



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021



ANNUAL REPORT

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, 2021.

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.



Red-sided garter snake – Photo Credit: Parks Canada

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 traditional knowledge, community knowledge, and scientific knowledge of the species. The Committee must use objective biological criteria in its assessments and 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 listing 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 to 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 Tłı̨ch̨ 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 Natural Resources, 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.

Members:

- Chairperson: Mr. Leon Andrew
- Alternate Chairperson: Dr. Suzanne Carrière
- Ms. Alestine Andre
- Ms. Rosemin Nathoo
- Mr. Arthur Beck
- Ms. Kaytlin Cooper
- Ms. Lynda Yonge
- Mr. Moise Rabesca
- Dr. Nicholas (Nic) Larter
- Mr. Petter Jacobsen

Alternates:

- Ms. Aimee Guile –
alternate to Mr. Moise Rabesca
- Mr. Daniel Beck –
alternate to Mr. Arthur Beck
- Dr. Deborah Simmons –
alternate to Mr. Leon Andrew
- Mr. James Firth –
alternate to Ms. Kaytlin Cooper
- Ms. Allison Thompson –
alternate to Ms. Rosemin Nathoo

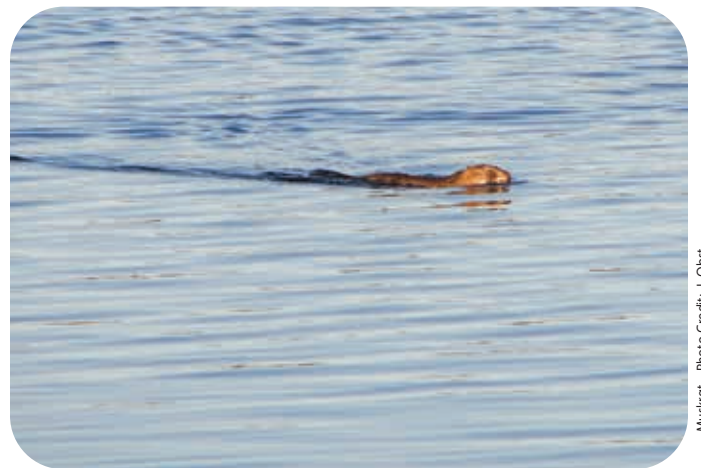
Biographies of members and alternates are available at www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca

COMMITTEE PROGRESS APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021

The Species at Risk Committee held three meetings in 2020-2021. The Committee revised the Assessment Process and Objective Biological Criteria, finalized a species status report for polar bear, which was re-assessed in April 2021, and initiated work on revisions to the species status report for Peary caribou and boreal caribou in preparation for the 2022 re-assessment of these species. The Committee also initiated work on the species status report for peregrine falcon for the 2022 assessment of this species.

An assessment schedule detailing species to be assessed or re-assessed from 2022 to 2026 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 assessment, are available on the NWT Species at Risk website: www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca.



Muskrat – Photo Credit: J. Obst

RECORD OF SPECIES ASSESSMENTS

SPECIES	CURRENT ASSESSMENT	DATE OF CURRENT ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT HISTORY
Peary caribou	Threatened	December 2012	
Boreal caribou	Threatened	December 2012	
Hairy braya	Threatened	December 2012	
Dolphin and Union caribou	Special Concern	December 2013	
Northern leopard frog	Threatened	December 2013	
Wolverine	Not at Risk	December 2014	
Western toad	Threatened	December 2014	
Wood bison	Threatened	April 2016	
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 myotis	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	Assessed as Special Concern in December 2012

ASSESSMENT/RE-ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2022-2026

April 2022	New	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
	Re-assess	Boreal caribou (woodland caribou [boreal population]) (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>)
	Re-assess	Peary caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus pearyi</i>)
April 2023	New	American white pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)
	Re-assess	Dolphin and Union caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus x pearyi</i>)
April 2024	New	Muskrat (<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>)
	Re-assess	Hairy braya (<i>Braya pilosa</i>)
April 2025	New	Canadian toad (<i>Anaxyrus hemiophrys</i>)
	Re-assess	Western toad (<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>)
	Re-assess	Northern leopard frog (<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>)
April 2026	New	Red-sided garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>)
	Re-assess	Wood bison (<i>Bison bison athabascae</i>)

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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Environment and Natural Resources, 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

<https://contracts.opennwt.ca/>.

CONTACT

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

www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca

Or contact:

Species at Risk Secretariat

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Respectfully submitted,



Leon Andrew, Chairperson
Species at Risk Committee



Cover Photo:

American white pelican – Photo Credit: John David McKinnon