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# **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN GUIDELINES 1: PROCESS REQUIREMENTS**

**Environment and Natural Resources,  
Government of the Northwest Territories**

**WILDLIFE DIVISION**

**February 2018**

28 **DISCLAIMER**

29

30 These guidelines do not replace legislation or the terms and conditions of regulatory  
31 authorizations. Although every attempt has been made to provide up-to-date information,  
32 it remains the developer's responsibility to obtain the most recent information related to  
33 wildlife and wildlife habitat, to ensure all regulatory requirements have been met, and to  
34 undertake appropriate consultation with territorial and federal government departments  
35 and Indigenous governments. No parts of these guidelines are intended to infringe on  
36 asserted or established Aboriginal or treaty rights.

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69 **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

70 The Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Natural  
71 Resources (ENR) is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the [Wildlife](#)  
72 [Act](#)<sup>1</sup>. Section 95 of the *Wildlife Act* contains the provisions outlining criteria for when a  
73 Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) will be required as well as the  
74 mandatory content for such plans. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is  
75 developing regulations pursuant to section 95 requirements. In the meantime, ENR has  
76 developed these guidelines to clarify requirements and expectations related to WMMPs.  
77 ENR has endeavored to ensure that these guidelines reflect the spirit and intent behind  
78 section 95 of the *Wildlife Act* - which was to ensure that WMMPs apply to the larger, most  
79 impactful developments. This first document focuses on the process for determining when  
80 a WMMP is required, and submission, review and approval process.

81  
82 Section 95(1) of the *Wildlife Act* states:

83 *“A developer or other person or body may be required, in accordance*  
84 *with the regulations, to prepare a wildlife management and monitoring*  
85 *plan for approval by the Minister, and to adhere to the approved plan, if*  
86 *the Minister is satisfied that a development, proposed development, or*  
87 *other activity is likely to*

88 *(a) result in a significant disturbance to big game or other prescribed*  
89 *wildlife;*

90 *(b) substantially alter, damage or destroy habitat;*

91 *(c) pose a threat of serious harm to wildlife or habitat; or*

92 *(d) significantly contribute to cumulative impacts on a large number*  
93 *of big game or other prescribed wildlife, or on habitat.”*

94

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<sup>1</sup> Plain language version of the *Wildlife Act* is available at  
[www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/wildlife\\_act\\_plain\\_language\\_document\\_1\\_february\\_2015.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/wildlife_act_plain_language_document_1_february_2015.pdf)

95 Section 95(2) of the *Wildlife Act* outlines the mandatory content for such plans and is  
96 further discussed in the second guidance document in this series: *Wildlife Management and*  
97 *Monitoring Plan Guidelines 2: Content Requirements*.

98

## 99 **1.1 Purpose**

100 WMMPs are an important tool for the protection and conservation of wildlife and wildlife  
101 habitat to ensure sustainable development. WMMPs allow developers to demonstrate how  
102 they will minimize the impacts of their developments to wildlife and wildlife habitat,  
103 remain in compliance with regulatory requirements and address public concern.  
104 Developing a WMMP to outline how impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat will be  
105 minimized is considered a best practice for all development projects in the Northwest  
106 Territories (NWT). If the Minister of ENR determines that a development project is likely to  
107 meet any of the criteria outlined in section 95(1) of the *Wildlife Act* (see [Section 3.0](#)), then a  
108 WMMP is required for the development. This WMMP will have to meet certain content  
109 requirements and be approved by the Minister of ENR.

110

111 The purpose of this first document in this series is to:

- 112 • clarify how the Minister of ENR will decide when a WMMP will be required for a  
113 development or activity;
- 114 • assist developers in undertaking a self-assessment of whether their development is  
115 likely to require a WMMP;
- 116 • explain the process for developing and obtaining approval of a WMMP; and
- 117 • describe best practices related to WMMPs.

118

119 Once this document has been used to understand whether an approved WMMP is likely to  
120 be required, the second document in this series, *Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan*  
121 *Guidelines 2: Content Requirements*, provides guidance to developers on how to prepare an  
122 effective WMMP that meets the requirements of section 95(2) of the *Wildlife Act*. Please  
123 refer to the document *WMMP Acronyms and Definitions* for further information on  
124 terminology used in both of these documents.

125 **2.0 BEST PRACTICES**

126

127 Best practices related to preparation and submission of a WMMP are highlighted in text  
128 boxes throughout this document.

**BEST PRACTICE**

GNWT considers it a best practice for all developers to submit a basic (Tier 1) WMMP with their application for authorizations that outlines how impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat will be mitigated even if the Minister of ENR does not require a WMMP under section 95 of the *Wildlife Act*. To facilitate this, the template for such a plan is provided in Appendix 2 of the *Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan Guidelines 2: Content Requirements*. Having information related to mitigation of impacts to wildlife and habitat contained in a basic plan will assist preliminary screeners in the regulatory process in reviewing development applications and is also an effective way for developers to communicate these aspects of their development to staff that are responsible for implementing them.

129

130 **3.0 DO YOU NEED A WMMP?**

131

132 Section 95(1)(a-d) of the *Wildlife Act* describes factors that will be considered by the  
133 Minister of ENR in determining whether a WMMP will be required for a development. The  
134 exemptions, definitions, criteria and examples provided below are intended to be used as a  
135 guide to help developers and GNWT employees in determining when a WMMP is likely to  
136 be required for a development or activity; however, the Minister has ultimate discretion in  
137 determining if a WMMP is required.

138

139 **3.1 When is a WMMP Required?**

140 The requirement to prepare and adhere to an approved WMMP may apply to a proposed or  
141 existing development, or other activities, if the Minister is satisfied that at least one of the  
142 conditions outlined in section 95(1)(a-d) is likely to apply. In making this determination

143 the Minister will consider all possible phases of a proposed development: construction,  
144 expansion, operation and decommissioning.

145

146 The following four subsections describe types of development that, subject to the Minister's  
147 discretion, will 'always' require a WMMP, will 'likely' require a WMMP, 'might' require a  
148 WMMP, or 'likely do not' require a WMMP. This information is summarized in Table 1. Any  
149 development falling in the first three categories that is referred to environmental  
150 assessment (EA) due in whole or in part to concerns surrounding impacts to wildlife is  
151 likely to trigger section 95(1)(a-d) and therefore will be required to have an approved  
152 WMMP.

