SPECIES AT RISK

in the Northwest Territories

2014

Canada

Northwest Territories

SPECIES AT RISK IN THE NWT: 2014

A guide to species in the Northwest Territories currently listed, or under consideration for listing, under federal and territorial species at risk legislation, 2014 edition.

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NWT SPECIES at RISK

Cover photo: Peary Caribou, GNWT / J. Nagy, ENR

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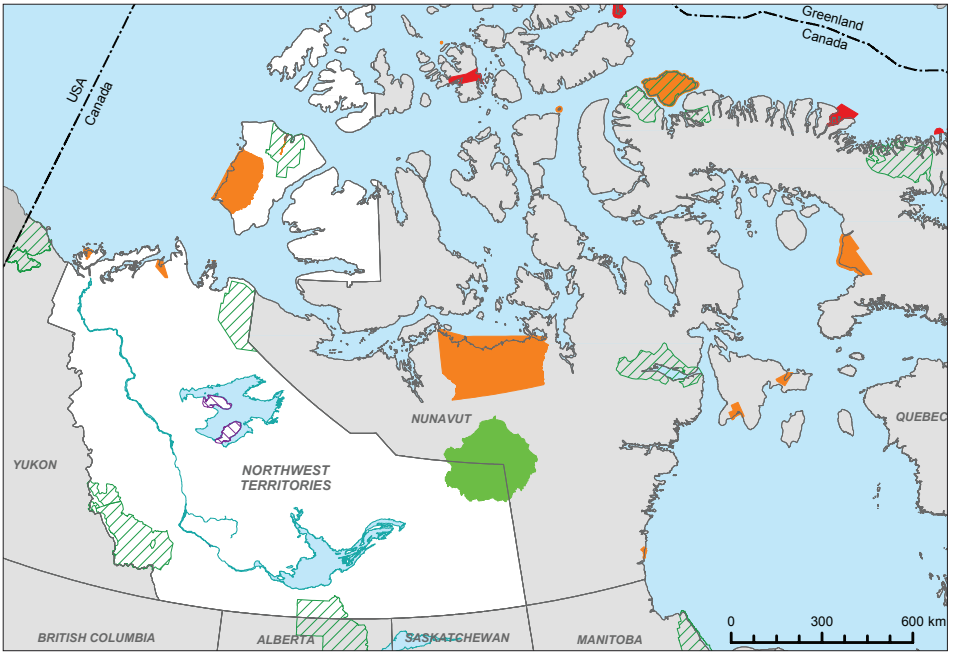


Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
National Wildlife Areas
National Historic Sites
Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
National Parks

SPECIES AT RISK IN THE NWT

Aboriginal groups, scientists and people with an interest in the natural world have noticed and documented the disappearance of certain plants and animals for some time.

Every jurisdiction in Canada has signed the national *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk* and in doing so, has agreed to work towards a national approach for protecting species at risk, with the goal of preventing species in Canada from becoming extinct as a consequence of human activity.

The responsibility for the conservation of wildlife in the Northwest Territories (NWT) is shared by the federal, territorial, and Tłı̨chǫ governments, and wildlife co-management boards. The federal government is responsible for migratory birds, aquatic species and terrestrial species found on federal lands. The territorial government has primary responsibility for all other species.

In 2003, the Government of Canada enacted the federal *Species at Risk Act* with the goal of protecting wildlife species and their habitats. The purposes of the *Species at Risk Act* are to prevent wildlife species from being Extirpated or becoming Extinct, to provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened as a result of human activity, and to manage species of Special Concern to prevent them from becoming Endangered

Little Brown Myotis GNWT / Allicia Kelly, ENR

or Threatened. The *Species at Risk Act* establishes a process for conducting scientific assessments of the national population status of individual species, and a mechanism for listing Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern species. The *Species at Risk Act* includes provisions for the protection of individuals of listed wildlife species, and for their critical habitats and residences.

In 2009, the Government of the NWT (GNWT) passed the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* which helps fulfill the NWT's commitment under the national Accord to provide effective legal protection. The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* sets out the processes to assess, list, protect and recover species at risk specifically for the NWT. The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* applies to any wild animal or plant species managed by the GNWT. It applies on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claims agreement.

The *Species at Risk Act* and the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* are designed to work in a complementary fashion with other legislation and cooperatively with Aboriginal people to protect species at risk and their habitats.

For more information, visit: sararegistry.gc.ca and nwtspeciesatrisk.ca

ASSESSMENT AND LISTING OF SPECIES AT RISK

Canada

Assessment: The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is a national committee of experts that assesses the biological status of species and assigns each species they assess to a category of risk based on the best available scientific, community and Aboriginal traditional knowledge. COSEWIC makes a recommendation on "risk level" to the federal government. The list of all the species recommended by COSEWIC for listing as a species at risk is the COSEWIC list.

Legal Listing: After receiving COSEWIC's assessment and consulting with the appropriate Minister(s) and wildlife management boards, the Minister makes a recommendation to the Governor in Council and the decision is made on whether to add species to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk (Schedule 1) of the *Species at Risk Act* or to refer the matter back to COSEWIC for further information or consideration.

Northwest Territories

Conference of Management Authorities: Responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT is shared among wildlife co-management boards established under land claim agreements, the Government of the NWT, the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the federal Government. The Conference established under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* builds consensus among these Management Authorities on the conservation of species at risk and provides direction, coordination and leadership with respect to the assessment, listing, conservation and recovery of species at risk while respecting the roles and responsibilities of Management Authorities under land claims agreements.

Assessment: The Species at Risk Committee established under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* is an independent committee of experts responsible for assessing the biological

Seismic lines in southern NWT GNWT / D. Downing, ENR

Hairy Braya

Jim Harris

status of species at risk in the NWT. It is similar to COSEWIC, although the Species at Risk Committee operates at the territorial level and assessments may differ from those done at the national level. Assessments are based on the best available traditional, community and scientific knowledge of the species. The Committee uses the assessments to make recommendations on the listing of species and on conservation measures to the Conference of Management Authorities.

Legal Listing: After receiving the Species at Risk Committee's assessment, the Conference of Management Authorities develops a consensus agreement on whether to add the species to the NWT List of Species at Risk. As part of reaching consensus, each co-management board carries out the consultation and processes required under their land claim agreement. The Government of the NWT is responsible for Aboriginal consultation in areas without a settled land claim and for consultation with all stakeholders such as industry, outfitters, resident hunters, environmental groups, and the public.

For Current Information

This booklet describes the species legally listed under the *Species at Risk Act* and the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* whose range includes the NWT, and those species in the NWT that are under consideration for listing, as of March 2014. National assessments of species are completed every six months. As there is no pre-set federal listing schedule, it is important to regularly visit the federal *Species at Risk Act* Public Registry at sararegistry.gc.ca, or the COSEWIC website at cosewic.gc.ca for the most recent national information. Current information on the NWT List of Species at Risk and species scheduled to be assessed in the NWT is available at nwtspeciesatrisk.ca.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Common Name

Subspecies or Population

Scientific Name

This table shows the status of the species under federal and territorial species at risk legislation, with the year of assessment and listing.

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (population at risk, if there is more than one population in Canada)	Status as last assessed by COSEWIC	Status on the federal *Species at Risk Act* list (Schedule 1)
NWT	Status as last assessed by the NWT Species at Risk Committee	Status on the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* list (NWT List of Species at Risk)

A physical description of the animal size, weight and colour including any distinguishing marks or behaviours.

Help identify and record species in the NWT by reporting your sightings to the appropriate agency.

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Threats to a species can vary between regions in Canada. The information in this section describes threats to the species specific to the NWT.

CATEGORIES OF SPECIES AT RISK

Species at risk are assessed and listed in one of five status categories:

- **Extinct:** a species that no longer exists anywhere in the world.
- **Extirpated:** a species that no longer exists in the wild in a particular region (Canada or NWT) but exists elsewhere.
- **Endangered:** a species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction.
- **Threatened:** a species likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.
- **Special Concern:** a species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Other terms used in the status table:

- **Not applicable:** *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* does not apply to this species.
- **Not assessed:** species has not yet been assessed.
- **No status:** species has not been listed.
- **Under consideration:** species is being considered for listing.

Typical Habitat

- The information in this section describes the typical habitat of the species in the NWT.

Range Map

The map shows the range of each species in the NWT so that you can determine at a glance where they occur. Please note that the species range maps in this booklet are approximate and are not intended for legal use.

This section contains additional information about the species in the NWT.

Did you know?

- The information in this section highlights interesting facts about the species.

Website where you can find the most current information on the species.

Boreal Caribou

Woodland Caribou (Boreal Population)

Rangifer tarandus caribou

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Threatened – 2002	Threatened – 2003
NWT	Threatened – 2012	Threatened – 2014

Boreal Caribou are members of the deer family. Compared to Barren-ground Caribou, Boreal Caribou are larger and darker, have thicker and broader antlers, and have longer legs and a longer face. Boreal Caribou look the same as Northern Mountain Caribou (page 21) but have different habitat preferences and behaviour.

Weight: 110 to 210 kg (240 to 460 lb)
Height at shoulder: 1.0 to 1.2 m (3.3 to 4.0 ft)

Report Boreal Caribou sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Habitat changes (especially landscape changes from oil and gas) that result in increased access by predators and hunters.
- Climate change that may affect the forest landscape over the next 20-40 years.

GNWT / J. Nagy, ENR

Typical Habitat

- Almost all forested areas east of the Mackenzie Mountains, provided they are in or allow for access to areas away from human disturbance, industrial areas and other human made features.

Boreal Caribou
National Parks

Boreal Caribou live in the forests east of the Mackenzie Mountains. They live in small groups and prefer to stay within the forest year-round. A national recovery strategy for Boreal Caribou was completed in 2012. Under the recovery strategy, a range plan and action plan must be completed. Goals and direction for the conservation of Boreal Caribou in the NWT have been outlined in the *Action Plan for Boreal Woodland Caribou Conservation in the Northwest Territories: 2010-2015.* The NWT listing in 2014 will require a recovery strategy specifically for the NWT.

Did you know?

- There is limited harvesting of Boreal Caribou in the NWT. Aboriginal harvest is low and there is a limit of one animal per year for resident hunters.
- Boreal caribou are sometimes called the “grey ghosts of the forest” because they are secretive and difficult to find, and when disturbed they usually disappear quickly into the forest.

Bowhead Whale

Balaena mysticetus

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Population)	**Special Concern - 2009**	**Special Concern - 2007**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Bowhead Whale is a large baleen whale (whale with baleen plates for filtering food rather than teeth) with a stocky barrel-shaped body and a large head that takes up about 30% of its length. Its body is mostly black; white markings appear with age on the chin, fluke tips and tail. Bowhead Whales do not have a dorsal fin and their pectoral flippers are small and paddle-shaped. The upper jaw is bowed sharply upward with an average of 330 baleen plates on each side. Adult females are slightly larger than adult males.

Weight: 75 to 100 t (82 to 110 tons)
Length: Females, 16 to 18 m (53 to 59 ft)
Males, 14 to 17 m (46 to 56 ft)

Report Bowhead Whale sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Bowhead Whales are known to be displaced for short periods of time by industrial activity such as oil and gas exploration and development. Potential long-term effects on Bowhead Whales are unknown.
- Climatic factors, which influence ice conditions and prey availability, may impact the survival and/or distribution of this whale.

Marc Gadoury

Typical Habitat

- Marine waters ranging from open water to thick, unconsolidated pack ice.

Bowhead Whale
National Parks

Bowhead Whales are still recovering from commercial whaling, which ended in the early 20th century when hunting became unprofitable. The Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort population of the Bowhead Whale spends the winter in the western and central Bering Sea where there is adequate open water and broken pack ice. In spring, the whales migrate north and east to their summer feeding grounds in the eastern Beaufort Sea. They feed mostly on dense aggregations of small invertebrates or "zooplankton" (mainly copepods, but also euphasiids, mysids, amphipods and isopods). Females give birth every three or four years to a single calf, usually during the spring migration. Bowhead Whales can live to be over 150 years of age.

Did you know?

- A weapon fragment found in a Bowhead Whale caught off the Alaskan coast in May 2007 dated back to 1879.
- Bowhead Whales are able to use their head and back to break ice over 20 cm (8 in) thick, in order to breathe.

Collared Pika

Ochotona collaris

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Special Concern - 2011	Under Consideration
NWT	Not assessed	No status

The Collared Pika is a small, solitary member of a group of species that includes rabbits and hares. The Collared Pika has small, round ears, a white underbelly, and a distinctive 'collar' of light grey fur around its neck.

