



June 15th, 2018

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Canada

Dear Minister McKenna:

RE: NWMB decision on the proposed final Management Plan for Short-eared Owl in Canada under the Federal Species at Risk Act

1. NWMB DECISION

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM002-2018) in Iqaluit on June 6th, 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada presented a briefing note requesting an NWMB decision on the approval of the proposed final "Management Plan for the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) in Canada" (Management Plan) under the federal Species at Risk Act. This request was considered by the NWMB at its In-Camera Meeting (IC002-2018) on June 7th, 2018, 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 Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) in Canada" under the federal Species at Risk Act.

2. Rationale for NWMB Decision

In addition to carefully reviewing the best available science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the Board also took into consideration the following:

The Short-eared Owl is listed as Special Concern under the Federal Species at Risk Act. Although the main threats identified for Short-eared Owl occur outside of Nunavut, approving the Management Plan will provide protection for the Short-eared Owl in the southern portion of their breeding range where it is facing several threats such as habitat loss and degradation. The Management Plan does not include any harvest restrictions nor does it identify critical habitat for the species within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

During the 2014 written community consultations, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the NWMB did not receive any objections to the proposed final Management Plan from Nunavummiut.



3. Conclusion

As per Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision on the approval of the proposed final Management Plan for Short-eared Owl in Canada to you for your consideration.

If you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

David Kritterdlik

David Kritterdlik
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Michael Svoboda, Head, Conservation Planning and Stewardship, Canadian Wildlife Service
Christian Bertelsen, Acting Northern Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service