153

### 154 **3.1.1 Developments that will 'always' require a WMMP**

155 The following types of development are deemed always likely to satisfy one or more of  
156 section 95(1)(a-d), and will therefore automatically require a WMMP. The tier of WMMP  
157 required (See *Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan Guidelines 2: Content*  
158 *Requirements*) for the project will depend on the types of mitigation proposed and the level  
159 of certainty that they will sufficiently avoid or minimize impacts. The list below is not  
160 intended to be exhaustive:

- 161 • A mine<sup>2</sup>, including associated infrastructure, requiring a Type A water licence.
- 162 • Advanced mineral exploration requiring a Type A water licence, including but not  
163 limited to: bulk sampling; stripping and trenching land; removing shallow  
164 overburden; use of explosives; and drilling.
- 165 • An oil and gas processing facility, storage facility, refinery, well<sup>3</sup>, or pipeline<sup>3</sup>  
166 requiring a Type A water licence.
- 167 • An electrical generating facility, dam, dyke, or water diversion facility requiring a  
168 Type A water licence.

---

<sup>2</sup> As defined in the [Northwest Territories Mining Regulations](#).

<sup>3</sup> As defined in the [Oil and Gas Operations Act](#)

- 169 • Construction and operation<sup>4</sup> of an all-season road, haul road or access road greater  
170 than 50 km in length<sup>5</sup>.
- 171 • An electrical or communication transmission line that requires 75 km or more of  
172 new right of way<sup>4</sup>.
- 173 • Timber harvesting that requires a Forest Management Agreement and/or Timber  
174 Cutting Licence for >5 yr duration with a timber harvest allocation that exceeds  
175 50,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr.
- 176 • Solid waste disposal facility within a municipality requiring a Type A water licence.  
177

### 178 **3.1.2 Developments that will 'likely' require a WMMP**

179 The following types of development are likely to satisfy one or more of section 95(1)(a-d)  
180 and will therefore trigger screening against the criteria in section 95(1) to determine if  
181 WMMP is required. The list below is not intended to be exhaustive. Other types of  
182 developments that are not listed below may, at the Minister's discretion, be assessed on a  
183 case-by-case basis:

- 184 • Construction of a mine<sup>6</sup>, including associated infrastructure, requiring a Type B  
185 water licence.
- 186 • Advanced mineral exploration requiring a Type B water licence, including but not  
187 limited to, bulk sampling; stripping and trenching land; removing shallow  
188 overburden; use of explosives; and drilling.
- 189 • An oil and gas processing facility, storage facility, refinery, well, or pipeline  
190 requiring a Type B water licence.
- 191 • Land-based seismic programs that do not meet the definition of "Low impact  
192 seismic" as described in the [Northern Land Use Guidelines: Northwest Territories  
193 Seismic Operations](#)<sup>7</sup>.

---

<sup>4</sup> While operation and maintenance activities for a public highway are normally exempt from requiring a preliminary screening, and thus not likely to require a WMMP, when associated with a proposal to construct or upgrade a public highway, the operations and maintenance phase may require a WMMP.

<sup>5</sup> Based on *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act – Regulations Designating Physical Activities* available at <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/SOR-2012-147.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 2.

- 194 • Construction and operation<sup>8</sup> of an all-season, haul road or access road 10-50 km in  
195 length.
- 196 • Construction and operation<sup>8</sup> of a seasonal road greater than 50 km in length  
197 including trails, compacted snow roads or winter access roads as defined in the  
198 [Northern Land Use Guidelines – Access: Roads and Trails](#)<sup>9</sup>; or, upgrading of greater  
199 than 10 km of a seasonal road to an all-season road.
- 200 • An electrical generating facility, dam, dyke, or water diversion facility requiring a  
201 Type B water licence.
- 202 • An electrical or communication transmission line that requires 10-75 km of new  
203 right of way.
- 204 • Timber harvesting that requires a Timber Cutting Licence, i.e., a multi-year timber  
205 harvest allocation or a single year allocation that exceeds 5,000 m<sup>3</sup>.<sup>10</sup>
- 206 • Solid waste disposal facility within a municipality requiring a Type B water licence.

207

### 208 **3.1.3 Developments that ‘might’ require a WMMP**

209 Other types of developments, not listed in Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, are deemed less likely to  
210 require a WMMP and so will not automatically be screened against the criteria unless  
211 wildlife related concerns are identified during preliminary screening that cannot be  
212 adequately addressed through conditions included in authorizations issued by the  
213 regulatory authority. See Table 1 for criteria for different development types that would fall  
214 in this category.

215

### 216 **3.1.4 Developments that ‘likely do not’ require a WMMP**

217 Certain types of development, such as those listed below, likely will not require a WMMP.

---

<sup>7</sup> [Northern Land Use Guidelines: Northwest Territories Seismic Operations](#), p.20

<sup>8</sup> While operation and maintenance activities for a public highway are normally exempt from requiring a preliminary screening, and thus not likely to require a WMMP, when associated with a proposal to construct or upgrade a public highway, the operations and maintenance phase may require a WMMP.

<sup>9</sup> [Northern Land Use Guidelines – Access: Roads and Trails](#), p.6.

<sup>10</sup> [Commercial Timber Harvest Planning and Operations Standard Operating Procedures Manual](#)

- 218 • In the Mackenzie Valley, developments that are not required to undergo a screening  
219 as per the [Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act \(MVRMA\) Exemption List](#)  
220 [Regulations](#)<sup>11</sup>
- 221 • In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), activities that are not developments as  
222 that term is defined in the [Inuvialuit Final Agreement](#) (IFA). Also developments that  
223 are that are exempt from the environmental impact screening (EIS) and review  
224 process by virtue of being listed in the Exclusion List found in section 3.2.4 and  
225 Appendix C of the [Environmental Impact Screening Committee](#) (EISC) guidelines.<sup>12</sup>
- 226 • Developments or activities that would only require a Type B or C land use permit <sup>13</sup>  
227 under the [Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations](#) or a Class B permit under the  
228 [Territorial Land Use Regulations](#).
- 229 • Developments within municipal boundaries, excluding solid waste disposal  
230 facilities.
- 231

232 **Table 1.** Summary of high level criteria used to assist in determining if different types of  
233 development ‘always’, ‘likely’, ‘might’ or ‘likely do not’ require a WMMP.