Weight: 130 to 185 g (4.5 to 6.5 oz)
Length: 178 to 198 mm (7 to 7.5 in)

Report Collared Pika sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

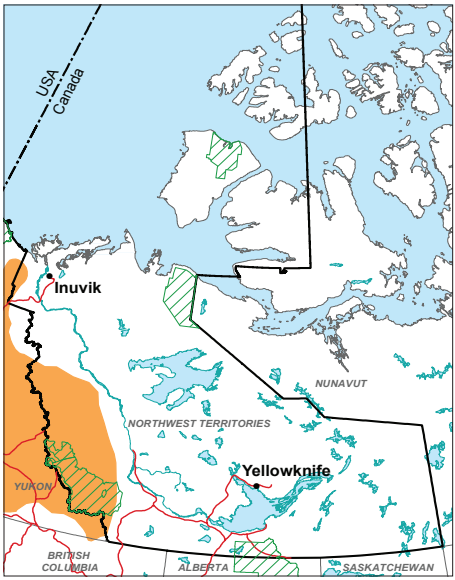
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- The greatest threat to the Collared Pika in other areas is the effect of climate change, including changes in precipitation patterns in spring and increasing temperature in summer.
- Threats related to how climate change affects the Collared Pika in the NWT are unclear.

John Nagy

Typical Habitat

- Collared Pikas mostly live in cool and dry mountain boulder fields, or talus, with nearby meadows. The boulders help shelter the pikas from weather and predators.
- The Mackenzie River in the NWT likely acts as a barrier on the eastern edge of its range. The Liard River valley may form a barrier between the Collared Pika and the more southern American Pika.



Collared Pika
National Parks

Collared Pikas primarily live in the mountain regions of Alaska, Yukon and northern British Columbia. Their range in the NWT extends into the Richardson Mountains west of Aklavik and throughout the Mackenzie Mountains in the Dehcho and Sahtu regions.

Did you know?

- Pikas defend individual territories of about 15 to 25 m (49 to 82 ft) radius.
- Female pikas have only a 30 day gestation period, give birth to 3 to 4 offspring, and usually do not live longer than 4 years.
- Pikas do not hibernate during the winter and survive using stored food.
- Pikas spend long hours harvesting herbs and grasses, making hay-piles to supply food during the winter.

Dolphin and Union Caribou

Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)

Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus x pearyi

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Special Concern - 2004**	**Special Concern - 2011**
NWT	**Special Concern - 2013**	Under Consideration

Dolphin and Union Caribou are members of the deer family. Like Peary Caribou (page 25), Dolphin and Union Caribou have a mostly white coat in winter, and are slate-grey with white legs and under-parts in summer. The velvet covering their antlers is grey. Dolphin and Union Caribou are slightly darker than Peary Caribou.

Report Dolphin and Union Caribou sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

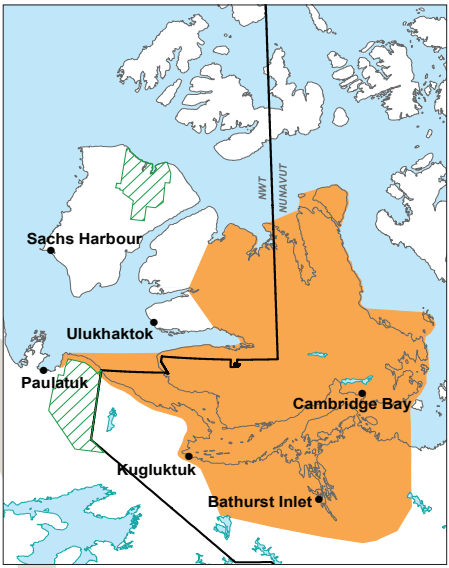
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Hunting rates could lead to over-harvesting.
- Over-grazing in areas where caribou wait before migrating to the mainland for the winter.
- Local knowledge has demonstrated an increase of predators across summer ranges.
- An unknown number of caribou die every fall breaking through the ice crossing to the mainland.
- Changes to sea ice freeze-up and break-up due to climate change could threaten migration.
- Increased ship traffic through Dolphin and Union Strait may affect ice formation and caribou migration.

Kim Poole

Typical Habitat

- Summer on Victoria Island, commonly using beach ridges and river valley slopes.
- Winter in windswept areas with shallow snow cover, primarily in the Bathurst Inlet area of Nunavut but have been found near mainland shoreline areas west to Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada.



Dolphin and Union Caribou

National Parks

About 27,000 Dolphin and Union Caribou occupy areas in Nunavut and the NWT. These caribou were at very low densities during the mid-20th century and only started recovering about 30 years ago. Victoria Island is the main area used during the calving and fall seasons. Since the 1980s Dolphin and Union Caribou resumed migrating across the sea ice to their winter range on the Nunavut-NWT mainland. The population is considered stable at best, or slightly declining.

Did you know?

- Dolphin and Union Caribou were once thought to be Peary caribou; however, genetic studies have now clearly shown that they are distinct.
- Dolphin and Union Caribou are often locally called Island Caribou.

Grey Whale

Eschrichtius robustus

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Eastern North Pacific Population)	**Special Concern - 2004**	**Special Concern - 2005**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Grey Whale is a medium to large-sized baleen whale with a streamlined body and narrow, tapered head. It has dark grey mottled skin, often covered with patches of barnacles and crustaceans. This whale does not have a dorsal fin but has a low hump and a series of seven to fifteen "knuckles" along its dorsal ridge. Two to four grooves on the underside of the throat allow the whale to extend its throat so it can feed by scooping up bottom sediment and straining it through its baleen.

Weight: 22 to 38 t (24 to 42 tons)
Length: Females, 12 to 15 m (39 to 50 ft);
Males, 11 to 14 m (36 to 46 ft)

Report Grey Whale sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

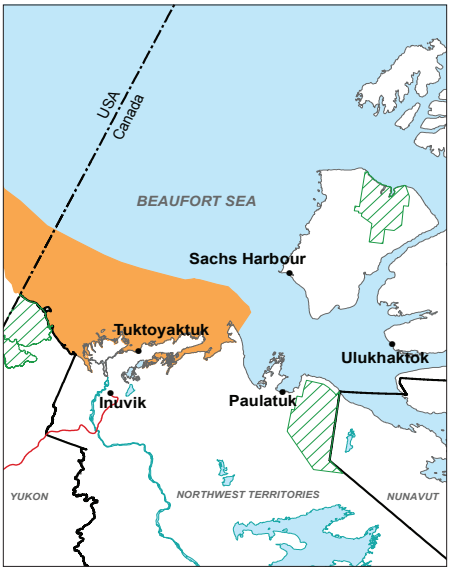
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Loss of habitat due to industrial development (such as oil and gas) and associated noise.
- Collisions with ships.
- Years with extended ice cover on summer feeding grounds (may lessen with climate change).

A. Denbigh

Typical Habitat

- Shallow ocean water (less than 60 m or 200 ft deep) close to shore, over mud or sand bottoms.



Grey Whale

National Parks

Grey Whales are susceptible to human activities especially while they spend the winter on their calving grounds in Mexico where females give birth to a single calf. In spring most migrate north to their summer feeding grounds in northern Alaska, Russia and the southern Beaufort Sea where they feed mainly on shrimp-like animals (amphipod crustaceans). Calves are weaned in late summer. Grey Whales can live up to 70 years of age.

Did you know?

- Because Grey Whales re-circulate nutrients from bottom sediments through the water column, they are an important species in arctic marine ecosystems.
- Grey Whales travel over 16,000 km (9,900 mi) round trip, from the lagoons of Baja California to their feeding grounds in the Bering and Beaufort seas.
- Grey Whales use their baleen plates like a strainer to filter sediment and locate their prey. They scoop up mouthfuls of sediment and allow it to sift through the spaces between the baleen, with only the prey left behind in their mouths.

Grizzly Bear

Ursus arctos

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Western Population)	Special Concern - 2012	Under Consideration
NWT	Not assessed	No status

Grizzly Bears are larger than black bears and more heavily built. They can be recognized by their prominent shoulder hump, dish-shaped face and long claws. Colour varies from light gold to almost black, with pale bears being the most common on the barren-lands.

Weight: Females, 120 to 160 kg (260 to 350 lb)
Males, 150 to 250 kg (330 to 550 lb)

Report Grizzly Bear sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Individual bears move great distances so they may be exposed to the negative effects of human developments or activities, even when these activities occur at a considerable distance from the core range.
- Human activity such as campsites and industrial development in the NWT may lead to bear-human conflicts and human-caused mortalities.

Gordon Court

Typical Habitat

- Open or semi-forested areas, most commonly in alpine and subalpine terrain, on the tundra, and less commonly in the boreal forest.
- Grizzly Bears are becoming more common in areas of the NWT and Nunavut where they used to be rarely seen.

Grizzly Bear
Areas of Increased Presence
National Parks

Grizzly Bears in the NWT, and throughout their range in Canada, are sensitive to population declines because they do not reproduce until they are between six and eight years of age, they have small litters (one to three cubs), and there are three to five years between litters.

Did you know?

- Grizzly Bears can travel long distances and require large areas of habitat. One bear collared on the tundra traveled 471 km (292 mi) in 23 days.
- Bears are very powerful animals. Learn to avoid conflicts with bears and always travel in groups.

Little Brown Myotis

Myotis lucifugus

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Endangered – 2013**	Under Consideration
NWT	Not assessed	No status

The Little Brown Myotis is a medium sized bat. Fur on its back is yellowish to dark brown-black in colour and often glossy. Fur on its underside is lighter and goes from light brown to tan. The tragus (fleshy projection which covers the entrance of the ear) is short and blunt. Females are slightly larger than males and produce usually one young (called a pup) per year.

Weight: 7 to 14 g (0.3 to 0.5 oz)
Wingspan: 22 to 27 cm (9 to 11 in)

Report Little Brown Myotis sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

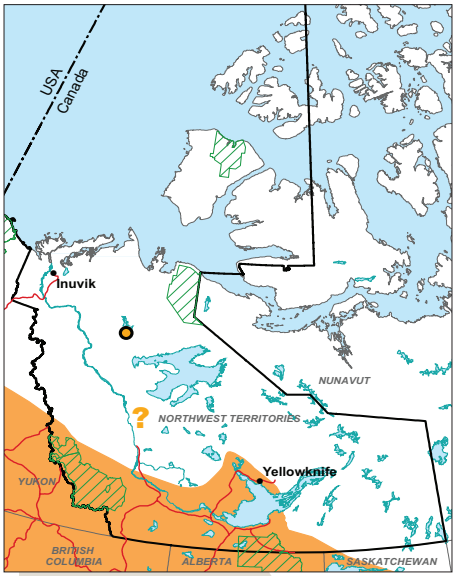
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- A fungal disease called white-nose syndrome has not been reported in the NWT but it could eventually spread north. A map of its spread is available at whitenosesyndrome.org.
- Bats with white-nose syndrome show loss of body fat and unusual behaviour during winter, including flying outside in the day. Bats with white-nose syndrome very often die of the disease.
- To avoid disturbing bats and potentially spreading white-nose syndrome, avoid entering caves and abandoned mines where bats may be hibernating.

GNWT / J. Wilson, ENR

Typical Habitat

- Summer roosts can include man-made structures (like attics), tree cavities, under the bark of trees, in rock crevices and caves.
- Winter hibernation sites (also called hibernacula) are usually in caves or mines.



Little Brown Myotis
Single Record
National Parks

The Little Brown Myotis is an insect-eating bat found throughout much of Canada. In the NWT, it has been found north and south of Great Slave Lake and in the Dehcho. Since 2006, this bat has been dying in significant numbers in the eastern U.S. and Canada from a disease called white-nose syndrome. The fungus that causes white-nose syndrome grows in humid cold environments typical of the caves where bats hibernate. It is estimated that at the current rate of spread, the fungus will severely impact the entire Canadian population of Little Brown Myotis within the next two decades.

Did you know?

- Approximately 3,000 bats overwinter in one NWT cave, making it the largest known hibernation site in western Canada.
- Nursing female bats can eat more than their body weight in insects each night.
- The northern limit of Little Brown Myotis range in the NWT is not well known.
- A Little Brown Myotis found in Colville Lake in 2012 is the northernmost bat recorded in North America.

Northern Mountain Caribou

Woodland Caribou (Northern Mountain Population)

Rangifer tarandus caribou

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Special Concern - 2002**	**Special Concern - 2005**
NWT	Not assessed	No status

Northern Mountain Caribou are members of the deer family. Compared to Barren-ground Caribou, Northern Mountain Caribou are larger and darker, have thicker and broader antlers, and have longer legs and a longer face. Northern Mountain Caribou look the same as Boreal Caribou (page 7) but have different habitat preferences and behaviour.

