## WMMP GUIDELINES – ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

### ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COSEWIC</td>
<td>Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAR</td>
<td>Developer’s Assessment Report (also known as an Environmental Impact Statement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>Environmental Assessment</td>
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<td>EIA</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
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<td>EIR</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Review</td>
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<td>EIRB</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Review Board</td>
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<td>EIS</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Statement</td>
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<td>EISC</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Screening Committee</td>
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<td>ENR</td>
<td>Department of Environment and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>GNWT</td>
<td>Government of the Northwest Territories</td>
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<td>IFA</td>
<td>Inuvialuit Final Agreement</td>
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<td>ISR</td>
<td>Inuvialuit Settlement Region</td>
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<td>LSA</td>
<td>Local Study Area</td>
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<td>LUP</td>
<td>Land Use Permit</td>
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<td>LWBs</td>
<td>Land and Water Boards</td>
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<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>MVRB</td>
<td>Mackenzie Valley Review Board</td>
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<td>MVLWB</td>
<td>Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board</td>
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<td>MVRMA</td>
<td>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</td>
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<td>NWT</td>
<td>Northwest Territories</td>
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<td>RSA</td>
<td>Regional Study Area</td>
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<td>SARA</td>
<td>Species at Risk Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>SARA(NWT)</td>
<td><em>Species at Risk (NWT)</em> Act</td>
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<td>SOP</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedure</td>
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<td>TK</td>
<td>Traditional Knowledge</td>
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<td>VEC</td>
<td>Valued Ecosystem Component</td>
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<td>WL</td>
<td>Water Licence</td>
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<td>WLWB</td>
<td>Wek’eezhii Land and Water Board</td>
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<td>WMIS</td>
<td>Wildlife Management Information System</td>
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<td>WMMP</td>
<td>Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan</td>
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DEFINITIONS

Adaptive Management
Adaptive management is a systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs\(^1,2\). The term is commonly thought of as “learning by doing”. Active adaptive management typically involves active experimentation to simultaneously test a range of alternative management actions, whereas passive adaptive management may involve selecting only the “best” management option and evaluating the results to see if further adjustments are needed.

Action Level
A pre-established magnitude of change in a monitored indicator that triggers a management action in an adaptive management context.

Big Game
Big game species are those prescribed in Schedule A of the *Wildlife General Regulations*, including\(^3\):

- Bison
- Coyote
- Wolf
- Cougars
- Wolverine
- Mountain goat
- Dall’s sheep
- Bear
- Moose
- Caribou
- Muskox
- Deer

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\(^2\) Appendix 1 of the Wek’eezhii Land and Water Board’s *Guidelines for Adaptive Management, a Response Framework for Aquatic Effects Monitoring* surveys definitions of adaptive management.
Cumulative Impacts
Cumulative impacts are changes to a valued ecosystem component (VEC) caused by multiple interactions among human activities and natural processes that accumulate across space and time. For the purpose of describing this concept within this guideline, the terms “impact” and “effect” are used interchangeably.

Critical Habitat
As defined in the federal Species at Risk Act, critical habitat means the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species and that is identified as the species’ critical habitat in the recovery strategy or action plan for the species.

Designated Habitat
As defined in the Species at Risk (NWT) Act, designated habitat means habitat or a component or combination of components of habitat that is designated by regulation under section 153 of the that Act.

Development
For the purposes of these guidelines, development includes any proposed or existing development and means (a) any public, commercial or industrial undertaking or venture, including support and transportation facilities, related to the extraction of renewable or non-renewable resources, and any infrastructure related to transportation and utilities; (b) any use of land that requires a permit under the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations or the Territorial Land Use Regulations; or (c) any undertaking that requires a licence to use water or deposit waste under the Northwest Territories Waters Act. The term “public” is intended to include municipal, territorial, federal and Indigenous governments.

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Draft Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan
A WMMP submitted to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources for review after the Minister has made an official determination that a WMMP is required for the development.

Developer
Any person, government or any other legal entity owning, operating or causing to be operated any development in whole or in part in the NWT, including any co-contractant of such owner or operator\(^5\). The term “government” is intended to include municipal, territorial, federal and Indigenous governments.

Environmental Impact Assessment
Environmental Impact Assessment or EIA is the part of the regulatory process for systematically considering the effects of a development in decision-making prior to licensing and permitting, as required by Part 5 of the MVRMA or sections 11, 12 or 13 of the IFA.

Final Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan
A wildlife management and monitoring plan that has been approved by the GNWT's Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Habitat
As defined in the **Wildlife Act**: the area or type of site where a species or an individual of a species of wildlife naturally occurs or on which it depends, directly or indirectly, to carry out its life processes.