Type of Development	WMMP Required?			
	‘Always’	‘Likely’	‘Might’	‘Likely Not’
<b>Mine</b>	Type A water licence	Type B water licence	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A
<b>Advanced Mineral Exploration</b>	Type A water licence	Type B water licence	No water licence required	N/A
<b>Oil and gas processing facility, storage facility, refinery, well, or pipeline</b>	Type A water licence	Type B water licence	No water licence required	N/A
<b>Land-based seismic programs</b>	N/A	Programs that do not meet the definition of “Low impact seismic”	Programs that do meet the definition of “Low impact seismic”	N/A
<b>Electrical generating facility, dam, dyke, or water diversion facility</b>	Type A water licence	Type B water licence	No water licence required	N/A

<sup>11</sup> [MVRMA Exemption List Regulations](#)

<sup>12</sup> EISC’s EIS Guidelines can be found at: [www.screeningcommittee.ca/pdf/eisc\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.screeningcommittee.ca/pdf/eisc_guidelines.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> MVLWB’s list of activities requiring Type A and Type B permit can be found at: <https://mvlwb.com/sites/default/files/documents/Activities-Requiring-a-Land-Use-Permit.pdf>

234 <sup>1</sup>“N/A” means that this category will never apply to this type/size of development.  
 235 <sup>2</sup> Refer to the [Northwest Territories Water Regulations](#) - Schedule II for definitions of these types of  
 236 undertakings.  
 237

Type of Development	WMMP Required?			
	'Always'	'Likely'	'Might'	'Likely Not'
<b>Construction and operation of an all-season road, haul road or access road</b>	>50 km in length	10-50 km in length	<10 km in length	N/A
<b>Construction and operation of a seasonal road including trails, compacted snow roads or winter access roads; or, upgrading of a seasonal road to an all-season road</b>	N/A	New seasonal road: >50 km in length  Upgrade from a seasonal road to an all-season road: >10 km in length	New seasonal road: <50 km in length  Upgrade from a seasonal road to an all-season road: <10 km in length	N/A
<b>Electrical or communication transmission line</b>	>75 km in length	10-75 km in length	<10 km in length	N/A
<b>Timber harvesting</b>	Forest Management Agreement (>50,000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr and >5 yrs)	Timber Cutting Licence (>5,000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr and > 1 yr)	Timber Cutting Permit (<5,000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr and <1 yr)	Free Timber Cutting Permit (<60 m <sup>3</sup> or ≤20 trees)
<b>Solid waste disposal facility within municipal boundaries</b>	Type A water licence	Type B water licence	No water licence required	N/A
<b>Other types of Industrial, Agricultural, Conservation, Recreational or Miscellaneous undertakings<sup>2</sup> for which a water licence is required</b>	N/A	N/A	Type A or B water licence	N/A
<b>Developments listed in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) Exemption List Regulations</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
<b>Activities that are not developments as that term is defined in the IFA and developments or activities that are listed in the Exclusion List found in section 3.2.4 and Appendix C of the EISC guidelines</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
<b>Developments or activities that would only require a Type B land use permit under the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations or a Class B permit under the Territorial Land Use Regulations</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
<b>Developments within municipal boundaries (excluding landfills)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓

238 **3.2 Basic Principles for Assessment of Impacts to Wildlife and Habitat**

239 Section 95(1) uses the qualifiers “significant(ly)”, “substantial” and “serious” to determine  
240 whether impacts of a development on wildlife or habitat would trigger the requirement for  
241 a WMMP.

242 GNWT will use both scientific and traditional knowledge (TK), where available, to apply the  
243 following biological principles in assessing whether impacts of a development would meet  
244 these tests:

- 245 • Risk is proportional to the population size of a potentially affected species. Smaller  
246 populations are already at greater risk of extirpation or extinction.  
247
- 248 • Risk depends on the resilience of the species or habitat to change. For example, species  
249 that have low reproductive output or delayed sexual maturity may be slower to recover  
250 from impacts that would reduce their abundance.  
251
- 252 • At the Minister’s discretion, assessments will be made at a species, subspecies, distinct  
253 population<sup>14</sup>, herd, or local population level, whichever is most appropriate. For  
254 example, assessment of impacts of a development on barren-ground caribou will be  
255 made for each affected herd.  
256
- 257 • A development that affects, or is likely to affect, a small number of individuals would  
258 usually not be likely to have an impact on the population as a whole. A development  
259 that impacts only a small proportion of individuals within a population is unlikely to  
260 influence the trend (i.e., increasing, stable, or decreasing) or health of the entire  
261 population.

262

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<sup>14</sup> A "distinct population" means a geographically or biologically distinct population of a species, or a distinct population identified by the Conference of Management Authorities under section 26(2) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Further information on the criteria for defining a distinct population can be found at [www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca/LegislationPrograms](http://www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca/LegislationPrograms).

- 263 • However, when a population is small in numbers nationally or territorially, or its  
264 distribution or habitat is restricted or fragmented within the NWT, or if the habitat has  
265 particular importance for the population, the development is more likely to cause a  
266 negative impact that could be significant, substantial or serious.
- 267
- 268 • A development is more likely to have a significant, substantial or serious impact on a  
269 species that is considered to be at risk nationally or territorially. An impact is more  
270 likely to be significant, substantial or serious when it is irreversible or long-term, occurs  
271 at a time or location where wildlife congregate in large numbers, affects a rare or  
272 limiting habitat feature or resource used by the species, or affects a species which is  
273 already subject to harvest restrictions due to conservation concerns.
- 274
- 275 • An impact is more likely to be significant, substantial or serious if it is important enough  
276 with respect to its context or intensity to have a negative effect on the survival or  
277 reproduction of the appropriate population unit of the wildlife species of concern.

278

### 279 **3.2.1 Criteria Considered by the Minister to Determine When a WMMP is Required**

280 A WMMP may be required if the Minister is satisfied that a development or proposed  
281 development is **likely to** meet any of the criteria outlined in section 95(1)(a-d) of the  
282 *Wildlife Act*. When evaluating these criteria the Minister will take into consideration  
283 aspects of the development, such as the chosen location, design, methodology or timing to  
284 **avoid or prevent** impacts to wildlife and habitat from occurring. If the development  
285 entails unavoidable impacts to wildlife and habitat, the Minister will evaluate whether the  
286 impacts would meet the tests under section 95(1)(a-d) prior to application of mitigation. If  
287 a developer has proposed mitigation measures that would minimize the unavoidable  
288 impacts to the point where the tests under section 95(1)(a-d) would no longer be met, the  
289 Minister will require a WMMP that includes those mitigation measures to make them  
290 mandatory and enforceable under the *Wildlife Act*. It is therefore important to note that  
291 when the Minister of ENR is of the opinion that a development is likely to result in  
292 'significant disturbance' or 'significantly contribute to cumulative impacts' *for the purpose*  
293 *of requiring a WMMP under Section 95 of the Wildlife Act*, this decision is distinct from any

294 determination the Minister, the GNWT or the MVRB may make on the significance of  
295 adverse environmental impacts under either the MVRMA or the CEAA.

296

297 **A) Section 95(1)(a): “Result in a significant disturbance to big game or other**  
298 **prescribed wildlife”**

299 *Definition/Interpretation*

- 300 • “Disturbance” is defined as any sensory stimulus resulting from a development such  
301 as noise, light, vibrations, or human presence that would elicit a response in big  
302 game or other prescribed wildlife that is likely to result in physiological stress,  
303 avoidance of key habitat, or loss of reproductive fitness (e.g. nest or den  
304 abandonment, miscarriage).

305

306 *Application*

- 307 • Applies to big game species or other prescribed wildlife (see *WMMP Acronyms and*  
308 *Definitions*).