Weight: 110 to 210 kg (240 to 460 lb)
Height at shoulder: 1.0 to 1.2 m (3.3 to 4.0 ft)

Report Northern Mountain Caribou sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Limited threats - there are some concerns about increased hunting pressure from people using access roads and increased mineral exploration activities.
- Climate change that will likely affect the forest landscape over the next 20-40 years.

GNWT / A. Veitch, ENR

Typical Habitat

- Throughout the Mackenzie Mountains in open alpine and sub-alpine areas in summer, and montane spruce-lichen forest areas with shallow snow cover in winter.

Northern Mountain Caribou
Trace Occurrences
National Parks

Northern Mountain Caribou live in the Mackenzie Mountains in large groups, sometimes in the thousands, and have distinct migrations where they move up or down in elevation depending on the season. A national management plan for Northern Mountain Caribou was completed in 2011 and can be found at sararegistry.gc.ca.

Did you know?

- There is limited harvesting of Northern Mountain Caribou in the NWT. Non-resident hunting is allowed in the Mackenzie Mountains, and for resident and non-resident hunters there is a limit of one animal per year.
- Caribou are the only species of the deer family where both males and females have antlers.

Northern Myotis

Myotis septentrionalis

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Endangered – 2013**	Under Consideration
NWT	Not Assessed	No status

The Northern Myotis is very similar in colour and size to the Little Brown Myotis (page 19), but the ears are longer (extend beyond the nose when pressed forward) and the tragus (fleshy projection which covers the entrance of the ear) is long, slender and pointed. Both the Northern Myotis and Little Brown Myotis sometimes use the same roosts or hibernacula and it is difficult to identify the species if the bats are at a distance.

Weight: 6 to 9 g (0.2 to 0.3 oz)
Wingspan: 23 to 27 cm (9 to 11 in)

Report Northern Myotis sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

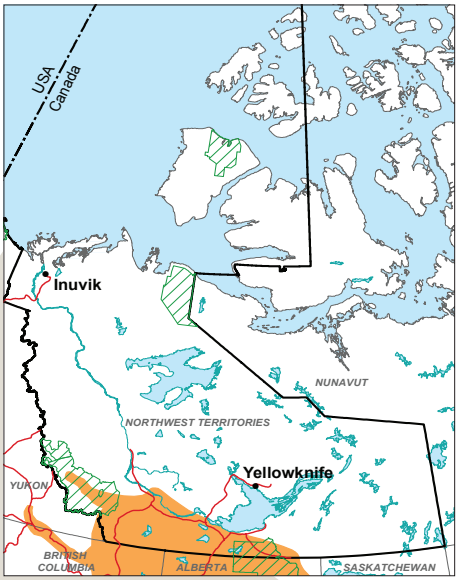
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- A fungal disease called white-nose syndrome has not been reported in the NWT but it could eventually spread north. A map of its spread is available at www.whitenosesyndrome.org.
- Bats with white-nose syndrome show loss of body fat and unusual behaviour during winter, including flying outside in the day. Bats with white-nose syndrome very often die of the disease.
- To avoid disturbing bats and potentially spreading white-nose syndrome, avoid entering caves and abandoned mines where bats may be hibernating.

GNWT / D. Allaire, ENR

Typical Habitat

- Summer roosts can include man-made structures (like attics), tree cavities, under the bark of trees, rock crevices and caves.
- Winter hibernation sites (also called hibernacula) are usually in caves or mines.



Northern Myotis

National Parks

The Northern Myotis is an insect-eating bat found throughout much of Canada. The Northern Myotis has similar food habits to the Little Brown Myotis but the Northern Myotis searches for its prey in more cluttered areas like forest edges and overgrown trails. The Northern Myotis is highly susceptible to white-nose syndrome. Both Northern Myotis and Little Brown Myotis are long-living and reproduce very slowly, which makes them sensitive to population decline.

Did you know?

- Northern Myotis use echolocation to capture their prey from tree branches or leaves, as well as on the fly.
- The Northern Myotis used to be called the northern long-eared bat.
- White-nose syndrome is estimated to be spreading 200 to 400 km (124 to 248 mi) a year.

Peary Caribou

Rangifer tarandus pearyi

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Endangered – 2004**	**Endangered – 2011**
NWT	**Threatened – 2012**	**Threatened – 2014**

Peary Caribou are members of the deer family and are the smallest of all caribou subspecies. Like Dolphin and Union Caribou (page 13), Peary Caribou have a mostly white coat in winter, and are slate-grey with white legs and under-parts in summer. The velvet covering their antlers is grey.

Weight: Males, 70 kg (150 lb)
Length: 1.7 m (5.6 ft)

Report Peary Caribou sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

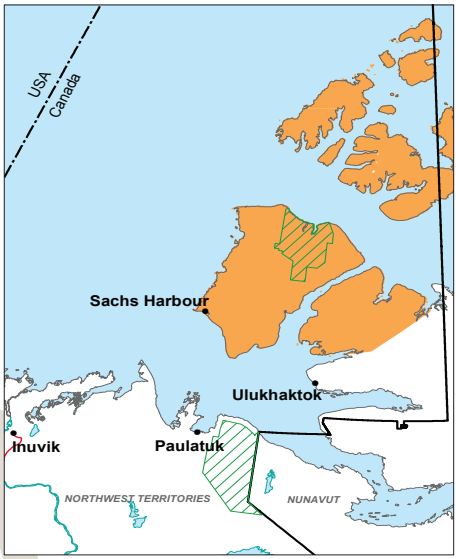
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Severe winter and spring weather creates ice layers preventing Peary Caribou from reaching their food, sometimes causing starvation or inadequate fat reserves for females to reproduce.
- Competition with muskoxen for food.
- Hunting and predation may have contributed to population declines on Banks and northwest Victoria Islands.
- Low and variable population size indicates Peary Caribou are vulnerable to random catastrophic events.

GNWT / J. Nagy, ENR

Typical Habitat

- Peary Caribou are found in small groups on the arctic islands of the NWT and Nunavut.
- Summer range includes river valley slopes or other moist areas, and upland plains with abundant sedges, willows, grasses and herbs.
- Winter range includes exposed areas like hilltops and raised beach ridges where the snow is thinner and it is easier to find food.



Peary Caribou
National Parks

Peary Caribou populations in the NWT declined steeply between the 1960s and the 1990s, likely due to a combination of factors including several years of unusually severe winter and spring weather. Over the last 20 years there have been sustained low numbers and little evidence for recovery to historic higher numbers. The only evidence of some recovery has been seen recently in the Queen Elizabeth Islands. A national recovery strategy for Peary Caribou is being developed in cooperation with local communities, wildlife management boards and federal/territorial governments.

Did you know?

- The Inuvialuit have taken a strong leadership role in protecting Peary Caribou. Due to community concerns in Sachs Harbour, a harvest quota on hunting Peary Caribou was implemented in 1990 and is now reviewed annually.
- In 1993, the Olokhaktomiut Hunters and Trappers Committee (Ulukhaktok) initiated a zero harvest on Peary Caribou from northwest Victoria Island to help ensure that only Dolphin and Union Caribou were harvested from southwest Victoria Island.

Polar Bear

Ursus maritimus

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Special Concern - 2008	Special Concern - 2011
NWT	Special Concern - 2012	Special Concern - 2014

Translucent hairs (sunlight partially goes through them) make Polar Bear fur appear white or off-white. Polar Bears have no shoulder hump and they have shorter claws and a longer neck than Grizzly Bears.

Weight: Females, less than 350 kg (770 lb)
Males, up to 800 kg (1750 lb)

Report Polar Bear sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

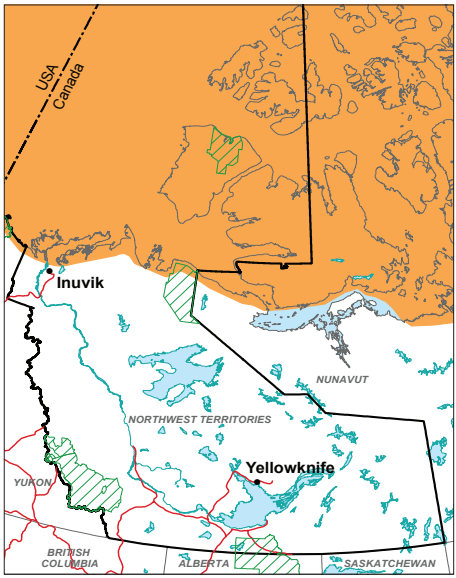
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Overall reductions in the amount of summer sea ice available, and changes in the timing of break-up and freeze-up due to climate warming, may change availability of their main prey, seals.
- Environmental contaminants (mainly organochlorines) and marine oil spills.
- Non-renewable resource exploration and development that disturb bears in maternity dens can result in premature abandonment and increased chances of mortality in cubs.

Gordon Court

Typical Habitat

- Habitat closely linked to density and distribution of seals, and to the distribution of annual ice in the winter.
- Bears generally follow the retreating ice in the summer but information on habitat use for offshore areas is limited to information from bears collared from inshore areas.
- Maternal denning sites generally located on land in snowdrifts near the coast but have also been found on sea ice.



Polar Bear

National Parks

The NWT shares three Polar Bear sub-populations with neighbouring jurisdictions: Southern Beaufort Sea, Northern Beaufort Sea and Viscount Melville Sound. Recent scientific research suggests the Southern Beaufort Sea sub-population is likely declining, while the Northern Beaufort is considered stable. The Viscount Melville sub-population is being harvested with the management goal of population growth. Polar Bear sub-population data is out-dated in that area and is being updated.

Did you know?

- Polar Bears are sensitive to population declines because they only breed every three years, have small litters, and take a long time to reach maturity.
- Polar Bear skin is black, which helps them retain heat from the sun.
- In the NWT, Polar Bear hunting is strictly managed through a quota system recommended by the wildlife co-management boards.

Wolverine

Gulo gulo

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Western Population)	Special Concern - 2003	No status
NWT	Not assessed	No status

The Wolverine resembles a small, stocky bear. Colour varies from brown to black, often with a pale facial mask and yellowish or tan stripes running along its sides from the shoulders and crossing at the tail.

Weight: Females, 7.5 to 11 kg (16 to 24 lb)
Males, 12 to 16 kg (26 to 35 lb)

Report Wolverine sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Human development or activities, even if these disturbances are a considerable distance from the core range of a Wolverine.
- Disturbances to denning areas.
- Human-caused mortalities due to conflicts.

GNWT / R. Gau, ENR

Typical Habitat

- Wide variety of habitats, from the boreal forest to alpine tundra and barrenlands.
- Can travel long distances and require large wilderness areas with adequate year-round food supplies.

Wolverine
Areas of Increased Presence
National Parks

Wolverine population densities are low but stable in the NWT. They are sensitive to population declines because they only breed every two years, have small litters, and kits can have high mortality rates.

Did you know?

- Wolverine fur is resistant to frost and ice and therefore highly valued for parka trim.
- They have large paws that help them move easily on top of crusted snow.
- They have strong jaws that allow them to crush bones and frozen food.
- A Wolverine was harvested in 2012 near Sachs Harbour. It was the first Wolverine recorded on Banks Island in about 50 years.

Wood Bison

Bison bison athabascae

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Special Concern - 2013	Threatened - 2003
NWT	Not assessed	No status

Wood Bison are the largest land mammals in North America. They are dark brown and have a massive head, a distinct beard, a shoulder hump and curved horns.

Weight: Females, 500 to 550 kg (1100 to 1200 lb)
Males, 650 to 1080 kg (1430 to 2400 lb)
Height at shoulder: 1.5 to 2.0 m (4 to 6 ft)

Report Wood Bison sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Diseases including anthrax, brucellosis and tuberculosis.
- Expanding agriculture and forestry and collisions with traffic.
- Spring floods and falling through thin ice.
- Limited genetic diversity in disease-free populations due to small number of animals initially introduced into those areas.

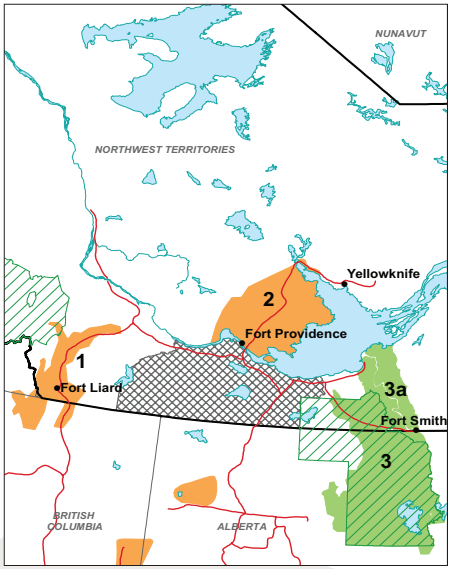
GNWT / T. Armstrong, ENR

Typical Habitat

- Slave River Lowlands and Mackenzie: willow savannas with grasses and sedges.
- Liard River drainage: meadows and oxbows with sedges and horsetails.

