

SUBMISSION TO THE NWMB
FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Proposed Legal Listing of Grizzly Bear (Northwestern Population) and Wolverine (Western Population) as Special Concern

Background: The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) is intended to protect wildlife at risk from becoming extinct or lost from the wild, with the ultimate objective of helping their numbers to recover. SARA protects species and their critical habitat once the species has been legally listed, as a result of a recommendation by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), followed by consultation and ultimately a decision by the Minister of Environment Canada (or of Fisheries and Oceans Canada for fish and marine species).

In Nunavut, the NWMB approves species' listings.

The listing categories under SARA that have practical implications are:

- Special Concern: may become Threatened or Endangered
- Threatened: likely to become endangered unless threats are reversed
- Endangered: facing extirpation or extinction
- Extirpated: no longer occurs in Canada

The implications of listing are:

Category	Requirement	Timeline	Prohibitions	Critical Habitat
Special Concern	Management Plan	3 years	NO	NO
Threatened	Recovery Strategy	2 years	yes	yes
Endangered	Recovery Strategy	1 year	yes	yes
Extirpated	Recovery Strategy	2 year	yes	yes

Grizzly Bear and Wolverine were assessed by COSEWIC in May 2002 and 2003, respectively. The Committee recommended that these species be listed as Special Concern because of concerns about habitat loss and population disturbance in the southern portion of both species' range; and because of potential threats to habitat due to increasing development in the north.

Environment Canada requested NWMB approval for the proposed listing in October 2004.

NWMB did not approve these listings because community consultation required under the NLCA had not been conducted, and because the SARA requirement for inclusion of aboriginal traditional knowledge in the assessment had not been met.

Environment Canada has consultation meetings scheduled with the HTO Directors of Kugluktuk (April 13, 2005), Cambridge Bay along with Umingmaktok and Bathurst Inlet (May 3, 2005), and is attempting to schedule meetings with Baker Lake, Arviat and Rankin Inlet but no dates have been identified yet. Based on harvest data, these communities have the highest traditional harvest of both these species.

The purpose of the consultation meeting will be:

- to provide information about the Species at Risk Act and the listing process in the context of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement
- to provide information about the status assessment of grizzly bears and wolverines
- to request feedback on the proposed listings and their possible impacts on the community

Recommendations:

N/A

Prepared by:

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April 4, 2005