309

310 *In deciding whether a disturbance is significant, the Minister of ENR will consider the*  
311 *following types of questions:*

- 312 • Will the development occur during a seasonally critical life stage (e.g. breeding, rearing,  
313 migration, etc.), and in an area where that critical life stage occurs (such as calving or  
314 post-calving grounds, an active den, nest or hibernaculum etc.)?

315

- 316 • Does the development occur near a key habitat site during a time at which large  
317 numbers of individuals congregate?

318

- 319 • Could the disturbance from the development alter the behaviour or movements of a  
320 large number of individuals over a broad area or long period of time?

321

- 322 • Could the disturbance from the development cause avoidance of a large area of  
323 otherwise suitable habitat? If so, does the amount of effective habitat loss exceed a  
324 threshold or compromise meeting goals or targets identified in a management plan or  
325 recovery strategy for the species (e.g. national recovery strategy and range plans for  
326 boreal caribou)?
- 327 • Could the disturbance from the development compromise the ability of a large number  
328 of individuals of an applicable species to carry out all or part of their normal life  
329 processes for one season or year, whichever is less? Life processes include feeding or  
330 foraging, breeding, rutting/mating, denning, overwintering, rearing young, dispersal or  
331 migration, or avoidance of predators.
- 332
- 333 • Does the disturbance occur within the range of an applicable species that has a  
334 restricted or fragmented distribution within the NWT, and at a location that is known to  
335 be occupied by the species or is within habitat known to be suitable for the species?
- 336
- 337
- 338 • Does the development have the potential to cause a disturbance that would displace  
339 applicable wildlife species from an area that is relied upon for the harvest of the  
340 species?

341

342 **B) Section 95(1)(b): “Substantially alter, damage or destroy habitat”**

343

344 *Definitions / Interpretation*

- 345 • “Habitat” means the area or type of site where a species or an individual of a species  
346 of wildlife naturally occurs or on which it depends, directly or indirectly, to carry  
347 out its life processes.
- 348
- 349 • “Substantially alter” means to cause a change to the structure, composition and/or  
350 function of wildlife habitat that is large enough that it would no longer support a  
351 similar community of wildlife species.

352

353 • “Damage” means to degrade the quality of the habitat to a point where it no longer  
354 supports one or more life processes for wildlife previously supported in that  
355 habitat. Life processes include feeding or foraging, breeding, rutting/mating,  
356 denning, overwintering, rearing young, dispersal or migration or avoidance of  
357 predators.

358  
359 • “Destroy” means to cause a change to wildlife habitat which permanently and  
360 completely eliminates wildlife’s ability to use area for one or more of its life  
361 processes. For the purpose of these guidelines permanent means the change to  
362 wildlife habitat cannot be reversed and restoration is unlikely.

363  
364 *Application*  
365 • Applies to all wildlife and habitat as those terms are defined in Part 1 of the *Wildlife*  
366 *Act* (see *WMMP Acronyms and Definitions*).

367  
368 *In deciding whether substantial alteration, damage or destruction of habitat is sufficient to*  
369 *require a WMMP, the Minister of ENR will consider the following types of questions:*

- 370 • What is the extent of habitat that is being affected relative to the availability of suitable  
371 habitat for a species within its NWT range?
- 372
- 373 • Is the affected habitat within the range of a species that has a limited or fragmented  
374 distribution in the NWT?
- 375
- 376 • Is the affected habitat rare or does the availability of that habitat type limit the growth  
377 of the population? Habitat that could meet this criteria include calving grounds, lambing  
378 areas, mineral licks, rutting areas, water crossings, breeding colonies, hibernacula,  
379 staging areas, rare denning/nesting habitat.

380

- 381 • Is the affected habitat “critical habitat” or “designated habitat” as defined in the federal  
382 and NWT species at risk legislation for a federally or territorially assessed (pre-listed)  
383 or listed species at risk that is under the management authority of the GNWT?  
384
- 385 • Would the development alter, damage or destroy an area of habitat that is large enough  
386 to exceed a threshold or compromise meeting goals or targets identified in a  
387 management plan or recovery strategy (e.g. national recovery strategy and range plans  
388 for boreal caribou or barren-ground caribou herds)?
- 389 • Would the development alter habitat in such a way as to create physical barriers to  
390 wildlife movement along frequently used travel or migration corridors used by a large  
391 number of wildlife?  
392
- 393 • Would the extent of habitat alteration, damage or destruction be sufficient to adversely  
394 affect the productivity of an area that is relied upon by a harvested species?

395

396 *Examples of types of activities and infrastructure that may substantially alter, damage or*  
397 *destroy habitat:*

- 398 • Clearing of vegetation or stripping of soils  
399 • Removing overburden, trenching or excavation  
400 • Blasting  
401 • Drainage of areas of lakes, ponds or wetlands  
402 • Flooding areas of terrestrial habitat  
403 • Roads, above-ground pipelines and other linear developments (e.g. seismic  
404 exploration) that could create barriers to animal movement  
405 • Dust or other particulate emissions leading to reduction in habitat quality or  
406 contamination of forage for wildlife

407

408 **C) Section 95(1)(c): “Pose a threat of serious harm to wildlife or habitat”**

409

410 *Definition / Interpretation*

- 411 • A “threat of serious harm” is interpreted to mean any action or activity resulting in a  
412 risk of incidental injury or mortality of wildlife, or of incidental alteration, damage or  
413 destruction of habitat where the consequences would be significant were such an event  
414 to occur one or more times.

415

416 *Application*

- 417 • Applies to all wildlife and habitat as those terms are defined in Part 1 of the *Wildlife*  
418 *Act* (see *WMMP Acronyms and Definitions*).

419

420 *In deciding whether a development or activity is likely to pose a threat of serious harm to*  
421 *wildlife or habitat, the Minister of ENR will consider the following types of questions:*

- 422 • Does the development pose a risk of collision mortality to a large number of wildlife  
423 due to vehicular traffic?

424

- 425 • Will the development increase the risk of mortality or injury of wildlife due to improved  
426 access for harvesters?

427

- 428 • Does the development involve the construction of physical features or structures that  
429 might cause entrapment, entanglement, electrocution or collisions with wildlife leading  
430 to injury or death (e.g. fences, open pits, netting, tailings ponds, tall structures and  
431 overhead wires)?

432

- 433 • Will the development or activity attract wildlife to the area, or cause changes to habitat  
434 that attract wildlife, in turn leading to a higher likelihood for defence of life and  
435 property kills or injury/mortality of wildlife?

436

- 437 • Is there potential for the release or spills of contaminants or toxic substances that  
438 would damage or destroy habitat or pose a risk of injury or mortality to wildlife (e.g.  
439 ruptured pipeline, breach of tailings pond, well blow-out)?

440

441 • Is there the potential for the development or activity to trigger a natural disturbance  
442 such as a fire or landslide that could damage or destroy habitat or pose a risk of injury  
443 or mortality to wildlife?

