



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018



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, 2018.

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.



Barren-ground caribou – Photo Credit: R. Gau, ENR

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 list 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 Tłı̨chǫ 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
- Dr. Alice Legat
- Ms. Allison Thompson
- Mr. Arthur Beck
- Mr. James Firth
- Ms. Lynda Yonge
- Ms. Misty Ireland
- Mr. Moise Rabesca
- Dr. Nicholas (Nic) Larter

Alternates:

- Mr. Daniel Beck – alternate to Mr. Arthur Beck
- Dr. Deborah Simmons – alternate to Mr. Leon Andrew
- Ms. Kaytlin Cooper – alternate to Mr. James Firth

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

COMMITTEE PROGRESS

APRIL 1, 2017 TO MARCH 31, 2018

In April 2017, the Species at Risk Committee completed eight species assessments:

- Porcupine caribou (Not at Risk)
- Barren-ground caribou¹ (Threatened)
- Grizzly bears (Special Concern)
- Big brown bat (Data Deficient)
- Little brown myotis (Special Concern)
- Northern myotis (Special Concern)
- Long-eared myotis (Data Deficient)
- Long-legged myotis (Data Deficient)

Porcupine caribou, big brown bat, long-eared myotis and long-legged myotis will not be considered by the Conference of Management Authorities for listing or management/recovery because of their assessments of Not at Risk and Data Deficient. No further action will be taken for these four species under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* unless new information in the future suggests that re-assessment is necessary. The Conference of Management Authorities will decide whether or not to add barren-ground caribou, grizzly bear, little brown myotis and northern myotis to the NWT List of Species at Risk by April 11, 2018.

The Species at Risk Committee held three meetings in 2017-2018 and initiated work on a species status report for gypsy cuckoo bumble bee, western bumble bee and yellow-banded bumble bee, which are scheduled to be assessed in April 2019.

The Committee received one referral for a species (muskoen) to be assessed under subsection 27(1) of the Act. SARC responded to this request in writing indicating that they did not feel that the assessment of muskoen was necessary. Given that the peak population was likely the result of ideal environmental conditions, coupled with a capacity for strong population expansion, it is likely that the population decline now being seen is still within the range of natural variation. Together with management mechanisms already in place and southern range re-occupation, the Species at Risk Committee did not feel that the species is currently at risk of extinction or extirpation.

An assessment schedule detailing species to be assessed or re-assessed from 2019 to 2023 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 assessments, are available on the NWT Species at Risk website: www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca

¹ Includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, Bathurst, Beverly, Ahik and Qamanirjuaq herds.



Northern mountain caribou – Photo Credit: Jan Adamczewski

RECORD OF SPECIES ASSESSMENTS

SPECIES	ASSESSMENT	DATE OF ASSESSMENT
Peary caribou	Threatened	December 2012
Boreal caribou	Threatened	December 2012
Hairy braya	Threatened	December 2012
Polar bear	Special Concern	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

ASSESSMENT/RE-ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2019-2023

APRIL 2019	Yellow-banded bumble bee (<i>Bombus terricola</i>)*
	Western bumble bee (<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>)*
	Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>)*
	*The three bumble bee species will be bundled together into one species status report, but assessed separately.
APRIL 2020	Northern mountain caribou (woodland caribou [northern mountain population]) (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>)
APRIL 2021	Hairy braya (<i>Braya pilosa</i>)
	Polar bear (<i>Ursus maritimus</i>)
APRIL 2022	Boreal caribou (woodland caribou [boreal population]) (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>)
	Peary caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus pearyi</i>)
APRIL 2023	Dolphin and Union caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus x pearyi</i>)
	Northern leopard frog (<i>Lithobates pipiens</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 www.contractregistry.nt.ca.



Little brown myotis, South Slave Hibernaculum – Photo Credit: Cori Lausen

CONTACT

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

www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca

Or contact:

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Respectfully submitted,



Leon Andrew, Chairperson
Species at Risk Committee



Cover Photo:

Boreal caribou – Photo Credit: John Nagy, ENR