



NWT CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES
CONSENSUS AGREEMENT RESPECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BATS IN THE NWT

The Conference of Management Authorities has reached consensus (hereafter referred to as the “Consensus Agreement”) respecting the implementation of the *Management Plan for Bats in the Northwest Territories*.

The overall goal of the management plan is for each bat species to main self-sustaining, resilient populations across their range in the NWT. This will ensure that bats continue to be an important part of our ecosystems. The recommended management approaches and the Management Authorities’ intent to undertake them are summarized in this Consensus Agreement. Further information can be found in the *Management Plan for Bats in the Northwest Territories*.

Implementation is subject to appropriations, priorities and budgetary constraints of the Management Authorities.

The processes for developing the management plan and this Consensus Agreement are outlined in Annex B.

GNWT Statements

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) makes the following statements about its intentions to implement the recommended approaches in the management plan, subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints.

- A. **Implementation Underway** – The GNWT is actively implementing a number of the recommended approaches in the management plan in whole or in part. Additional resources may be needed to fully implement these approaches. Many of these actions are long-term and progress is made gradually over time. The

actions are being implemented with co-management partners as part of ongoing management, monitoring, research, conservation planning, and environmental assessment programs. The recommendations in the management plan provide advice to help guide these programs. This statement applies to recommended approaches 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3.

- B. Resources Required** – A number of the recommended approaches in the management plan are important but implementing them would require additional resources and/or re-allocation of existing resources. The GNWT intends to pursue implementation of these approaches as resources and capacity allow. The GNWT will seek additional resources and may consider re-allocation of existing resources to implement these approaches. Re-allocation of existing resources could affect other commitments. This applies to recommended approaches 1.5, 2.1, 2.5, 3.1, and 3.8.

Tłıchq Government Statements

Tłıchq Government staff have been involved in and support the development of the *Management Plan for Bats in the NWT*. The Chief's Executive Council of the Tłıchq Government approved the management plan. With respect to the management plan and subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints, implementation will be a collaborative effort between all co-management partners. The Tłıchq Government has identified and set out in Annex A the recommended approaches that will be implemented by the Tłıchq Government to assist in the achievement of conservation and management objectives for bats in and around the Tłıchq communities.

Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board Statements

With respect to the *Management Plan for Bats in the NWT*, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board will implement the conservation and management objectives identified in Annex A for bats found in Wek'èezhì only.

ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ë Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB) Statements

SRRB has continued to partner in acoustic monitoring for bats in the Sahtú region, and takes note of data from the Howard's Pass Access Road in the Náats'ıhch'oh National Park Reserve area that confirms the presence of little brown myotis and northern bats. Based on this data, it may be extrapolated that these species may be present in the in

the mountains of the Sahtú region to the north of the park. As well, community knowledge in recent years has indicated presence of little brown myotis in Colville Lake and Norman Wells. SRRB plans to partner with local ʔehdzo Goṭ'ıneṭ (Renewable Resources Councils), University of Alberta, ENR and Canadian Wildlife Service to involve Neṭ K'édıke (Keepers of the Land) in putting up Acoustic Recording Units to further determine bat distribution in the Sahtú region. This initiative will include community engagement to build awareness and understanding of bats as species at risk. SRRB will implement the management approaches as identified in Annex A, subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Statements

While Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) is a not Management Authority for bats, there have been several reports from community members regarding bat sightings in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) over the past several years. Therefore, GRRB is committed to the management and recovery of the species that may be in the GSA, as outlined in the *Management Plan for Bats in the NWT*. GRRB will implement the management approaches as identified in Annex A, subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints.

INTERPRETATION

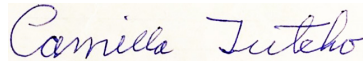
For greater certainty, terms and processes in this Consensus Agreement are as defined and described in the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

For greater certainty, the Management Authorities for bats in the Northwest Territories, including little brown myotis and northern myotis, the two listed bat species at risk in the NWT, are: Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, Tłıchǫ Government, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, having reached this consensus, provide this Consensus Agreement on this 9th day of April 2021 to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government.



Witness



Camilla Tutcho, A/Chair
ʔehdzo Got'ne Gots'ę Nákedi
(Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)



Witness



Joseph Judas, Chairperson
Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board



Witness



Grand Chief George Mackenzie
Tłı̨chǫ Government



Witness



Brett Elkin, Assistant Deputy Minister -
Operations
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories

ANNEX A

RECOMMENDED APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR BATS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Management Approach	GNWT Statements ¹	Partners intending to implement ²
Objective #1: Fill knowledge gaps and enhance understanding of NWT bats, using traditional, community, and scientific knowledge, to inform sound management decisions.		
1.1 Identify knowledge gaps and encourage research and monitoring on bats, including collecting information on distribution, abundance and trends, health, biology, physiology, genetic, habitat, threats, and cumulative effects.	Implementation Underway	WRRB, TG, GRRB, SRRB
1.2 Identify, describe, and map key bat habitats (such as hibernacula and maternity roosts).	Implementation Underway	
1.3 Monitor population and distribution trends.	Implementation Underway	GRRB, SRRB
1.4 Encourage people to report observations of bats and keep compiled records.	Implementation Underway	WRRB, TG, GRRB, SRRB
1.5 Encourage the collection and recording of traditional and community knowledge about bats.	Resources Required	WRRB, GRRB, SRRB
1.6 Participate in collaborative research and monitoring for bats and white-nose syndrome in Canada.	Implementation Underway	GRRB, SRRB

¹ This column refers to the GNWT Statements found on page 2 of this Consensus Agreement.