Populations:

1 – Nahanni
2 – Mackenzie
3 – Greater Wood Buffalo National Park
3a – Slave River Lowlands



Wood Bison
Wood Bison (diseased)
Bison Control Area
National Parks

Once on the verge of extinction due to over-hunting and disease, Wood Bison now occur in the NWT in three free-ranging herds. The Greater Wood Buffalo National Park population, which includes bison in the Slave River Lowlands, is infected with bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. The Mackenzie and Nahanni populations are free of these diseases. A Bison Control Area was created to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis to the Mackenzie and Nahanni populations. All bison in the control area are presumed to be disease carriers and are therefore removed. Goals and direction for Wood Bison management in the NWT have been outlined in the *Wood Bison Management Strategy for the NWT: 2010-2020.*

Did you know?

- In 2013 COSEWIC assessed Wood Bison as Special Concern. Wood Bison previously had a status of Threatened (in 2000 and 1988) and Endangered (in 1978).
- The Mackenzie population declined from about 1,500 bison in 2012 to about 700 bison in 2013, due primarily to an anthrax outbreak in the summer of 2012.
- The Nahanni population is stable at about 400 animals.
- The Slave River Lowlands population seems to be reversing a lengthy decline and has about 1,700 bison on the east and west sides of the Slave River outside of Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada. There is a large and relatively stable population of bison within the park.

Bank Swallow

Riparia riparia

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Threatened - 2013	Under Consideration
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Bank Swallow is a small slender songbird that feeds on flying insects. It can be recognized by its small head, thin wings and long, slender, notched tail. It has pale brown upper-parts and rump, white under-parts and throat, and a well-defined dark band across its chest. Males and females have similar plumage.

Weight: 11.3 to 19.8 g (0.4 to 0.7 oz)
Length: 11.9 to 14.0 cm (4.7 to 5.5 in)

Report Bank Swallow sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Nests located at sand/gravel mounds or aggregate quarries can be destroyed if material extraction at these sites occurs during the nesting season.
- Large-scale decline or some other change in insect populations.
- Direct and indirect mortality due to weather events (cold snaps) on their breeding grounds.

Kevin Kardynal

Typical Habitat

- Nests on artificial and natural sites with vertical sand-silt banks such as riverbanks, lake and ocean bluffs, sand/gravel mounds, aggregate quarries and road cuts. A burrow is dug into the side of these sites that leads to a nest chamber.
- Breeds near open habitats such as grasslands and meadows where they search for flying insects from the air.

Bank Swallow
National Parks

The Bank Swallow is a very widespread species of swallow that is found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. It is found breeding in colonies in the northern two-thirds of the United States and north to the treeline of Canada. It winters mainly in South America. Like many other species of birds that feed on flying insects, the Bank Swallow has seen a decline of 98% of its Canadian population in the last 40 years. A 31% decline was estimated over a ten-year period (2001-2011). The cause of the severe declines is not fully understood but it could be the impact of multiple threats or cumulative effects.

Did you know?

- Bank Swallows are very social birds and are often found with other birds when away from the nest.
- Male Bank Swallows dig burrows leading to underground nest chambers using their small beak, feet and wings. The male digs the burrow before he has a mate and then the female chooses a mate and nest by hovering in front of the burrows.
- Nest burrows are 63 cm (25 in) deep on average and are generally dug straight into the side of the bank (parallel to the ground).
- Females build the nest by making a mat of straw, grasses, leaves and roots torn from the exposed bank.
- Bank Swallows nest in colonies ranging from 10 nests to nearly 2,000 nests.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Threatened - 2011	Under consideration
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Barn Swallow is a small bird easily recognized by its steely-blue upper-parts, cinnamon under-parts, chestnut throat and forehead, and deeply forked tail. Both sexes have similar plumage, but males have longer outer tail streamers than females and tend to be darker chestnut on their under-parts.

Weight: 17 to 20 g (0.6 to 0.7 oz)
Length: 15 to 18 cm (5.9 to 7.1 in)

Report Barn Swallow sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

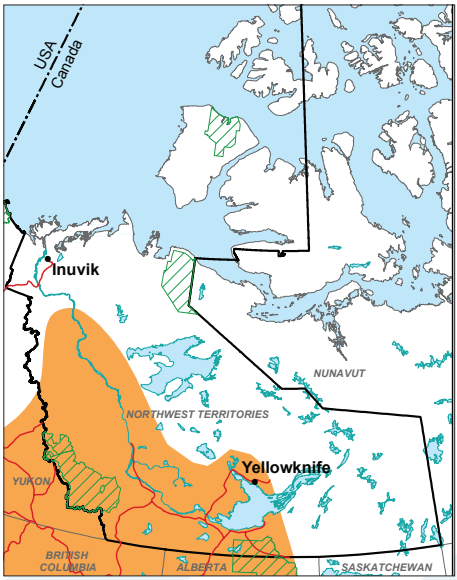
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Large-scale decline or some other change in insect populations.
- Direct and indirect mortality due to weather events (cold snaps) on their breeding grounds.
- In southern ranges, loss of nesting and foraging habitat due to changes in farming practices.

Gordon Court

Typical Habitat

- Nests in man-made features such as buildings, garages, barns, bridges and road culverts, as well as natural habitats such as caves, and crevices in cliff faces.
- Forages over open habitats such as wetlands, lake and river shorelines.



Barn Swallow
National Parks

The Barn Swallow is the most widespread species of swallow in the world and is found on every continent except Antarctica. It breeds across much of North America and winters throughout Central and South America. In Canada, it breeds in all provinces and territories except Nunavut. Like many other species of birds that feed on flying insects, the Barn Swallow has experienced declines of about 76% since the 1970s, but the reasons for the declines are not well understood.

Did you know?

- Barn Swallow nests are primarily made of mud, often mixed with grasses and stems, which they collect in their beak and attach to a ledge or vertical surface. They often return to the same nesting site and may even reuse an old nest from previous years.
- Barn Swallows prefer to nest in man-made structures. It is estimated that only about 1% of Barn Swallows in Canada currently use natural nesting sites.
- Barn Swallows can be easily distinguished from other swallows by their deeply forked tail with long outer tail streamers.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Special Concern - 2012**	Under consideration
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a medium-sized sandpiper. Its head appears small relative to its body, and it has a short black bill and bright yellow-ochre (green-brown) or yellow-orange legs. Its neck appears long because of its small head and upright posture. It has a "buff" (pale peach or yellowy-tan) coloured breast and a mottled, dark brown and buff back that looks "scaly" because of the strong tone variation between these two colours.

Weight: 46 to 78 g (1.6 to 2.8 oz)
Length: 18 to 20 cm (7.1 to 7.8 in)

Report Buff-breasted Sandpiper sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Breeding habitat degradation from threats like climate change and industrial development.
- Direct disturbance at nest sites from resource exploration and development.

Charles Francis

Typical Habitat

- Habitat use varies throughout the breeding season on the tundra.
- Breeding displays usually start on dry, unvegetated, snow-free areas and move to moister grass and sedge meadows as the season progresses.
- Nests are typically in sedge patches near dry display areas and close to water sources, or in wetlands near large waterbodies or rivers.
- Foraging is usually on sparsely vegetated areas, especially along the banks of streams and rivers.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper
National Parks

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a shorebird that breeds in the central Canadian arctic, including Banks Island and western Victoria Island in the NWT. Historically there were many Buff-breasted Sandpipers, but extensive market hunting in the early 1900s caused a drastic decrease in population size. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper currently has a relatively small population size (compared to other species of shorebirds in the arctic) and is suspected to be in further population decline because of changes to its migration stopover sites (from native grassland to agricultural land). It winters in the pampas (grassland plains) of South America.

Did you know?

- The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a polygamous species. This means one male courts and breeds with several females.
- The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is the only North American shorebird with a lek mating system. A lek is when several males gather to perform competitive displays which entice females to come watch and check out potential mates.
- While most male shorebirds stop displaying once nests are established and the breeding season progresses, Buff-breasted Sandpiper males display to females already on established nests, and even while on migration.

For the most current species information, visit: sararegistry.gc.ca

Canada Warbler

Wilsonia canadensis

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Threatened - 2008**	**Threatened - 2010**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Canada Warbler is a small brightly coloured songbird with bluish grey upper-parts and yellow under-parts. A series of patterned black spots form a "necklace" on its bright yellow breast, but tends to be greyer and less defined in females. Other features such as the white eye ring, thin pointed bill and white feathers at the base of the tail help to distinguish this bird from similar species.

Weight: 9 to 13 g (0.3 to 0.5 oz)
Length: 12 to 15 cm (4.7 to 5.9 in)

Report Canada Warbler sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

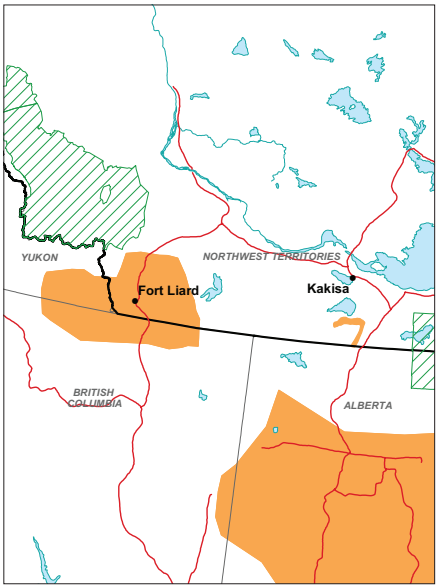
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Loss and degradation of breeding habitat.
- Human activity and declining food sources in the boreal forest.

Mike McEvoy

Typical Habitat

- Moist deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous boreal forest with a well developed shrub layer, often on steep slopes.



Canada Warbler
National Parks

Canada Warblers have been found nesting in the southern NWT (from north of Fort Liard to Kakisa). They arrive in the NWT from late-May to early-June. The females lay four to five eggs and incubate them for 12 days. They leave the NWT from late-July to early-August for wintering grounds in South America. They eat flying insects and spiders captured in flight or collected on the ground. The Canada Warbler population has declined by 85% over the last 40 years in Canada but the reasons for decline remain unidentified. Loss of forest on the wintering grounds in South America may be contributing to population declines.

Did you know?

- The Canada Warbler is one of the last warblers to arrive in the NWT in the spring and one of the first to leave in the fall.
- This warbler received its name from its discovery in Canada, where the majority of its breeding range occurs.
- A group of warblers has many collective nouns, including a "bouquet", "confusion", "fall" and "wrench" of warblers.
- Brown-headed Cowbirds are known to lay their eggs in nests of Canada Warblers who then incubate and raise their young.

Common Nighthawk

Chordeiles minor

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Threatened – 2007**	**Threatened – 2010**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Common Nighthawk is a medium-sized bird, with dark brown plumage mottled with black, white and buff. It has long, slender, pointed wings and a long slightly notched tail. The head is large and flat, with large eyes, a small bill and a wide mouth. In flight, a white patch can be seen on the wings of the adults.

Weight: 65 to 98 g (2 to 3.5 oz)
Length: 21 to 25 cm (8 to 10 in)

Report Common Nighthawk sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Collisions with motor vehicles and aircraft.
- Human activities resulting in increased numbers of predators (cats, foxes, ravens and gulls).
- Reductions in insect prey due to pesticide use on their southern breeding and wintering grounds.

Jason Duxbury

Typical Habitat

- Nests in a variety of habitats such as sand dunes and beaches, open forests, forest clearings (including recently logged or burned areas), rocky outcrops, peat bogs, marshes, lakeshores, river banks, gravel areas (roads, quarries and flat gravel-covered roofs) and airports.

Common Nighthawk
National Parks

Common Nighthawks arrive in the NWT to breed in mid-May to early June. They lay two eggs directly on the soil, sand, gravel or bare rock. Chicks stay in the nest area for about three weeks and are primarily fed by the male. Fall migration to wintering areas in South America occurs from mid-August to mid-September. Many areas outside of the NWT have reported significant declines in the numbers of Common Nighthawks for reasons that are unknown.

Did you know?