444  
445 • Is there potential for the development to facilitate the introduction or spread of  
446 invasive species or the expansion of species that may be an ecological or disease risk for  
447 NWT wildlife?

448  
449 **NOTE:** In the case that criterion (c) is the only one triggered in determining whether a  
450 WMMP is required, alternate plans (e.g. spill contingency plans, emergency response plans,  
451 waste management plans, etc.) may be accepted as per *Wildlife Act* section 95(3) provided  
452 they explicitly address how wildlife and habitat will be addressed should an event occur  
453 that poses a serious threat of harm to wildlife or habitat.

454  
455 **D) Section 95(1)(d): “Significantly contribute to cumulative impacts on a large  
456 number of big game or other prescribed wildlife, or on habitat”**

457 *Definitions*

458 • “Cumulative impacts” are defined as changes to a large number of big game or other  
459 prescribed wildlife, or habitat, caused by multiple interactions among human  
460 activities and natural processes that accumulate across space and time<sup>15</sup>. For the  
461 purpose of these guidelines, only negative cumulative impacts are considered.

462  
463 • “Contribute” is defined as an increase in the level of a negative impact over and  
464 above existing impacts from other past, present or future human actions and natural  
465 stressors.

466  
467 *Application*

468 • Applies to big game species or other prescribed wildlife (see *WMMP Acronyms and  
469 Definitions*).

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<sup>15</sup> Adapted from [CCME](#) definition of cumulative effects.

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- The test is not whether cumulative impacts are significant but whether a development’s contribution to cumulative impacts is significant.
- Where wildlife species have transboundary annual ranges, the Minister will also consider past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects within those portions of ranges that occur in other jurisdictions.

*In deciding whether a development’s contribution to cumulative impacts is likely to be significant, the Minister will consider any or all of the following questions:*

- Does the development, in combination with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable developments or processes:
  - a) Contribute to negative population-level impacts on an applicable wildlife species, particularly if that species is already subject to harvest restrictions and/or is already experiencing population declines that are of conservation concern?
  - b) Increase the direct footprint of habitat disturbance from development or the zone of influence around human made features, particularly within the range of a wildlife species for which habitat loss is considered to be a factor in its population decline within the NWT?
  - c) Increase the length or density of linear features (e.g. seismic lines) to a point that approaches an identified threshold or limit?
  - d) Increase volumes of vehicular traffic on existing roads, or creating new roads, leading to a potential increase in levels of mortality from vehicle collisions to a point where they would be of conservation concern?

- 499 e) Create or improve access into formerly roadless or inaccessible areas leading to  
500 potential increase in predation, wildlife harvesting, recreational land use, or  
501 further development activity?  
502  
503 f) Cause a population or habitat disturbance threshold identified in a management  
504 plan to be exceeded, or, risk compromising the ability to reach a target specified  
505 in such a plan?  
506

### 507 **3.3 Renewals and Amendments of Licences and Permits**

508 When renewal of permits and licences for developments come up and developers are  
509 seeking amendments to their permits or licences, the development may be screened  
510 against the criteria for requiring a WMMP in section 95(1) if it is a type of development that  
511 is 'always' or 'likely' to require a WMMP as per [Section 3.1](#) of these guidelines. This would  
512 also apply to permits and licences that are subject to screening requirement exemptions  
513 under section 157(1) of the [Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act \(MVRMA\)](#), that  
514 come up for renewal or amendment. The Minister will use comments made by reviewing  
515 parties regarding impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat in determining whether a WMMP  
516 is required. Parties will be notified that their comments will be considered in making this  
517 determination in the notification letter provided by the applicable land and water board.

518 If the Minister determines that a WMMP is required and the developer already has a plan  
519 or plans that together may satisfy the content requirement in section 95(2), the Minister  
520 may accept those other plans as per section 95(3) of the *Wildlife Act* which states:

521 *"If a developer or other person or body that is required to prepare a wildlife*  
522 *management and monitoring plan has, for a body under other legislation,*  
523 *prepared a plan that deals to the Minister's satisfaction with part or all of the*  
524 *matters referred to in subsection (2), the Minister may accept that plan, or part*  
525 *of it, in place of part or all of the requirements under subsection (2)."*

526

527 If it is determined that a WMMP is required and if there is no existing plan that satisfies the  
528 content requirements of section 95(2) or the Minister is not satisfied that the existing plans  
529 meet the requirements, the developer will be notified of the steps required to develop a  
530 plan that is in conformity with the Act and guidelines.

**BEST PRACTICE**

Notwithstanding section 95(3) of the *Wildlife Act*, GNWT recommends that developers consolidate all mitigation and monitoring measures relevant to wildlife and wildlife habitat into a stand-alone WMMP. This will facilitate communication of these aspects of a development to project staff, regulators, and other relevant parties and improve compliance.

531

532

533 **4.0 WHAT TYPE OF WMMP IS NEEDED?**

534

535 The content and complexity of WMMPs are intended to be scaled to the size and type of  
536 development. GNWT has identified three tiers of WMMPs that would require progressively  
537 more detail. These tiers are described in the second document in this series: *Wildlife*  
538 *Management and Monitoring Plan Guidelines 2: Content Requirements*.

539

540 **5.0 PROCESS FOR SUBMISSION, REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF A WMMP**

541 **5.1 General Process**

542 If the Minister of ENR determines that a WMMP is required for a development, the WMMP  
543 will have to meet certain content requirements and be approved by the Minister. The  
544 requirement for a WMMP and its approval by the Minister of ENR is legislatively  
545 independent of the established regulatory processes outlined in the MVRMA and the IFA;  
546 however, those processes provide a convenient and relevant framework to fulfill some of  
547 the procedural aspects of preparing a WMMP. During the regulatory process and EA,  
548 developers are required to assess the potential impacts of their development on wildlife

549 and wildlife habitat and to identify mitigation measures to avoid or minimize these  
550 potential impacts.

551 In most cases, the Minister of ENR will use the project description submitted during the  
552 application, preliminary screening and/or EA process to make a determination of whether  
553 a WMMP is required. Following conclusion of the preliminary screening or EA process, if  
554 the Minister has determined that a WMMP is required, ENR will carry out its own process  
555 for the review and approval of the WMMP. This will include soliciting review of the draft  
556 WMMP by the appropriate affected and interested parties.

557 To improve the efficiency of this process, and to have it run concurrently with a  
558 preliminary screening process or EA process, developers should engage with GNWT prior  
559 to submission of an application for authorizations to determine if a WMMP will likely be  
560 required, and if so, should submit a basic (Tier 1) WMMP with their applications so that it  
561 can be reviewed during the preliminary screening or EA process. Because this provides  
562 other parties with an opportunity to review the WMMP as part of these processes, this will  
563 result in a shorter timeline for approval of the WMMP following conclusion of these  
564 processes.

