

# ューシット シレイーへ トイマ トラート ション Dunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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October 07, 2022

Hon. Steven Guilbeault Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada Government of Canada

Dear Steven Guilbeault:

Re: NWMB decision on the proposed final Management Plan for Buff-Breasted Sandpiper in Canada under the Federal Species at Risk Act

#### **NWMB Decision**

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM003-2022) on September 9, 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada requested an NWMB decision on the approval of the proposed final *Management Plan for the Buff-Breasted Sandpiper in Canada* under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). The NWMB considered this request at its In-Camera Meeting (IC003-2022) on September 10, 2022, where the Board made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, the NWMB approve the "Management Plan for the Buff-Breasted Sandpiper in Canada" under the federal Species at Risk Act.

### **Reasons for NWMB Decision**

In reaching its decision to approve the *Management Plan for the Buff-Breasted Sandpiper in Canada*, the Board considered that: 1) buff-breasted sandpiper was listed as special concern in 2017, requiring that a management plan be created; 2) the conservation strategies in the proposed management plan may help buff-breasted sandpiper to recover, and 3) Environment and Climate Change Canada carried out consultations with affected hunters and trappers organizations.

The Board is aware that the NWMB approved the listing of the buff-breasted sandpiper as special concern under SARA following a written hearing in 2013. The Board is also aware of the mandatory requirement to collaboratively develop a national management plan for species listed as special concern.



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The management plan outlines strategies, conservation measures, and timelines for achieving and measuring progress towards the management plan objective. Existing abundance estimates for buff-breasted sandpiper are old and carry a high level of uncertainty. Many conservation measures recommended in the management plan will improve knowledge of buff-breasted sandpiper abundance. Additionally, plans for protecting and restoring key habitats, including working with landowners, could help address the main threats identified in the 2012 assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

The Board also considered and appreciated efforts by Environment and Climate Change Canada to consult with affected hunters and trappers organizations and other co-management partners from March 2020 to May 2022. The Board noted that they are currently no objections to the proposed management plan from Nunavummiut.

#### Conclusion

As per Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision approving the proposed management plan for buff-breasted sandpiper to you for consideration.

Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

Dan Shewchuck

Chairperson

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Jariel Sculry

cc: Michael Svoboda, Canadian Wildlife Service.

Box 1379