- Common Nighthawks can be recognized by their loud, nasal *"peent"* calls and erratic, almost bat-like flight. They actively pursue flying insects at dusk and dawn, often feeding on insects attracted to lights and insects swarming over bodies of water.
- Common Nighthawks are crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Females can be distinguished from males by their throat band, which is pale yellow rather than white. The throat band on juveniles is mottled or absent.

Eskimo Curlew

Numenius borealis

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Endangered – 2009**	**Endangered – 2003**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Eskimo Curlew is a mottled brownish shorebird with long legs and a long, thin, slightly down-curving bill. It can be confused with its close relative, the Whimbrel, but is smaller (the size of a pigeon), has no barring or "stripes" on the under-wing feathers and its central head stripe is not as wide or well defined.

Weight: 270 to 454 g (9.5 to 16.0 oz)
Length: 32 to 37 cm (13 to 15 in)

Report Eskimo Curlew sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Unknown.

Don Bleitz

Typical Habitat

- Known breeding habitat consisted of upland tundra, dwarf shrub and grass tundra, and grassy meadow habitat.

Eskimo Curlew (historical range)

National Parks

Eskimo Curlews once nested abundantly in the barrens of the NWT. During fall migration, huge flocks flew to the Atlantic coast and then non-stop to Argentina. Spring migration was through Texas and the mid-western states, with some birds found in the Canadian Prairies. Eskimo Curlews were hunted to near extinction during the 19th century.

Did you know?

- The Eskimo Curlew has been near extinction for much of the last century. There have been unconfirmed sightings in the NWT but the last confirmed sighting was in 1963.
- There has been no evidence of nesting since 1866.
- A species can be classified as extinct if 50 years have passed since the last credible record, there is no remaining habitat, or there is information to confirm extinction.
- Scientists have determined that recovery of this species is not feasible at this time.
- The Eskimo Curlew had only two known breeding locations, both in the NWT: at the base of Bathurst Peninsula in the Anderson River area, and in the region of Amundsen Gulf-Coronation Gulf-Coppermine River.

For the most current species information, visit: sararegistry.gc.ca

Horned Grebe

Podiceps auritus

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Western Population)	Special concern - 2009	Under Consideration
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Horned Grebe is a small waterbird with a short, straight bill with a pale tip. Its breeding plumage includes a distinctive patch of bright buff feathers behind the eye ("horns") and extending back to the nape of the neck and contrasting sharply with its black head. The foreneck, flanks and upper breast are chestnut-red, while its back is black and belly white. This plumage is shared by both sexes.

Weight: 300 to 570 g (10.6 to 20.1 oz)
Length: 15 to 18 cm (5.9 to 7.1 in)

Report Horned Grebe sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Increases in nest predators such as crows, ravens, magpies and various gulls, mink and foxes.
- Predation on chicks by Northern Pike and gulls.
- Climate change may cause loss of wetlands due to drought or changes in water quality.

Anthony Levesque

Typical Habitat

- Small ponds, marshes and wetlands, either natural or man-made.
- Build floating nests in shallow water, among willow, cattails or other plants for protection from predators and shelter from strong waves.

Horned Grebe

National Parks

Horned Grebes arrive in the NWT in May. They lay five to seven eggs that hatch in mid-June and July. Adults leave the NWT by mid-August and young leave by early September. They winter along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America. They eat aquatic insects, small fish and crustaceans. Horned Grebe numbers have declined in their wintering areas but similar declines have not been observed in the NWT.

Did you know?

- Once hatched, chicks are almost immediately able to swim and dive underwater. However, during the first few weeks they often ride on the backs of their parents and can even go underwater with them during dives.
- Horned Grebes are known for eating their own feathers and even feed feathers to young chicks to aid in digestion.
- Horned Grebes spend all of their life stages associated with water, so they are thought to be a good indicator of the health of a particular wetland ecosystem.

Ivory Gull

Pagophila eburnea

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Endangered – 2006**	**Endangered – 2009**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Ivory Gull is a medium-sized gull that can be identified by its pure white plumage and black legs.

Weight: 448 to 687 g (16 to 24 oz)
Length: 40 to 49 cm (16 to 19 in)

Report Ivory Gull sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

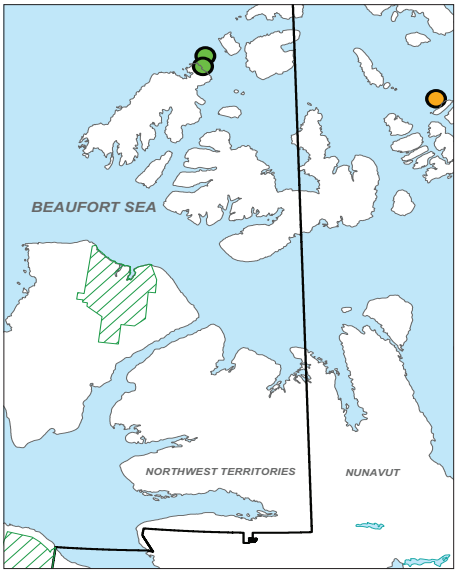
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Disturbance and pollution at marine feeding and resting areas.
- Contaminants affecting the food they eat.
- Degradation of marine feeding areas as a result of climate change.
- Human disturbance at colonies.
- Human activities resulting in increased numbers of predators (foxes, ravens and other gulls) near colonies.

Grant Gilchrist

Typical Habitat

- Pack ice or in areas of open water surrounded by ice (polynyas).
- Uncommon migrant in the Beaufort Sea and may winter in the offshore leads (fractures in the sea ice exposing open water) in some years.



Ivory Gull Colonies
Ivory Gull Historic Colonies
National Parks

Ivory Gulls are found across northern Canada, Greenland and the western European arctic year-round. From September to May they winter in Davis Strait, Nunavut, along the southern edge of the pack ice. They move to the high arctic in late May and then into their nesting colonies in June. Colony size ranges from a few to 200 pairs and they lay one to three eggs. Ivory Gull populations have declined by more than 70% since the 1980s and this decline may be attributed to illegal harvest in Greenland, high levels of certain contaminants in their foods, and degradation of ice-related feeding areas as a result of climate change. A proposed recovery strategy for Ivory Gulls was posted in 2013.

Did you know?

- In Canada, Ivory Gulls currently only nest in Nunavut on windswept plateaus, ice-choked islands, or on steep cliffs of mountains protruding from glaciers. They once nested on Prince Patrick Island in the Northwest Territories, but this site has been abandoned since its initial discovery in the 1800s.
- Large expanses of the western arctic are apparently unsuitable for nesting Ivory Gulls because there is no ice-free ocean regularly available when the birds arrive to breed. Furthermore, the flat vegetated landscape of these islands supports predators of the Ivory Gull, such as foxes.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Threatened - 2007	Threatened - 2010
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Olive-sided Flycatcher is a deep olive-grey with a white breast and belly. The dark patches on either side of its white belly look like an unbuttoned vest. Its bill is short and stout, the top bill is dark and the bottom one is light with a black tip.

Weight: 32 to 37 g (1.1 to 1.3 oz)
Length: 18 to 20 cm (7 to 9 in)

Report Olive-sided Flycatcher sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Threats may be more applicable to their southern breeding range and wintering range.
- Threats in the NWT are uncertain.

Tim Zurowski

Typical Habitat

- Within the boreal forest, typically near open areas containing tall trees or snags for perching.
- Young forest after a forest fire or clear-cut.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

National Parks

The Olive-sided Flycatcher arrives in the NWT in late May and early June. Females incubate 3 to 4 eggs for about 15 days. The Olive-sided Flycatcher leaves the NWT in late July to early August and winters in South and Central America. It eats flying insects. Although the reasons are unclear, many areas outside the north have reported significant declines in the numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers.

Did you know?

- The Olive-sided Flycatcher perches on tall trees or snags and wait for insects to fly by before pursuing its prey.
- It has a loud song that sounds like *"quick, THREE BEERS".*
- Females will also sing when agitated or when close to their nest.

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (*anatum/tundrius* complex)	Special Concern - 2007	Special Concern - 2012
NWT	Not assessed	No status

The Peregrine Falcon is a dark-coloured crow-sized bird with long pointed wings, black cheek patches and a dark "cap" on its head.

Weight: Females, 760 to 1200 g (27 to 42 oz)
Males, 600 to 800 g (21 to 28 oz)
Length: 35 to 55 cm (14 to 22 in)

Report Peregrine Falcon sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Human disturbance at nest sites.
- Increased development along the Mackenzie River, as well as resource exploration or development in other areas.
- Other threats include poaching of eggs for falconry, declining songbird or seabird prey populations, and susceptibility to DDT and organochlorine pesticide contamination.

Gordon Court

Typical Habitat

- Sheltered ledges or crevices in cliffs, near water and good foraging areas with a high abundance of small mammals and birds.

Peregrine Falcon
National Parks

Peregrine Falcon populations suffered a serious decline in the 1970s due to the wide-spread use of DDT as a pesticide. Reduction in DDT use worldwide and active recovery efforts have helped the species recover. Since the 1970s, populations in Canada have shown continuing increases up to near historical numbers.

Did you know?

- The *anatum* (forest) subspecies of Peregrine Falcon was previously listed as Threatened in Canada. In 2007 COSEWIC assessed the *anatum* and *tundrius* (tundra) subspecies together as one complex. In 2012 the complex was downlisted to Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
- Peregrine Falcons can reach speeds of more than 320 kph (200 mph) when diving for their prey.

Red Knot

islandica subspecies

Calidris canutus islandica

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Special Concern - 2007**	**Special Concern - 2012**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Red Knot is a medium-sized shorebird with a small head, straight black bill (tapering from thick base to thinner tip) and long tapered wings giving an elongated streamlined profile to the body. Red Knots in breeding plumage have a red face, breast and belly. The *islandica* Red Knots have more vivid breeding colours than the *rufa* subspecies of Red Knot.

Weight: 135 g (5 oz)
Length: 23 to 25 cm (9 to 10 in)

Report Red Knot sightings to ebird.org or NWTchecklist@ec.gc.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Breeding habitat degradation from threats like climate change and industrial development.
- Direct disturbance at nest sites from resource exploration and development.

Jennie Rausch

Typical Habitat

- Dry vegetated and barren habitats in the arctic such as windswept ridges, slopes or plateaus.
- Nests usually placed in a small patch of vegetation within about 500 m (1,640 ft) of a pond, wetland or waterbody.

Red Knot (*islandica* and *rufa* subspecies)

National Parks

The Red Knot *islandica* subspecies is one of two subspecies of Red Knot known to breed in the NWT. The *islandica* subspecies breeds on the high arctic islands north of Banks Island and winters in northwest Europe. Both subspecies of knots lay three or four eggs in the last half of June and the chicks hatch in mid-July. The Red Knot *islandica* subspecies population has declined since the 1980s due to a decrease in their food source on their wintering grounds.

Did you know?

- Nests are extremely hard to find because knots are well camouflaged and do not leave the nest, even when approached.
- To prepare for migration to their breeding grounds, Red Knots increase the size of the parts of their body used for flying (heart and flight muscles) and decrease the size of the parts not used for flight (digestive system). Once they arrive on their breeding grounds, their reproductive organs increase in size and their heart and flight muscles decrease to normal size.

Red Knot

***rufa* subspecies**

Calidris canutus rufa

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Endangered - 2007**	**Endangered - 2012**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Red Knot is a medium-sized shorebird with a small head, straight black bill (tapering from thick base to thinner tip) and long tapered wings giving an elongated streamlined profile to the body. Red Knots in breeding plumage have a red face, breast and belly. The *rufa* Red Knot breeding plumage is more pale and 'washed out' than the *islandica* subspecies.

Weight: 135 g (5 oz)
Length: 23 to 25 cm (9 to 10 in)

Report Red Knot sightings to ebird.org or NWTchecklist@ec.gc.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Breeding habitat degradation from threats like climate change and industrial development.
- Direct disturbance at nest sites from resource exploration and development.

Jim Richards

Typical Habitat

- Dry vegetated and barren habitats in the arctic such as windswept ridges, slopes or plateaus.
- Nests usually placed in a small patch of vegetation within about 500 m (1,640 ft) of a pond, wetland or waterbody.

Red Knot (*islandica* and *rufa* subspecies)

National Parks

The Red Knot *rufa* subspecies is one of two Red Knot subspecies known to breed in the NWT. The *rufa* subspecies breeds in the central Canadian arctic, potentially including Banks and western Victoria Islands in the NWT, and winters in southern Chile and Argentina. Both subspecies of knots lay three or four eggs in the middle of June and the chicks hatch in early to mid-July. The Red Knot *rufa* subspecies population has dramatically declined since the 1980s due to a decrease in their primary food source on their migration route.

Did you know?