#### **BEST PRACTICE**

While the WMMP will usually be approved by the Minister of ENR after issuance of authorizations for a development, developers are encouraged to provide a basic (Tier 1) WMMP in the early stages of the regulatory process, unless their development is exempt from the requirement as per [Section 3.1.4](#) of this document. A WMMP submitted with an application for an authorization will assist preliminary screeners in determining the potential significance of residual impacts after mitigation has been applied and provide reviewers, regulators or affected parties an opportunity to comment on the content of the plan. Submission of a WMMP with an application for an authorization may also help to avoid a development being referred to EA or environmental impact review (EIR) if it demonstrates that potential impacts have been identified and will be adequately mitigated and monitored.

565

566

567 Here is an overview of the main steps involved in the preparation, submission, review and  
568 approval of a WMMP. The details and timing of these steps may vary depending on whether  
569 a development is going through a preliminary screening or an EA and where in the NWT  
570 the development is located. The process and timelines may also be modified in the case of  
571 inter-jurisdictional reviews or trans-boundary projects requiring coordination of several  
572 governments or regulatory agencies, or where potential issues of infringement of  
573 Aboriginal or treaty rights arise. In such cases, ENR will notify all parties involved of any  
574 changes to the process or timelines.

#### **BEST PRACTICES**

- Developers should conduct early engagement with potentially affected communities and Indigenous governments and organizations to identify potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat. Developers are encouraged to follow [MVLWB Engagement Guidelines for Applicants and Holders of Water Licences and Land Use Permits](#) in the Mackenzie Valley or Section 4.2 of the [EIS Guidelines](#) in the ISR when planning engagement for their project.
- Developers are encouraged to conduct early engagement with ENR to determine if a WMMP might be required for the project ([wmmp@gov.nt.ca](mailto:wmmp@gov.nt.ca)).
- Developers are encouraged to fill out a WMMP screening questionnaire ([Appendix 1](#)) to assist in evaluating if a WMMP will likely be required.
- If early engagement suggests that a WMMP will likely be required for the project, developers should submit a basic (Tier 1) WMMP with their application for authorizations for the project so that it can be reviewed during the preliminary screening.
- Developers should plan the timing of their applications to allow enough time for a 30 calendar day review of their WMMP following the screening or permitting process, to ensure that they do not run the risk of operating without an approved WMMP in place if one is required.

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576

## **5.2 In the Mackenzie Valley**

### **5.2.1 Preliminary Screening Conducted by Land and Water Boards:**

- Usually, the Minister will determine if a WMMP is required during a preliminary screening.
- The Minister will use comments made by interested and affected parties regarding impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat made during the preliminary screening in

584 determining whether a WMMP is required. Parties will be notified that their comments  
585 will be considered in making this determination in the notification provided by the  
586 applicable land and water board.

587

588 • If a WMMP was provided during the preliminary screening, ENR will consider  
589 comments made by other parties in determining the changes to the WMMP that will be  
590 required before it can be approved.

591

592

593 • If no WMMP was provided during the preliminary screening, and the Minister  
594 determines that one is required, the developer will submit a draft WMMP to ENR  
595 following conclusion of the preliminary screening. However, if the development is  
596 referred to EA, the draft WMMP should be submitted with the Developer's Assessment  
597 Report (DAR) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

598

599 • ENR will conduct an initial completeness check when a WMMP has been submitted to  
600 ENR for approval. Once the WMMP is deemed complete, a 30 calendar day public  
601 comment period on the draft WMMP will be conducted by ENR. This will include a letter  
602 notifying the Land and Water Board and parties on the preliminary screening  
603 distribution list to request their review of the draft WMMP.

604

605 • Based on ENR's review, and the comments received from other parties, ENR will notify  
606 the developer of required revisions to the WMMP before its approval.

607

608 • The preliminary screening process, and public review of the WMMP if required, is also  
609 an opportunity for parties to raise any potential concerns about infringement of  
610 Aboriginal or treaty rights related to mitigation and monitoring measures proposed in  
611 the WMMP, or the Minister's decision of whether or not to require a WMMP.

612

613 • Developer will respond to comments on the WMMP from parties and ENR, update the  
614 WMMP accordingly, and provide a final draft WMMP to ENR for approval.

615

- 616 • Upon receipt of the final draft WMMP, the Minister of ENR will evaluate whether the  
617 required revisions have been made and will provide a written notice of approval,  
618 conditional approval or rejection of the WMMP within 30 calendar days. Upon approval,  
619 the final draft WMMP becomes the final WMMP. The decision notice will be publicly  
620 posted. Timelines in the event of conditional approval will depend on the nature of the  
621 conditions and discussion with the developer.

622

623

### 624 **5.2.2 Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Reviews:**

- 625 • Where ENR determined that a WMMP was required during the preliminary screening  
626 for the development and none was provided, ENR will recommend to the Mackenzie  
627 Valley Review Board (MVRB) that the terms of reference (TOR) for the project require  
628 submission of a draft WMMP with the DAR or EIS.

629

- 630 • ENR's approval of the WMMP will take place following the conclusion of the  
631 EA/environmental impact review (EIR).

632

- 633 • Following the EA/EIR, the developer should submit a revised draft WMMP to ENR that  
634 will address the measures, recommendations and commitments related to wildlife and  
635 habitat identified during the EA.

636

- 637 • ENR may then conduct a 30 calendar day public comment period on the revised draft  
638 WMMP, and issue any further requirements for revisions. This will include a letter  
639 notifying MVRB, relevant parties that were involved in the EA/EIR, and other  
640 potentially affected Indigenous governments and organizations, to request their review  
641 of the draft WMMP.

642

- 643 • The EA/EIR process, and post-EA/EIR public review of the WMMP, is also an  
644 opportunity for parties to raise any potential concerns about infringement of Aboriginal  
645 or treaty rights related to mitigation and monitoring measures proposed in the WMMP.

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- Developer will respond to comments on the WMMP from parties and ENR, update the WMMP accordingly, and provide a final draft WMMP to ENR for approval.
- Upon receipt of the final draft WMMP, ENR will provide a written notice of approval, conditional approval or rejection of the WMMP within 30 calendar days. Upon approval, the final draft WMMP becomes the final WMMP. The decision notice will be publicly posted. Timelines in the event of conditional approval will depend on the nature of the conditions and discussion with the developer.

#### **BEST PRACTICES**

- Developers that have submitted a draft WMMP with their authorization application for a development that is later referred to EA should be prepared to provide an updated WMMP at some point during the EA process. In the Mackenzie Valley, an updated WMMP would ideally be provided following the technical sessions, prior to parties' preparation of technical reports. In the ISR, an updated WMMP would ideally be submitted after the technical review period and prior to the public hearing. The updated WMMP should include new commitments, additional mitigation or greater detail on effects monitoring programs beyond the initial proposal that the developer has brought forth in the EA to assist reviewers in assessing the significance of the impact of their development.

