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## WMMP GUIDELINES – ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

### 2 ACRONYMS

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

### 3 **DEFINITIONS**

#### 4 **Adaptive Management**

5 Adaptive management is a systematic process for continually improving management  
6 policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs<sup>1,2</sup>. The term  
7 is commonly thought of as “learning by doing”. Active adaptive management typically  
8 involves active experimentation to simultaneously test a range of alternative management  
9 actions, whereas passive adaptive management may involve selecting only the “best”  
10 management option and evaluating the results to see if further adjustments are needed.  
11

#### 12 **Action Level**

13 A pre-established magnitude of change in a monitored indicator that triggers a  
14 management action in an adaptive management context.  
15

#### 16 **Big Game**

17 Big game species are those prescribed in Schedule A of the [Wildlife General Regulations](#),  
18 including<sup>3</sup>:

- 19 • Bison
- 20 • Coyote
- 21 • Wolf
- 22 • Cougars
- 23 • Wolverine
- 24 • Mountain goat
- 25 • Dall’s sheep
- 26 • Bear
- 27 • Moose
- 28 • Caribou
- 29 • Muskox
- 30 • Deer

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<sup>1</sup> British Columbia Forest Service. 2014. Defining Adaptive Management.  
[www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/sil/sil426-1.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/sil/sil426-1.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Appendix 1 of the Wek’èezhìi Land and Water Board’s [Guidelines for Adaptive Management, a Response Framework for Aquatic Effects Monitoring](#) surveys definitions of adaptive management.

<sup>3</sup> Wildlife General Regulations available at: [www.canlii.org/en/nt/laws/regu/nwt-reg-115-2014/latest/nwt-reg-115-2014.html](http://www.canlii.org/en/nt/laws/regu/nwt-reg-115-2014/latest/nwt-reg-115-2014.html)

31 • Elk

## 32 **Cumulative Impacts**

33 Cumulative impacts are changes to a valued ecosystem component (VEC) caused by  
34 multiple interactions among human activities and natural processes that accumulate across  
35 space and time<sup>4</sup>. For the purpose of describing this concept within this guideline, the terms  
36 “impact” and “effect” are used interchangeably.

37

## 38 **Critical Habitat**

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

42

## 43 **Designated Habitat**

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

47

## 48 **Development**

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

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<sup>4</sup> Adapted from Canadian Council for Ministers of the Environment (CCME). 2014.  
[www.ccme.ca/en/current\\_priorities/cumulative-effects/index.html](http://www.ccme.ca/en/current_priorities/cumulative-effects/index.html)

58 **Draft Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan**

59 A WMMP submitted to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources for review after  
60 the Minister has made an official determination that a WMMP is required for the  
61 development.

62

63 **Developer**

64 Any person, government or any other legal entity owning, operating or causing to be  
65 operated any development in whole or in part in the NWT, including any co-contractant of  
66 such owner or operator<sup>5</sup>. The term “government” is intended to include municipal,  
67 territorial, federal and Indigenous governments.

68

69 **Environmental Impact Assessment**

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

74

75 **Final Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan**

76 A wildlife management and monitoring plan that has been approved by the GNWT's  
77 Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

78

79 **Habitat**

80 As defined in the [Wildlife Act](#): the area or type of site where a species or an individual of a  
81 species of wildlife naturally occurs or on which it depends, directly or indirectly, to carry  
82 out its life processes.

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<sup>5</sup> 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)

84 **Local Study Area**

85 Local study area or LSA means the area surrounding and including the development  
86 footprint, where there is reasonable potential for immediate environmental impacts due to  
87 ongoing development activities. The LSA is usually defined during the environmental  
88 assessment of a development.

89

90 **Mitigation**

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

93

94 **Management**

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

99

100 **Management Plan**

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

105

106 **Development Footprint**

107 The land or water area directly affected by a development.

108

109 **Prescribed Species**

110 Until such time as regulations are developed that define “prescribed wildlife” for the  
111 purposes of section 95, the following species should be considered for the purpose of  
112 subsection 95(1)(a) and (b) in addition to big game species:

- 113
- Species that are pre-listed or listed under [Species at Risk \(NWT\) Act](#)<sup>6</sup>
  - Species that have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)<sup>7</sup> and/or listed on Schedule 1<sup>8</sup> 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](#)<sup>9</sup>.
- 114
- 115
- 116
- 117
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119

### 120 **Regional Study Area**

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

129

### 130 **Regulatory Process**

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

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<sup>6</sup> For a current list of listed and pre-listed species under *SARA(NWT)* visit [www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca/SpeciesAtRisk](http://www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca/SpeciesAtRisk)

<sup>7</sup>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)

<sup>8</sup>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)

<sup>9</sup>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>

137 **Response Framework**

138 A systematic approach to responding when the results of a wildlife or wildlife habitat  
139 monitoring program indicate that an action level has been reached.

140

141 **Standard Operating Procedures**

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

146

147 **Traditional Knowledge**

148 Traditional knowledge or TK is knowledge and values, which have been acquired through  
149 experience, observation, from the land or from spiritual teachings, and handed down from  
150 one generation to another<sup>10</sup>. For additional definitions of TK, please see MVEIRB's  
151 [Traditional Knowledge Guidelines](#)<sup>11</sup>.

152

153 **Valued Ecosystem Component**

154 Valued Ecosystem Components or VECs are parts of the natural and human world that are  
155 considered valuable by participants in an EIA process. Effects on VECs represent the  
156 investigative focal point of any EIA.<sup>12</sup>

157

158 **Wildlife**

159 As defined in the NWT *Wildlife Act*:

- 160 (a) all species of vertebrates and invertebrates found wild in nature in the  
161 Northwest Territories, and individuals of those species, except  
162 (i) fish as defined in section 2 of the Fisheries Act (Canada), and  
163 (ii) other prescribed species and subspecies,

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<sup>10</sup> [www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/documents/53\\_03\\_traditional\\_knowledge\\_policy.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/documents/53_03_traditional_knowledge_policy.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [www.reviewboard.ca/upload/ref\\_library/1247177561\\_MVReviewBoard\\_Traditional\\_Knowledge\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/ref_library/1247177561_MVReviewBoard_Traditional_Knowledge_Guidelines.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> In Hegmann, G.C., Cocklin, R. Creasy, S.Dupuis, A. Kennedy, L. Kingsley, W. Ross, H. Spaling and D. Stalker. 1999. Cumulative Effects Assessment Practitioners Guide. Prepared by Axys Environmental Consulting and the CEA Working Group for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Hull, QC.

164 (b) species of wildlife referred to in paragraph (a) that are domesticated or held in  
165 captivity, and individuals of those species, and

166 (c) prescribed species or subspecies of vertebrates and invertebrates, and  
167 individuals of those species or subspecies.

168

169 **Wildlife Incident**

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

173

174 **Zone of Influence**

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