- Delaware Bay in New Jersey, U.S.A. is a critical northward migration stopover for *rufa* Red Knots. Their migration is timed to coincide with the spawning of Horseshoe Crabs.
- Horseshoe Crab eggs are a very important food source for migrating *rufa* Red Knots because the eggs, unlike any other food resource, are immediately metabolized into fat. The birds must double their weight at Delaware Bay to successfully continue their northward migration to the breeding grounds.
- There is a third subspecies of Red Knot called *roselaari* that is federally listed as Threatened and may also breed in the NWT. Work is underway to confirm whether *roselaari* occurs in the NWT.

Rusty Blackbird

Euphagus carolinus

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Special Concern - 2006	Special Concern - 2009
NWT	Not assessed	No status

Rusty Blackbirds are medium-sized forest birds. During the breeding season (May to July), males are uniformly black with a faint greenish gloss on the body. Females are slate grey without gloss. In fall and winter, males and females show rusty brown feathers on the head, back and chest.

Weight: 45 to 80 g (1.6 to 2.8 oz)
Length: 21 to 25 cm (8.2 to 9.8 in)

Report Rusty Blackbird sightings to ebird.org or NWTchecklist@ec.gc.ca

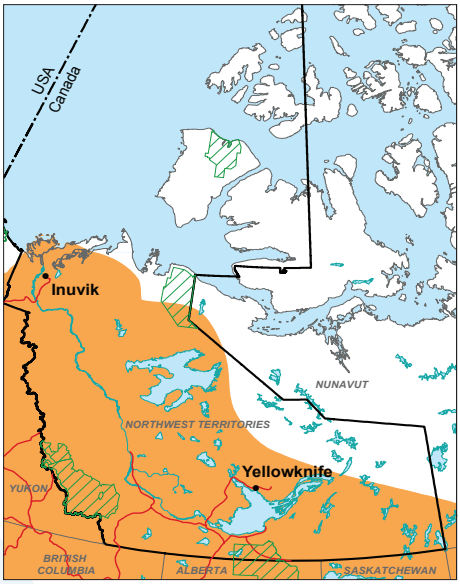
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Threats on their winter range in the U.S. are thought to include bird control programs and conversion of wintering grounds to agricultural lands.
- Threats in the NWT are uncertain.

Samuel Denault

Typical Habitat

- Throughout the boreal forest, in wetland areas during spring, summer and fall.
- Typically congregate into flocks in the fall and migrate to the south and east-central United States.
- Breed near open water in treed wetlands (bogs, fens and swamps) often in loose colonies.



Rusty Blackbird

National Parks

Rusty Blackbirds live in the boreal forest of the NWT from early May to mid-October. There has been a 90% reduction in the number of Rusty Blackbirds in North America over the last 30 years. Declines in the NWT may be less severe than other areas due to the relative intactness of their habitat.

Did you know?

- Rusty Blackbirds rely almost exclusively on aquatic insects and larvae for food.
- Rusty Blackbird is one of the few bird species requiring wooded wetlands in both summer and winter.
- None of the species of blackbirds are protected by the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* because they were considered pest species when the Act was first passed in 1917. In the NWT, they are protected under the *Wildlife Act*.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Special Concern - 2008	Special Concern - 2012
NWT	Not assessed	No status

Short-eared Owls have small "ear tufts" and black bands that frame their yellow eyes. Females are slightly larger and darker than males and have heavier streaking.

Weight: Females, 284 to 475 g (10.0 to 16.8 oz)
Males, 206 to 363 g (7.3 to 12.8 oz)
Length: 34 to 42 cm (13.3 to 16.4 in)

Report Short-eared Owl sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Limited threats in the NWT.
- Human disturbances during nesting, often resulting in the nest being deserted.

Doug Dance

Typical Habitat

- In summer, nests on the ground in grasslands, tundra, bogs, marshes and other open (non-forested) areas.
- Areas with abundant small mammals to eat (will move around as small mammal populations fluctuate).

Short-eared Owl

National Parks

Short-eared Owls likely arrive in the NWT in April or May. They lay an average of seven eggs by mid-June and the owlets hatch in early July. Short-eared Owls probably leave the NWT by late October. It is uncertain where owls from the NWT spend the winter. Short-eared Owls have suffered significant declines in western Canada since the 1960s, but recent information suggests current numbers may be stable.

Did you know?

- One of the best ways to identify a Short-eared Owl is to watch its distinct moth-like flight when hunting (deep wing-beats, occasional hovering, and cutting low over patches of grassland or marsh).
- Short-eared Owls are the only owls that build their own nests.
- They typically search for food at dawn and dusk.

Whooping Crane

Grus americana

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Endangered – 2010**	**Endangered – 2003**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

Measuring an impressive 1.5 m (5 ft), Whooping Cranes are the tallest birds in North America. They have a white body with a red and black head and black-tipped wings.

Weight: 6.4 to 7.3 kg (14 to 16 lb)
Height: 1.5 m (5 ft)

Report Whooping Crane sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

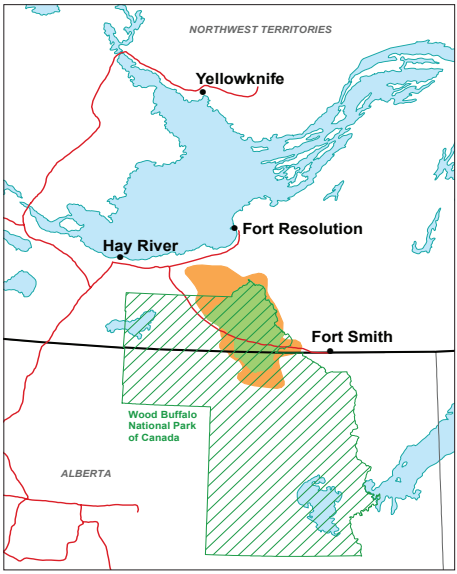
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Habitat loss and degradation.
- Disturbance on breeding grounds (aircraft flights, human foot traffic and ATV traffic).
- Accidental shooting.
- Predators on breeding grounds (black bear, wolverine, grey wolf, red fox, mink, lynx and Common Raven).
- Collisions with power lines.

Brian Johns

Typical Habitat

- Nest in shallow ponds that contain bulrush or sedge, and that are separated by narrow forested ridges in and around the north-east corner of Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada.
- The first species at risk in the NWT with critical habitat (meaning the habitat needed for survival or recovery) identified and protected under the federal *Species at Risk Act* in Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada.
- Non-breeding Whooping Cranes use a much wider area for several years before breeding in and around Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada.



Whooping Crane
Whooping Crane Critical Habitat
National Parks

Whooping Cranes winter in southern Texas and arrive on their breeding grounds in the NWT in April and May. During fall migration, they spend up to a month in Saskatchewan. Whooping Cranes usually lay two eggs in a nest consisting of a pile of vegetation in shallow water. Usually only one of the chicks survives to fly south in September. Whooping Cranes eat small fish, amphibians and other animals, insects, roots, berries and grain. They almost went extinct in the 1940s due to habitat loss in their prairie breeding grounds and overharvesting by settlers.

Did you know?

- Whooping Cranes are able to fly non-stop for up to 10 hours, covering distances of 750 km (466 mi).
- From 21 cranes in the early 1940s, the more than 500 Whooping Cranes in North America today are descendants of only three family lines.
- The population that nests in and around Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada is the only natural wild breeding population in the world. The population is around 300 birds.

For the most current species information, visit: sararegistry.gc.ca

Yellow Rail

Coturnicops noveboracensis

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Special Concern - 2009	Special Concern - 2003
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Yellow Rail is a small bird with a short tail, short bill and buffy plumage. The wide dark stripes on its back are crossed by white bars. The white wing patch, which is visible in flight, helps distinguish Yellow Rails from other similar marsh birds.

Weight: Males, 60 g (2 oz)
Length: 15 to 19 cm (5.9 to 7.5 in)

Report Yellow Rail sightings to ebird.org or NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca

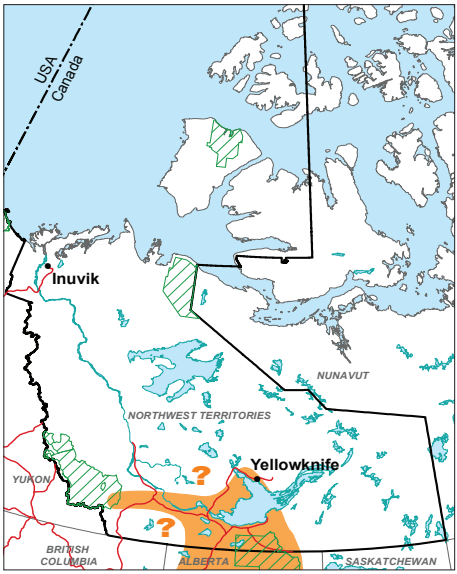
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Habitat loss and degradation from human activities.
- Collisions with towers and other structures during migration.
- Human activities resulting in increased numbers of predators (foxes and ravens).

Jaques Brisson

Typical Habitat

- Nests in marshes dominated by sedges and grasses, wet meadows, and shrubby wetlands.
- Nesting areas have little or no standing water (generally 0 to 12 cm or 0 to 5 in) and the ground is saturated with water throughout the summer.
- Suitable habitat exists outside the known range in the NWT, but the presence of Yellow Rail has not been confirmed in these areas.



Yellow Rail
National Parks

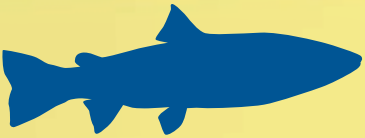
Yellow Rails breed in Canada and the northern United States and winter on the East and Gulf coasts of the United States. They likely arrive in the NWT in the latter part of May and nesting occurs in June and possibly July. Females lay seven to ten eggs on nests built on or just above the ground that are concealed with a canopy of dead vegetation. Habitat loss, especially on their wintering grounds, has particularly affected Yellow Rails.

Did you know?

- Yellow Rails are rarely seen. They expertly hide in the dense marsh vegetation, aided by their camouflaged plumage.
- The diet of Yellow Rails is mainly invertebrates and seeds.
- The unique call of the Yellow Rail is a rapid series of five monotonous and metallic ticks (or clicks) sounding like two pebbles or coins tapped together: *tick-tick, tick-tick-tick*. Calling can mainly be heard during the hours from dusk to dawn, and the sound can carry for up to a kilometer away.

Bull Trout

Salvelinus confluentus



	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Western Arctic population)	**Special Concern - 2012**	Under Consideration
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

Bull Trout has a long and slender body, a large broad head with a prominent upper jaw, and a slightly forked tail fin. Its back is olive-green to blue-grey and its sides are silvery with small pink, lilac, yellow-orange or red spots. Its belly is pale coloured and may become yellow, orange or red in males during spawning. Pelvic and anal fins have white leading edges with no black line.

Length varies based upon its life history (see *Did you know?*):
Resident, 250 to 410 mm.
Fluvial, 400 to 730 mm.
Adfluvial, 400 to 900 mm.

Report Bull Trout sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Poor habitat quality and fragmentation due to industrial activities and infrastructure projects.
- Although overlap in distribution is minimal in the NWT, Bull Trout are difficult to distinguish from other char and trout that are commercially fished.

DFO / Jeremy Stewart

Typical Habitat

- Widely distributed, but in low abundance, throughout much of southern (Dehcho) and central (Sahtu) NWT in drainages west of the Mackenzie River. The northernmost location known is the Gayna River.
- Spawning occurs in the fall in water temperatures below 10°C in clean flowing streams over cobble or loose gravel. These areas are typically associated with groundwater sources.

Bull Trout (Western Arctic Population)

National Parks

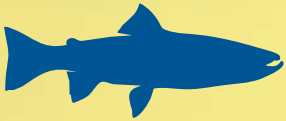
Bull Trout is a member of the trout and salmon family. In Canada, it is found in British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and the NWT. Bull Trout is a coldwater species found in lakes, streams and rivers from sea level to mountainous areas. Its habitat is described best as cold, clean, complex and connected. It feeds on a wide variety of items including other fish. Typical maximum age of Bull Trout is unknown, but specimens have been recorded up to 24 years old.

Did you know?

- There are four types of life history strategies used by Bull Trout. The resident form is isolated and spends its life in small rivers or streams. The fluvial form lives in small rivers and streams, migrating between spawning streams and larger streams. The adfluvial form is similar, but matures in lakes rather than streams and rivers. The anadromous form is found only in southwestern British Columbia and Washington, and migrates from spawning freshwater streams to the sea.
- The female digs her nest (redd) accompanied by a dominant male who defends her eggs from other males. Some males termed “sneakers” are able to mimic females, allowing them to approach close enough to fertilize some of the eggs.

