



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.



Muskraat – 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