\(^5\) Adapted from the definition of “Developer” in Section 2.0 the Inuvialuit Final Agreement available at [www.irc.inuvialuit.com/sites/default/files/Western_Arctic_Claim_Inuvialuit_FA_0.pdf](http://www.irc.inuvialuit.com/sites/default/files/Western_Arctic_Claim_Inuvialuit_FA_0.pdf)
Local Study Area
Local study area or LSA means the area surrounding and including the development footprint, where there is reasonable potential for immediate environmental impacts due to ongoing development activities. The LSA is usually defined during the environmental assessment of a development.

Mitigation
Actions taken to reduce potential adverse environmental impacts of all phases of a development project.

Management
The process of achieving objectives related to minimizing impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat of a development by applying specific actions according to needs identified through monitoring and engagement with stakeholders and within the context of the response framework outlined in the WMMP.

Management Plan
Use of the term “management plan” in the WMMP guidelines is intended to include recovery strategies, management plans, action plans, range plans, or any other plan for the recovery or management of a wildlife species that is developed by the GNWT, federal government, Indigenous government or by a renewable resources board.

Development Footprint
The land or water area directly affected by a development.

Prescribed Species
Until such time as regulations are developed that define “prescribed wildlife” for the purposes of section 95, the following species should be considered for the purpose of subsection 95(1)(a) and (b) in addition to big game species:
• Species that are pre-listed or listed under *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*\(^6\)

• Species that have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)\(^7\) and/or listed on Schedule 1\(^8\) of the federal *Species at Risk Act* that are territorially managed. Territorially managed wildlife species do not include fish, marine mammals or birds species covered under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*\(^9\).

**Regional Study Area**

Regional study area or RSA is the area within which direct, indirect or cumulative impacts associated with the development are assessed for a particular VEC. This would be the area extending beyond the development footprint in which both adverse effects are anticipated to occur. RSAs may be specific to individual VECs. For example, the regional study area for a herd of migratory caribou might be the annual range. The RSAs for wildlife VECs are usually defined during the environmental assessment of a development; however boundaries may change over a development’s life as new information about the extent of impacts becomes available.

**Regulatory Process**

The regulatory process is the legislated system that allows for review, assessment, and approval (or rejection) of a proposed development. Generally the process includes preliminary screening, an environmental assessment or environmental impact review (if required), and, if the proposed development is approved, the licensing and permitting phase (also called the “regulatory phase”).

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\(^6\) For a current list of listed and pre-listed species under *SARA(NWT)* visit [www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca/SpeciesAtRisk](http://www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca/SpeciesAtRisk)

\(^7\)COSEWIC assessed species can be found at [www.cosewic.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=EC89538C-1](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=EC89538C-1)

\(^8\)Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act* can be found at [www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default_e.cfm](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default_e.cfm)

\(^9\)Birds Protected in Canada under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* can be found at [https://ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=496E2702-1](https://ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=496E2702-1)
Response Framework
A systematic approach to responding when the results of a wildlife or wildlife habitat monitoring program indicate that an action level has been reached.

Standard Operating Procedures
Standard operating procedures or SOPs are usually developed by a developer and outline specific steps and actions to follow for a specific program, procedure or situation. For example, a standard operating procedure might outline to employees how to respond to a bear in camp.

Traditional Knowledge
Traditional knowledge or TK is knowledge and values, which have been acquired through experience, observation, from the land or from spiritual teachings, and handed down from one generation to another. For additional definitions of TK, please see MVEIRB’s Traditional Knowledge Guidelines.

Valued Ecosystem Component
Valued Ecosystem Components or VECs are parts of the natural and human world that are considered valuable by participants in an EIA process. Effects on VECs represent the investigative focal point of any EIA.

Wildlife
As defined in the NWT Wildlife Act:
(a) all species of vertebrates and invertebrates found wild in nature in the Northwest Territories, and individuals of those species, except
   (i) fish as defined in section 2 of the Fisheries Act (Canada), and
   (ii) other prescribed species and subspecies,

\(^{10}\)www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/documents/53_03_traditional_knowledge_policy.pdf
\(^{11}\)www.reviewboard.ca/upload/ref_library/1247177561_MVReviewBoard_Traditional_Knowledge_Guidelines.pdf
(b) species of wildlife referred to in paragraph (a) that are domesticated or held in
captivity, and individuals of those species, and
(c) prescribed species or subspecies of vertebrates and invertebrates, and
individuals of those species or subspecies.

Wildlife Incident
Reportable interaction between wildlife and the personnel or property of a development
including wildlife injury or mortality, use of a deterrent, or threats from wildlife to human
safety or property.

Zone of Influence
Area within a certain distance of a development footprint within which the abundance or
behavior of a wildlife species is altered beyond baseline levels given available habitat.