Dolly Varden

Salvelinus malma malma



	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Western Arctic population)	**Special Concern - 2010**	Under consideration
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

Dolly Varden exhibit a typical salmonoid body shape with large eyes below the top of a round, medium-sized head. Juveniles are coloured brown with a whitish belly, with small red spots and rectangular marks on their sides and back. Adults have small, pale pink or red spots, with surrounding bluish halos. Spawning sea-run males are brightly coloured and develop a hook on the lower jaw, while females, non-spawners and freshwater males are more muted in colour.

Length: Anadromous forms, over 350 mm (13.8 in)
Freshwater forms, less than 300 mm (11.8 in)

Report Dolly Varden sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

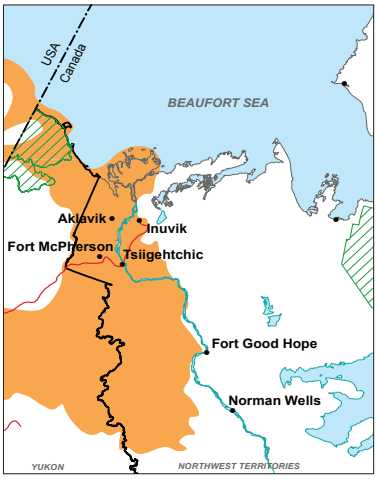
- Drier and warmer conditions due to climate change could lead to lower water levels and reduced groundwater flows, which could impact spawning and overwintering habitat.
- Other threats may include over-fishing pressures, offshore developments that restrict migrations, and land-based developments that impact freshwater and water quality.

Female

Male

Typical Habitat

- Anadromous and freshwater forms spawn and overwinter in freshwater springs where good oxygen and temperature levels provide high quality habitat for survival and egg incubation.
- Gwich'in knowledge indicates that spawning habitat requires relatively warm water, a fast current, and plenty of shoreline cover and vegetation with abundant insect larvae available for food.
- Anadromous Dolly Varden migrate to the sea to feed for the summer and return in the fall to freshwater wintering grounds.



Dolly Varden belong to the same family as trout and salmon. Some individuals may be anadromous (use both sea water and freshwater during their life) or freshwater only. In North America, the Western Arctic Population ranges from Alaska, east along the North Slope of the Yukon Territory, and east to the Mackenzie River.

Did you know?

- Cross-breeding between forms is not uncommon. Some freshwater males live alongside anadromous fish in the fall and winter and reproduce by "sneaking" into redds (egg laying sites) to spawn with anadromous females.

Northern Wolffish

Anarhichas denticulatus

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Threatened – 2012**	**Threatened – 2003**
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Northern Wolffish is a medium-to-large marine fish with protruding front teeth and powerful jaws. Its head is small, with a small mouth, blunt snout and small eyes. Its body is long and stout with small or no pectoral fins. It has a uniform body colour, ranging from charcoal-black to dark chocolate.

Weight: 13.5 to 20 kg (30 to 44 lb)
Length: 0.8 to 1.45 m (2.6 to 4.8 ft) but can grow up to 180 cm (5.9 ft)

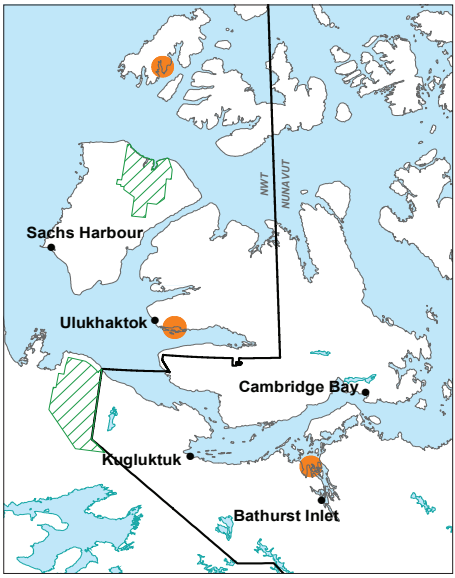
Report Northern Wolffish sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Unknown threats in the Western Arctic.

Typical Habitat

- Found over sand and shell hash bottom types in temperatures between 2.5°C and 4.5°C, and at depths between 500 and 1,000 m.



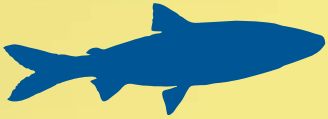
The Northern Wolffish is a large solitary fish that is slow-growing and long-lived. It inhabits cold, deep ocean waters and preys on jellyfish, sea urchins, crabs and starfish. This fish does not undertake long migrations and the size of its territory is very restricted. Northern Wolffish reach maturity at 5 years of age and can live to 14 years. A primarily eastern species, it is found as far north as the Davis Strait off Nunavut, off southwest Greenland, on the northeast Newfoundland and Labrador shelves, on the Flemish Cap, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and sometimes on the Scotian Shelf. Northern Wolffish have been reported in only two locations in the NWT: Prince Albert Sound on western Victoria Island and Mould Bay on Prince Patrick Island.

Did you know?

- The fearsome teeth of the Northern Wolffish ensure that it has few natural predators.
- In most areas this fish is not eaten by humans because of its watery and jelly-like flesh.

Shortjaw Cisco

Coregonus zenithicus



	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	Threatened – 2003	No status
NWT	Not applicable	Not applicable

The Shortjaw Cisco has a thin elliptical body that is covered with large, smooth scales. It is mainly silver in colour, with olive or tan colouring on the back and a white belly. Its small toothless mouth has a bottom jaw that is often shorter than, or even with, the upper jaw. The gill rakers (or comb-like structures on the inner surface of the bony arch supporting the gill) number between 32 and 46, which is typically less than other cisco species.

Length: 340 to 420 mm (13.3 to 16.4 in)

Report Shortjaw Cisco sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

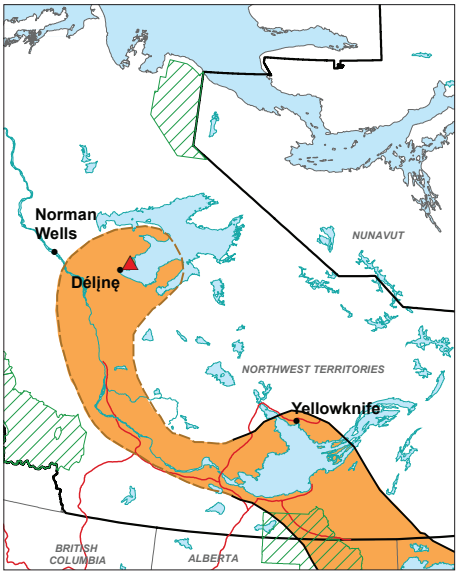
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- May include habitat degradation, climate change, and hybridization with other ciscoes.
- Great Lakes stocks in eastern Canada were drastically reduced by over-fishing and competition from introduced and invasive species.

Paul Vecsei

Typical Habitat

- Reported in Great Slave Lake and Tazin River. Unconfirmed reports from Great Bear Lake.
- Inhabits deep waters, 55 to 180 m (180 to 590 ft), with reports of movement into shallower waters during the spawning season.
- Juveniles have been found in water as shallow as 10 m (33 ft).



Shortjaw Cisco (actual)
Shortjaw Cisco (estimated)
Possible location (to be verified)
National Parks

Shortjaw Cisco is a member of the same family as trout and salmon. While best known from the Great Lakes, Shortjaw Cisco has been reported in a few deeper lakes from Ontario to the NWT. Shortjaw Cisco eat shrimp, crustaceans and insects. In turn, they may be eaten by Lake Trout, Northern Pike and Burbot. Shortjaw Cisco spawning occurs in the fall, although there are reports of spring spawning also occurring in Lake Superior. Eggs are deposited on clay bottoms and are left to develop unattended. Lifespan is typically 10 to 13 years but individuals up to 20 years old have been found in Great Slave Lake.

Did you know?

- The Shortjaw Cisco, along with Lake Cisco (previously called Lake Herring), are believed to have ties back to the last ice age in North America, and may have been two of the key colonizing species into lakes created as the glaciers retreated.
- Cisco species identification can be difficult because they can have different shapes and colours even within the same population.
- The Governor-in-Council referred the Shortjaw Cisco back to COSEWIC in 2006 for further consideration. A new assessment on the species is currently underway.

Northern Leopard Frog

Lithobates pipiens

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Western Boreal / Prairie populations)	Special Concern - 2009	Special Concern - 2005
NWT	Threatened – 2013	Under consideration

The Northern Leopard Frog is usually green, or sometimes brownish. It has dark spots surrounded by distinct light borders, and an unmarked, milky-white underside. Newly hatched tadpoles are slender and black.

Length: Newly hatched tadpole, 8 mm (0.3 in)
Adult (snout-to-vent), 5 to 11 cm (1.9 to 4.3 in)

Report Northern Leopard Frog sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

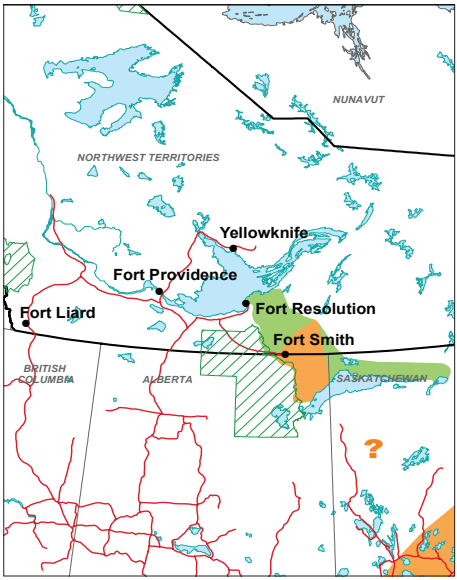
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Diseases (ranavirus and chytrid fungus).
- Climate variability (drought, fluctuating winter temperatures and thawing permafrost).
- Environmental contaminants.
- Hydro-electrical development could alter water flows and impact habitat.

RESCAN / Leslie Bol

Typical Habitat

- Breeds in lakes, ponds, marshes and flooded areas of streams.
- Summer ranges include meadows and grasslands.
- Over-winters in the unfrozen bottoms of rivers and lakes.



Northern Leopard Frog (recent)
Northern Leopard Frog (historic)
National Parks

Northern Leopard Frogs are uncommon in the NWT, having only been found near the Slave, Taltson and Tazin rivers. Their call is a long drawn-out rattling snore, usually ending with several rapid short grunts. The number of Northern Leopard Frogs has declined in many parts of western Canada since 1980. The range in the NWT is not well known but there is some evidence that the occupied range in the NWT may have shrunk since the late 1980s. The cause of population and range changes remains unknown.

Did you know?

- Northern Leopard Frogs in the NWT are at the northern-most limit of their range.
- Connectivity between the NWT population and populations in southern Canada is uncertain.

Western Toad

Anaxyrus boreas

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada (Non-calling population)	Special Concern - 2012	Special Concern - 2005
NWT	Not assessed	No status

Western Toads are usually green or brown. They have a light stripe down the middle of the back and reddish-brown 'warts' on the back, sides and upper limbs. Newly hatched tadpoles and toadlets are black.

Length: Newly hatched tadpole, 1 cm (0.4 in)
Adult (snout to vent), 5 to 12 cm (1.9 to 4.7 in)

Report Western Toad sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

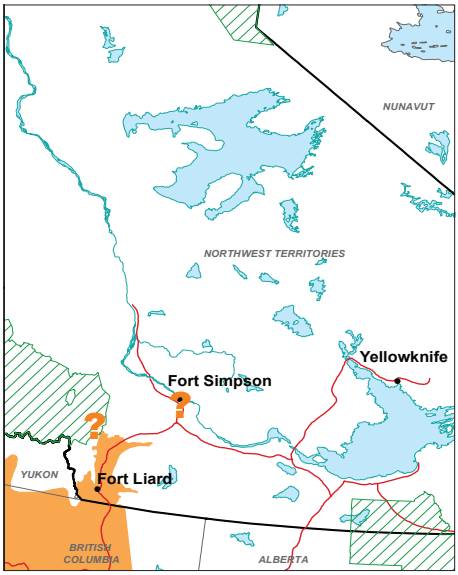
Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Climate variability (drought, fluctuating winter temperatures, freezing rain, low snow cover).
- Diseases (ranavirus and chytrid fungus).
- Road kill mortality during mass movement events.

Floyd Bertand

Typical Habitat

- Breed in shallow silty or sandy ponds, lake shores and roadside ditches.
- Summer ranges include shrubby-forested areas, wet shrublands, avalanche slopes and meadows.
- Over-winter by burrowing in the ground with snow cover deep enough (up to 1.3 m to 4.2 ft) to prevent freezing and moist enough to prevent their skin from drying.