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659

### **5.3. In the ISR**

661 The EIS and review process in the ISR is established by the IFA and consists of the EISC and  
662 the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) that are responsible for EIS and EIR  
663 respectively.

664

#### **5.3.1 Environmental Screenings conducted by the EISC**

- The Minister of ENR will use the developer's project description, information requests, information request responses, and written submissions made by parties to the proceedings regarding impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat in determining whether a

669 WMMP is required. Parties will be notified that their comments will be considered in  
670 making this determination in the Notice of Proceeding letter provided by the EISC.

671

672 • If a WMMP was provided during the environmental screening, ENR will use information  
673 requests, information request responses, and written submissions made by parties to  
674 the proceedings in determining the changes to the WMMP that will be required before it  
675 can be approved.

676

677 • If no WMMP was provided during the environmental screening, and the Minister  
678 determines that one is required, the developer should submit a draft WMMP to ENR  
679 following conclusion of the environmental screening. However, if the development is  
680 referred to EIR, the draft WMMP, or a revised draft WMMP, should be submitted with  
681 the environmental impact statement.

682

683 • After an initial completeness check by ENR, a 30 calendar day public comment period  
684 on the draft WMMP will be conducted. This will include a letter notifying the EISC,  
685 parties to the proceedings to request their review of the draft WMMP.

686

687 • Based on ENR's review, and the comments received from other parties, ENR will notify  
688 the developer of required revisions to the WMMP.

689

690 • The environmental screening process, and public review of the WMMP if required, is  
691 also an opportunity for parties to raise any potential concerns about infringement of  
692 Aboriginal or treaty rights related to mitigation and monitoring measures proposed in  
693 the WMMP, or the Minister's decision of whether or not to require a WMMP.

694

695 • Developer will respond to comments on the WMMP from parties and ENR, update the  
696 WMMP accordingly, and provide a final draft WMMP to ENR for approval.

697

698 • Upon receipt of the final draft WMMP, ENR will provide a written notice of approval,  
699 conditional approval or rejection of the WMMP within 30 calendar days. Upon approval,

700 the final draft WMMP becomes the final WMMP. The decision notice will be publicly  
701 posted. Timelines in the event of conditional approval will depend on the nature of the  
702 conditions and discussion with the developer.

703

### 704 **5.3.2 Reviews conducted by the Environmental Impact Review Board**

705 • If no draft WMMP was provided with the project description during screening, ENR will  
706 recommend to the EIRB that the TOR for the EIR require submission of a draft WMMP  
707 with the EIS.

708

709 • ENR will consider comments made on the draft WMMP by other parties as part of the  
710 technical review process, information requests and public hearings.

711

712 • ENR's approval of the WMMP will take place following the conclusion of the EIR.

713

714 • Following the EIR, the developer will submit a revised draft WMMP to ENR that will  
715 address the measures, recommendations and commitments related to wildlife and  
716 habitat identified during the EIR.

717

718 • ENR may then conduct a 30 calendar day public comment period on the revised draft  
719 WMMP, and issue further requirements for revisions. This will include a letter notifying  
720 EIRB, parties that were involved in the EIR to request their review of the draft WMMP

721

722 • The EIR process, and post-EIR public review of the WMMP, is also an opportunity for  
723 parties to raise any potential concerns about infringement of Aboriginal or treaty rights  
724 related to mitigation and monitoring measures proposed in the WMMP.

725

726 • Developer will respond to comments on the WMMP from parties and ENR, update the  
727 WMMP accordingly, and provide a final draft WMMP to ENR for approval.

728

- 729 • Upon receipt of the final draft WMMP, ENR will provide a written notice of approval,  
730 conditional approval or rejection of the WMMP within 30 calendar days. Upon approval,  
731 the final draft WMMP becomes the final WMMP. The decision notice will be publicly  
732 posted. Timelines in the event of conditional approval will depend on the nature of the  
733 conditions and discussion with the developer.

734

#### 735 **5.4 ENR registry for WMMPs**

- 736 • ENR is creating a public registry for permits issued by the department

737

- 738 • This registry will serve as a repository for draft and final WMMPs, as well as all  
739 correspondence and submissions on WMMPs made outside of the PS and EA processes.

740

- 741 • This registry should be ready in three years.

742

- 743 • Until that registry is completed, WMMPs will be posted on the applicable land and  
744 water board public registry. If the WMMP is for a project that went to EA or EIR, the  
745 final approved WMMP will also be posted to the MVRB registry.

746

#### 747 **5.5 Review and Updates of the WMMP by Developer and ENR**

- 748 • If a land use permit or water licence is provided that is longer than five years, the  
749 developer should review and update their WMMP every five years and re-submit it to  
750 ENR for approval.

751

- 752 • If a land use permit or water licence is for a five year period (+2 year possible  
753 extension), the developer should review and update their WMMP and resubmit it to  
754 ENR for approval if there is a request for a renewal, or if a new LUP/WL is required due  
755 to a change in project scope.

756

## 757 **APPENDIX 1: WMMP Screening Questionnaire**

### 758 **Purpose**

759 This screening questionnaire is intended to provide GNWT with basic information about  
760 the location, timing, scale and nature of a development in order to assess whether any one  
761 of section 95(1)(a-d) of the *Wildlife Act* would apply and a WMMP required for the project.

762 This questionnaire should be filled out if the developer has determined that the  
763 development is not exempt from the requirement for a WMMP ([Section 3.1.4 of the WMMP](#)  
764 [Process Guidelines](#)).

765

766 **Developer information:** Indicate the full name, address, telephone number and facsimile  
767 number of the person or registered company.

768

769 **Location:** provide coordinates for the specific project location, and/or coordinates for the  
770 four corners of a box that encompasses all components of the project, and/or geospatial  
771 files (GIS data) for the project (e.g. shapefiles). Developers are requested to provide GIS  
772 data for all involving:

- 773 • Mineral exploration
- 774 • Oil and gas exploration and development
- 775 • Pipelines and gathering systems
- 776 • Mining and milling developments
- 777 • New access for both all-season and winter roads
- 778 • Upgrading of seasonal roads to all-season roads
- 779 • Timber harvesting
- 780 • Power generation and transmission

781

782 **Start Date:**

783 **End Date:**

784

785 **Period of operations within a given year (check all that apply):**  Spring (March-May)

786  Summer (June –Aug)       Fall (Sep-Nov)       Winter (Dec-Feb)       Year Round

787

788 If a project is seasonal, provide the specific dates within each season where activities will  
789 take place.

790 The following information sources can be used to help answer the questions in the next

791 sections of this questionnaire:

792 • NWT Species and Habitat Viewer (under construction)