² The co-management partners in this column intend to undertake the approach indicated, subject to appropriations, priorities, and budgetary constraints.

Objective #2: Monitor, mitigate, and manage white-nose syndrome.		
2.1 Develop and maintain an effective and coordinated surveillance program to monitor for white-nose syndrome, including timely collection, diagnosis, and reporting of test results.	Resources Required	
2.2 Encourage reporting of unusual bat behaviour, such as flying outside during the day, and investigate these observations promptly.	Implementation Underway	WRRB, TG, GRRB, SRRB
2.3 Implement precautionary measures to reduce the spread of white-nose syndrome, including preventing accidental human-caused spread.	Implementation Underway	
2.4 Support national/international efforts and research in disease prevention and mitigation.	Implementation Underway	
2.5 Implement measures to prevent the spread and mitigate the impacts of white-nose syndrome should they become available and feasible.	Resources Required	
Objective #3: Prevent or reduce harm to bats associated with human activities.		
3.1 Complete and implement measures to prevent and mitigate negative human impacts at hibernacula, such as a Cave Management Plan.	Resources Required	
3.2 Prevent destruction of critical habitat for bats identified under the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> .	Implementation Underway	
3.3 Develop, promote, and implement best management practices to conserve maternity roosts, including appropriate	Implementation Underway	GRRB

methods for managing bats in buildings.		
3.4 Promote and implement forestry management practices that maintain trees suitable for roosting.	Implementation Underway	
3.5 Identify and avoid or mitigate human impacts on key bat habitats through the regulatory process (permitting, screening, and environmental assessment), legislation, land administration and land use planning, conservation areas, stewardship, or other effective mechanisms.	Implementation Underway	WRRB, TG, GRRB
3.6 Participate in initiatives aimed at addressing threats that may affect bats at a continental scale, such as climate change and contaminants.	Implementation Underway	WRRB
3.7 Ensure that beneficial management practices are used for wind energy developments in the NWT to avoid harm to bats.	Implementation Underway	TG, GRRB
3.8 Work with agricultural producers, gardeners, and others to promote responsible pest control and avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides.	Resources Required	
3.9 Promote and implement best management practices for closing or reactivating underground mines that may be used by bats.	Implementation Underway	
Objective #4: Increase awareness, acceptance, and stewardship of bats and their habitats.		
4.1 Encourage communities to participate in bat monitoring projects.	Implementation Underway	WRRB, TG, GRRB, SRRB
4.2 Develop education initiatives to promote public knowledge, understanding, and acceptance of bats.	Implementation Underway	WRRB, TG, GRRB, SRRB

<p>4.3 Promote stewardship activities relating to bats and/or bat habitat, such as strategic use and appropriate placement of bat boxes.</p>	<p>Implementation Underway</p>	<p>WRRB, GRRB</p>
<p>Objective #5: Manage bats using an adaptive and collaborative approach, and best available information.</p>		
<p>5.1 Collaborate with co-management partners, other jurisdictions, and researchers on management and conservation efforts for NWT bats.</p>	<p>Implementation Underway</p>	<p>WRRB</p>
<p>5.2 Encourage flow of information among researchers, co-management partners, regulatory boards, and the public.</p>	<p>Implementation Underway</p>	<p>WRRB, TG, GRRB, SRRB</p>
<p>5.3 Conduct periodic co-management reviews of new information, management actions, and progress made toward meeting management objectives.</p>	<p>Implementation Underway</p>	<p>TG, GRRB, SRRB</p>

ANNEX B

DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

On July 11, 2018, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), acting on the direction provided by the Conference of Management Authorities in their *Consensus Agreement on Listing Little Brown Myotis (Myotis lucifugus)* and *Consensus Agreement on Listing Northern Myotis (Myotis septentrionalis)* (April 2018), added little brown myotis and northern myotis to the NWT List of Species at Risk as species of Special Concern. A multi-species management plan was developed by the Conference of Management Authorities to address the conservation and management requirements of all bat species in the NWT, recognizing significant overlap in their management needs and threats. The management plan includes appropriate recommended objectives and approaches for the management of the two at-risk bat species in the NWT, as well as descriptions of threats and positive influences, as required under section 61 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The management plan was completed on July 9, 2020, in accordance with subsection 60(1) and sections 65-68 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

This *Consensus Agreement Respecting Implementation of the Management Plan for Bats in the Northwest Territories* was informed by discussions of the Conference of Management Authorities, the management plan, the consensus agreements on listing, the *Consensus Agreement on Accepting the Management Plan for Bats in the Northwest Territories*, the Species at Risk Committee's assessments and reasons for assessment, and the approved species status report. It was also informed by public input (solicited by the Management Authorities) and the results of Crown consultation duties performed by the GNWT during the listing process and the development of the management plan. No information was provided to the Species at Risk Committee by the Conference of Management Authorities or a Management Authority under paragraph 31(1)(c) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.