Western Toads are found in the Liard River basin in the Dehcho region. They have been confirmed at six sites in the NWT but it is likely there are more undiscovered sites. They are difficult to find outside the spring breeding season when they congregate at ponds. Western Toad numbers are declining in the southern part of their range in British Columbia and the United States.

Did you know?

- Western Toads are one of the few amphibians that live in alpine areas.
- They can travel up to 7 km (4.3 mi) in less than a day, and prefer to walk or crawl rather than hop.
- Western Toads return to the same breeding sites year after year.
- Male Western Toads in most of Alberta have vocal sacs and produce loud trills (advertisement calls) during the breeding season; those in NWT do not.

Hairy Braya

Braya pilosa

	Assessment	Legal List
Canada	**Endangered – 2013**	Under consideration
NWT	**Threatened – 2012**	**Threatened – 2014**

Hairy Braya belongs to the mustard family. The stems grow from a tuft of leaves at the base of the plant and have white flowers arranged in dense clusters. Hairy Braya is distinguished from other closely related species by its large flowers and the shape of its fruits (nearly round with very long "styles" [elongated reproductive structures]).

Height: 4.5 to 12.0 cm (1.8 to 4.7 in)

Report Hairy Braya sightings to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca

Potential Threats in the Northwest Territories

- Rapid erosion of habitat along the coast (erosion rate estimated at 9.5 m (31 ft) per year).
- Mortality along the coast from salt spray.
- Potential for storm surges to flood low-lying habitat.
- Threats are expected to increase as water levels rise due to melting sea ice and climate change.

Jim Harris

Typical Habitat

- Occurs on bluffs and dry uplands along coastlines, inlets and streams.
- Needs bare soil to become established.
- Periods of standing water, erosion, and disturbance from caribou hooves appear to be involved in creating or maintaining these bare soil habitats.

Hairy Braya (known range)
Hairy Braya (possible range)

Hairy Braya (sometimes known as Pilose Braya) is a rare flowering plant found nowhere else in the world except on the Cape Bathurst Peninsula and Baillie Islands, NWT. Its total range is very small (about 250 km^2). Hairy Braya is restricted to an area that remained ice-free during the last ice age. It has apparently been unable to expand its range into surrounding areas since the ice receded.

Did you know?

- Due to the remoteness of Cape Bathurst, Hairy Braya faces little direct threat from human activities.
- Hairy Braya was first found by Sir John Richardson in 1826 during an expedition in search of the Northwest Passage.
- The NWT Species at Risk Committee assessed Hairy Braya as Threatened and COSEWIC assessed it as Endangered. Both committees used the same information, but differences in their assessment criteria led to different results.

GLOBALLY RARE PLANTS

Nahanni Aster

Symphotrichum nahanniense

Found only in Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada, at hot springs with tufa (calcium carbonate deposits). Grows in moist areas around the hot springs or along the banks of streams or seeps.

Raup's Willow

Salix raupii

Prefers gravel floodplains and treed bogs and has only been found in two locations in the south-western NWT, three in the Yukon, three in British Columbia and two in Alberta.

Bank's Island Alkali Grass

Puccinellia banksiensis

Found infrequently in frost-heaved, densely vegetated tundra near the shores of inland freshwater lakes. Known from three locations on Banks Island in the NWT, four in Nunavut and one in Alaska.

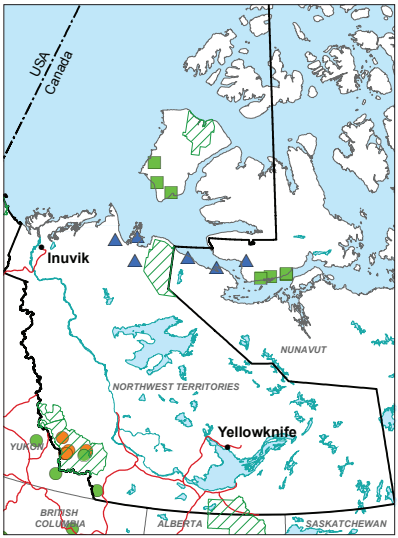
Drummond Bluebell

Mertensia drummondii

Found on sandy and gravely banks or ridges in six locations in the NWT and Nunavut, and in four sites in Alaska.

Why is there a Conservation Concern?

- These plants are globally rare species that have not yet gone through the processes to assess and list species established by the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, COSEWIC or the federal *Species at Risk Act*. They are ranked May Be at Risk by the NWT General Status Ranking Program.
- The Nahanni Aster is a NWT plant found nowhere else in the world.
- The Raup's Willow, Banks Island Alkali Grass and Drummond Bluebell have very restricted distributions limited to the NWT and neighbouring areas.



Banks Island Alkali Grass
Drummond Bluebell
Nahanni Aster
Raup's Willow
National Parks

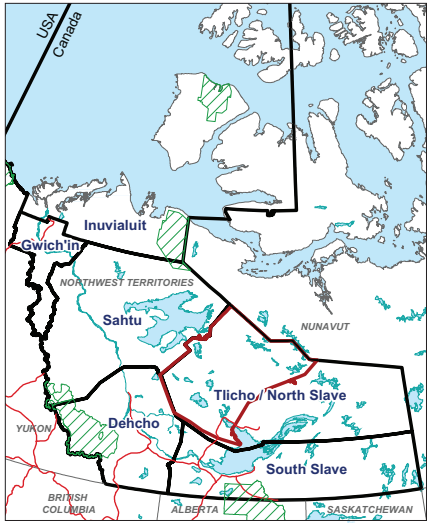
Did you know?

- Some areas of the NWT remained glacier-free during the last ice age, which may have allowed species such as these four plant species, as well as Hairy Braya (page 77) to survive. Knowledge on these species and areas is limited.

Report rare plant locations to WILDLIFEOBS@gov.nt.ca
For the most current species information, visit: nwtspeciesatrisk.ca

SPECIES AT RISK AT A GLANCE

This checklist summarizes species at risk in the NWT and the regions in which they are found. See page 3 for an explanation of the assessment and legal listing processes for Canada and the NWT.



National Parks

NWT Region

Wek'eezhii Co-management Lands

	Species	Status in NWT: Assessment	Status in NWT: Legal List	Status in Canada: Assessment	Status in Canada: Legal List	South Slave	Dehcho	North Slave/Tlicho	Sahtu	Gwich'in	Inuvialuit
Mammals	Boreal Caribou (Woodland caribou, Boreal population)	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bowhead Whale (Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort population)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Special Concern	Special Concern						✓
	Collared Pika	Not assessed	No status	Special Concern	Under Consideration		✓		✓	✓	✓
	Dolphin and Union Caribou (Barren-ground caribou [Dolphin and Union population])	Special Concern	Under Consideration	Special Concern	Special Concern						✓
	Grey Whale (Eastern North Pacific population)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Special Concern	Special Concern						✓
	Grizzly Bear (Western population)	Not assessed	No status	Special Concern	Under Consideration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Little Brown Myotis	Not assessed	No status	Endangered	Under Consideration	✓	✓	✓	?		

	Species	Status in NWT: Assessment	Status in NWT: Legal List	Status in Canada: Assessment	Status in Canada: Legal List	South Slave	Dehcho	North Slave/Tlicho	Sahtu	Gwich'in	Inuvialuit
Mammals	Northern Mountain Caribou (Woodland caribou [Northern mountain population])	Not assessed	No status	Special Concern	Special Concern		✓		✓	✓	
	Northern Myotis	Not assessed	No status	Endangered	Under Consideration	✓	✓				
	Peary Caribou	Threatened	Threatened	Endangered	Endangered						✓
	Polar Bear	Special Concern	Special Concern	Special Concern	Special Concern						✓
	Wolverine (Western population)	Not assessed	No status	Special Concern	No Status	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Wood Bison	Not assessed	No status	Special Concern	Threatened	✓	✓	✓			
Birds	Bank Swallow	Not applicable	Not applicable	Threatened	Under Consideration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Barn Swallow	Not applicable	Not applicable	Threatened	Under Consideration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Not applicable	Not applicable	Special Concern	Under Consideration						✓
	Canada Warbler	Not applicable	Not applicable	Threatened	Threatened		✓				
	Common Nighthawk	Not applicable	Not applicable	Threatened	Threatened	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Eskimo Curlew	Not applicable	Not applicable	Endangered	Endangered						
	Horned Grebe (Western population)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Special Concern	Under Consideration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Ivory Gull*	Not applicable	Not applicable	Endangered	Endangered						✓
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Not applicable	Not applicable	Threatened	Threatened	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Peregrine Falcon (*anatum-tundrius* subspecies complex)	Not assessed	No Status	Special Concern	Special Concern	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Species	Status in NWT: Assessment	Status in NWT: Legal List	Status in Canada: Assessment	Status in Canada: Legal List	South Slave	Dehcho	North Slave/Tłı̨chǫ	Sahtu	Gwich'in	Inuvialuit
Birds	Red Knot (*islandica* subspecies)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Special Concern	Special Concern						✓
	Red Knot (*roselaari* subspecies)**	Not applicable	Not applicable	Threatened	Threatened						?
	Red Knot (*rufa* subspecies)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Endangered	Endangered						✓
	Rusty Blackbird	Not assessed	No status	Special Concern	Special Concern	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Short-eared Owl	Not assessed	No status	Special Concern	Special Concern	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Whooping Crane	Not applicable	Not applicable	Endangered	Endangered	✓					
	Yellow Rail	Not applicable	Not applicable	Special Concern	Special Concern	✓	✓	✓			
Fishes	Bull Trout (Western Arctic population)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Special Concern	Under Consideration	✓	✓		✓		
	Dolly Varden (Western Arctic population)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Special Concern	Under Consideration				✓	✓	✓
	Northern Wolffish	Not applicable	Not applicable	Threatened	Threatened						✓
	Shortjaw Cisco	Not applicable	Not applicable	Threatened	No status	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Amphibians	Northern Leopard Frog (Western Boreal/Prairie population)	Threatened	Under Consideration	Special Concern	Special Concern	✓					
	Western Toad	Not assessed	No status	Special Concern	Special Concern		✓				
Plants	Hairy Braya	Threatened	Threatened	Endangered	Under Consideration						✓
	4 globally rare species	Not assessed	No status	Not assessed	No status	Contact sara@gov.nt.ca for more information					

* Ivory Gulls currently do not breed in the NWT but are an uncommon migrant in the Beaufort Sea.

** Work is underway to confirm whether the *roselaari* subspecies of Red Knot occurs in the NWT.

STEWARDSHIP AND WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are many ways that YOU can be a steward of the land, animals and plants. The *NWT Species at Risk Stewardship Program* provides funding for projects that support the long-term protection and recovery of species that are at risk or of concern. The federal *Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk* funds projects that conserve and protect species at risk and their habitats. The federal *Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk* (AFSAR) is designed to help Aboriginal organizations and communities participate actively in the conservation and recovery of species at risk.

The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board used funding from both the *NWT Species at Risk Stewardship Program* and the federal *Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk* to do traditional knowledge interviews on boreal caribou, grizzly bear and wolverine. This information will be used to ensure that Gwich'in traditional knowledge is used in species at risk processes – assessment, listing and recovery.

To see the species at risk stewardship work that the Gwich'in are doing, visit: grrb.nt.ca/traditionalknowledge.htm

Federal Species at Risk Funding Sources

- Habitat Stewardship Program
- Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk

sararegistry.gc.ca/involved/funding/default_e.cfm

NWT Species at Risk Stewardship Program Funding

nwtspeciesatrisk.ca/en/StewardshipProgram

Walter Alexie being interviewed by Billie Lennie for the Gwich'in Traditional Knowledge of Boreal Woodland Caribou Project, 14/10/2010

K. Benson, GSCI

FOR MORE INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
867-669-4765
sara.north@ec.gc.ca
sararegistry.gc.ca

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
204-983-0600
aquaticspeciesatrisk.ca

Parks Canada Agency
204-984-2416
pc.gc.ca

GOVERNMENT OF THE NWT

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Toll-Free 1-855-783-4301
or contact your regional Environment and Natural Resources office
sara@gov.nt.ca
nwtspeciesatrisk.ca

OTHER AGENCIES

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)
cosewic.gc.ca

Species at Risk Committee
nwtspeciesatrisk.ca/en/SARC/species_at_risk_committee

Conference of Management Authorities
nwtspeciesatrisk.ca/en/CMA/CMA

NWT Species at Risk

Canada

Northwest Territories