793 • NWT Species at Risk website and booklet

794 ([www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca/content/documents](http://www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca/content/documents))

795 • Recovery strategies, management plans, status reports, manuscript reports, file  
796 reports (<http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/resources>)

797 • Important Wildlife Areas in the NWT (Wilson & Haas 2012)

798 ([http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/221\\_public\\_no\\_appendix\\_c.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/221_public_no_appendix_c.pdf))

799 • Data requests to ENR's Wildlife Management Information System

800 ([http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/research-and-data/wildlife-management-](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/research-and-data/wildlife-management-information-system)  
801 [information-system](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/research-and-data/wildlife-management-information-system))

802 • NWT Discovery Portal

803 (<http://nwt-discoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca:8080/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page>)

804 • Critical Breeding Periods for Raptor Species of the Northwest Territories

805 ([http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/raptor\\_species\\_breeding\\_periods.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf))

806 • Land use plans and supporting documentation

807 • Ecological assessments for existing or proposed protected areas

808 • Engagement with communities, renewable resources boards, renewable resource  
809 councils and hunter and trapper committees, and Indigenous governments

810 **Which ranges of Big Game species does the project location overlap with?**

Species	Please "X" all that apply.  <i>For Bison and Caribou please indicate which sub-species, ecotypes, and populations/herds apply (e.g. barren-ground caribou – Bathurst herd or Wood Bison – Mackenzie Population)</i>
Bison	
Coyote	
Wolf	
Cougars	
Wolverine	
Mountain goat	
Dall's sheep	
Bear	
Moose	
Caribou	
Muskox	
Deer	

811

812 **Which ranges of species at risk does your project overlap with?**

813

814 **Does your project overlap with, or is it in proximity (<2 km) to:**

- 815 a) An important wildlife area (as identified in Wilson and Haas 2012)?
- 816 b) An area identified as critical habitat for a federally-listed species at risk?
- 817 c) An area identified as designated habitat for a territorially-listed species at risk?
- 818 d) A mineral lick?
- 819 e) A known or suspected winter or maternal den site for big game or prescribed wildlife?
- 820
- 821 f) A calving or lambing area for big game?
- 822 g) A known or suspected bird nesting site (only applies to territorially managed birds that meet the definition of prescribed wildlife as outlined in the WMMP guidelines)?
- 823
- 824 h) A known or suspected hibernaculum or overwintering site for a prescribed species (e.g. bat hibernaculum, amphibian/reptile hibernaculum or overwintering site)?
- 825
- 826 i) A known water crossing for barren-ground caribou?
- 827 j) A known key harvesting area for local communities?

828

829

830 A) Activities that may result in significant disturbance to big game or other prescribed  
 831 species

Disturbance type	Frequency of disturbance events	Duration of each disturbance event	Total duration over which disturbance events will occur	Timing	Extent of area within which disturbance events will occur
<i>Use the following categories to describe each of the applicable activities for the project</i>	Continuous	<1 min	<1 day	Spring	<1 ha
	>1/hour	>1 min	1 day – 1 week	Summer	1–10 ha
	>1/day	>10 min	1 week – 1 month	Fall	10–25 ha
	>1/week	>1 hour	1-3 months	Winter	25-50 ha
	>1/month	>6 hours	3-6 months	Year-round	50-100 ha
	>1/year	>12 hours	6-12 months		100-500 ha
		Continuous	>12 months		500-1,000 ha
<b>Vegetation clearing using machinery</b>					
<b>Excavation</b>					
<b>Blasting</b>					
<b>Crushing</b>					
<b>Drilling</b>					
<b>Seismic testing</b>					
<b>Operation of heavy vehicles or machines (≥ 5 tonnes)</b>					
<b>Vehicle traffic on roads</b>					
<b>Low-level aircraft flights (&lt;1,000 Ft altitude)</b>					
<b>Other - Please specify (add new rows as necessary)</b>					

832

833

834 **B) Activities that may substantially alter, damage or destroy habitat**

Disturbance type	Linear Features		Total Area affected (m <sup>2</sup> ) (for linear features use average width X total length)
	Average width (m)	Total Length (m)	
Vegetation clearing (including timber harvesting)			
Stripping of soils or removal of overburden			
Excavation (including mining and quarrying)			
Terrestrial Seismic Exploration			
Access roads, trails, cleared right of ways			
Drainage of water bodies or wetlands			
Flooding of terrestrial habitat			
Trenching			
Above ground structures (pipelines, utility lines, fences, buildings)			
Combined total footprint for all activities undertaken			

835

836 **C) Activities that may pose a threat of serious harm to wildlife or habitat**

Activity type	Examples	Description (provide a description according to the examples provided below)
Vehicle Traffic	Number and type of vehicles used, daily traffic levels	
Structures or physical habitat alteration that might cause entrapment, entanglement, electrocution or collisions with wildlife	E.g. fences, open pits, open trenches, netting, tailings ponds, tall structures and overhead wires	
On-site storage of wildlife attractants (e.g. food, food wastes, chemicals, petroleum products)	List the types of wildlife attractants to be stored onsite	
Potential for release of contaminants or accidental spills of toxic substances	E.g. fuel/chemical transportation and storage, tailings ponds, particulate emissions from dust, emissions from incineration or flaring, risk of spills or well blow-out	
Trigger a natural disturbance event such as fire, lands slide, avalanche, altered hydrology, thin ice or open water in winter	What activities might incur a risk of triggering one of the listed disturbance events?	

Activity type	Examples	Description <i>(provide a description according to the examples provided below)</i>
<b>Risk of accidental damage or destruction of a nest, den, beaver dam or lodge, muskrat push-up or hibernaculum</b>	E.g. vegetation clearing during summer, ice road construction during winter, operating machinery or blasting, flooding/draining habitat	
<b>Creation of new access into roadless area</b>	Creation of new trails, access roads, or cleared right of ways, upgrading existing access to all-season road	
<b>Creating an ecological trap</b>	Creating habitat conditions that would attract wildlife to an area where they would be exposed to a higher risk of mortality than under normal circumstances	

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838

839 **D)** Activities that may significantly contribute to cumulative impacts on a large number of  
840 big game or other prescribed wildlife, or on habitat

841

842 • Does the project occur within the range of a [wildlife species that is currently subject](#)  
843 [to any harvest restrictions?](#)

844 • Does the project occur within the [range of boreal woodland caribou](#) or on the annual  
845 range of the Bathurst herd of barren-ground caribou?

846 • Does the project involve creating new all-season access (any length) or seasonal  
847 access >50 km in length into an area without current road access, or upgrading >10  
848 km of existing seasonal access to an all-season road?

849

850 If the answer to any of these three questions is “Yes”, and the project is deemed likely to  
851 satisfy the criteria for section 95(1)(a-c), then a further assessment will be conducted by  
852 GNWT to determine if the contribution to cumulative impacts might be significant.