard frogs in the NWT were found to be genetically distinct from other populations in western Canada; they also have low genetic diversity, and a high incidence of inbreeding. This increases their vulnerability to stochastic events.
- Populations of northern leopard frog in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan could contribute to a rescue effect. However, these populations are small and are subject to similar threats as northern leopard frogs in the NWT reducing the likelihood of rescue.

Decision of the Management Authority

After reviewing the assessment and the results of engagement, the Management Authority determined that listing northern leopard frog as an Endangered species on the Northwest Territories List of Species at Risk 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 listing northern leopard frog as an Endangered species will not infringe on Aboriginal or treaty rights. Based on this, the Conference of Management Authorities has agreed to list northern leopard frog as an Endangered 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)(b) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Management Authority, having reached consensus on listing northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens* = *Rana pipiens*) as an Endangered species on the NWT List of Species at Risk, are 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 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 listing of northern leopard frog in a higher risk category. 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 three submissions on the listing of northern leopard frog through the public engagement process. Two were in support of the listing and one did not indicate either support or non-support. All 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 listing northern leopard frog as an Endangered 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 listing in a higher category of risk. The action of listing the species as Endangered 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 northern leopard frog 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 northern leopard frog were invited to comment on the potential listing of northern leopard frog as an Endangered species. 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.

- Denínu Kúé First Nation
- Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndıłq)
- Dehcho First Nations
- Deh Gáh Got'ıę First Nation
- Fort Providence Métis Council
- The Métis Association Local 52 – Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
- Łı́ıdlı Kúé First Nation
- Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation
- West Point First Nation
- Jean Marie River (Tthets'ėhk'édélı) First Nation
- Sambaa K'e First Nation
- Pehdzéh Kı́ First Nation
- Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Dene Tha' First Nation
- Kátl'odeeche First Nation
- Liard First Nation
- Salt River First Nation #195
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Fort Resolution Métis Government
- Fort Smith Métis Council
- Hay River Métis Government Council
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Tthebatthı Dėnesų́ı́né Nation
- Mikisew Cree First Nation
- Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation