

Have Your Say on NWT Species at Risk

YELLOWKNIFE (August 17, 2026) – The public is invited to comment on two proposed listings under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

The Act [provides a process](#) to assess which wild species are at risk of disappearing from the Northwest Territories (NWT), identify threats facing those species, and identify actions to help them recover.

The [NWT List of Species at Risk](#) is the official list of species at risk under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

Listing proposals

Common muskrat is being considered for listing as **Special Concern** on the NWT List of Species at Risk. It was assessed in April 2026 by the NWT Species at Risk Committee as a species of Special Concern. Special Concern means the species may become Threatened or Endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Wood bison is being considered for re-listing as **Threatened** on the NWT List of Species at Risk. This species is currently listed as Threatened and was reassessed in April 2026 with no change in status. Threatened means the species could become Endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors putting it at risk.

How can I share my comments?

All NWT residents are invited to submit comments on the listing proposals by **November 15, 2026**.

- **Take our surveys**
 - [Common muskrat](#)
 - [Wood bison](#)
- [Send an email](#)
- [Give us a call](#)

Additional species information and supporting documents, including status reports, assessments, management plans, recovery strategies and progress reports are available at www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca.

You can also reach the Conference of Management Authorities by contacting:

NWT Species at Risk Secretariat

CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

PO Box 1320 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

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Quick facts

- Listing decisions are made by the [Conference of Management Authorities](#) (CMA).
- The CMA is the group of wildlife co-management boards and governments that share responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT.
- The listing proposals are developed by the CMA based on recommendations from the NWT [Species at Risk Committee](#) (SARC). Assessments are based on species status reports that include the best available Indigenous, community and scientific knowledge.
- Listing a species on the [NWT List of Species at Risk](#) does not result in any automatic changes to regulations already in place, including rules around harvesting or land use activities.
- When a species is listed, the CMA must complete a [management plan or recovery strategy](#) for that species.
- The [Recovery Strategy for Wood Bison in the Northwest Territories](#), completed in 2019, provides a goal/vision and objectives for the conservation and recovery of wood bison in the NWT.
- A [progress report](#) released in 2025 details the work that has been done to support the recovery of wood bison in the NWT.

Links

- [About Common Muskrat](#)
- [About Wood Bison](#)
- Fact sheets:
 - [Common muskrat](#)
 - [Wood bison](#)
- [Status Report and Assessment for Common Muskrat in the NWT \(2026\)](#)
- [Status Report and Assessment for Wood Bison in the NWT \(2026\)](#)
- [Recovery Strategy for Wood Bison in the Northwest Territories \(2019\)](#)
- [Progress Report on the Recovery of Wood Bison in the Northwest Territories, 2020-2024 \(2025\)](#)

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