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Canadian Wildlife Service Species at Risk Program Update To the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

September 2015

1. COSEWIC Species Assessments and Pre-listing Consultations

In November 2014 and May 2015, COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assessed several species. The following assessed terrestrial species is found within your area (see Appendix 1 for information on the reason for designation):

- Red-necked Phalarope - Special Concern – New assessment (Nov 2014)

Once COSEWIC has completed its final status and assessment reports, which are due in the fall, it will provide this to the Minister of the Environment. The Minister then has 90 days to post a response on the Species at Risk Public Registry, providing information on the scope of any consultations and the timelines for action. This is known as the response statement. Consultations for a group of species are launched with the posting of the response statements.

As with previous pre-listing consultations, CWS will prepare information packages and send to all communities within the range of the species and seek input. Once consultations are complete, CWS will report on the consultation results to the NWMB and seek a decision on support for listing.

2. Management Plan for Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population) in Canada – Development Update

Barren-ground caribou (Dolphin and Union population) was listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* in 2011 and a management plan was due in 2014. Under Environment Canada's 3-year plan for recovery documents, the management plan will be completed in 2016/2017. As Dolphin-Union caribou are a terrestrial species co-managed in the NWT and NU the jurisdictions all require a management plan, a decision was made to work collaboratively with all co-management partners to develop the management plan to ensure consistency across the species range and to avoid duplication of effort. All co-management partners are involved: NWT and Nunavut hunters and trappers organizations/committees, Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Government of the Northwest

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Territories, Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT), Inuvialuit Game Council, and Parks Canada and Environment Canada.

Once completed, the collaboratively developed management plan will be adopted by Environment Canada with any additional components added or exemptions in order to make it “SARA-compliant”.

Since Environment Canada briefed the NWMB at their March 2015 meeting and asked for feedback on the proposed development path, the following activities have occurred:

- Government of Nunavut Department of Environment staff hosted a management plan development meeting in Kugluktuk, from March 25-27, 2015
- Development of a draft management plan outline and framework, with the Government of the NWT drafting and all co-management partners providing input/review.

Timeline to complete the management plan:

- Fall 2015: Second co-management partner meeting tentatively scheduled for Cambridge Bay
- Summer 2015 – Winter 2016: Drafting of the management plan
- Review of draft management plan by co-management partners
- Consultation on draft management plan
- Formally request WMAC and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's support on the draft management plan

3. Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in Canada – Development Update

Work is continuing on the collaborative development of the Peary caribou recovery strategy and the knowledge assessment to help inform critical habitat identification. The recovery strategy is due to be posted as proposed on the federal Species at Risk Registry by March 2017.

Proposed plans for this fiscal year are:

- Knowledge Assessment to Inform the Identification of Critical Habitat for Peary Caribou draft is complete and undergoing review by technical committee – August-September 2015
- Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in Canada draft complete and being sent for review to technical committee and co-management communities – Fall 2015
- First Jurisdictional Technical Review (WMAC, NWMB, GNWT, GN) – Fall 2015
- Community consultation on the draft recovery document – Winter 2015
- Approval process – co-management partners (NWMB, WMAC, GN, GNWT, Communities, Parks, EC)

4. Recovery Strategy and Management Plan for Red Knot in Canada – Development Update

Red Knot is a shorebird which was assessed by COSEWIC in 2007 and listed under the Species at Risk Act in 2012 as Red Knot *rufa* subspecies (Endangered), *roselaari* type (Threatened) and *islandica* subspecies (Special Concern). EC developed a combined draft recovery strategy/management plan for the species. Community consultations were completed in July and August 2015. The recovery document will be sent for a second jurisdictional review prior to it being posted on the Species at Risk Registry for the 60-day public comment period. Following the public comment period, Environment Canada will have 30-days to consider comments received and finalize the document. Once finalized, the NWMB will be asked to consider support for the document prior to final posting.

5. Management Plan for Peregrine Falcon in Canada – Finalizing the document

The Peregrine Falcon was listed as Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act* and a proposed management plan was developed and posted on the Species at Risk Registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) for the 60-day public comment period. This period ended on July 28, 2015. Environment Canada will have 30-days to consider comments received and finalize the document. Once finalized, the NWMB will be asked to consider support for the document prior to final posting.

6. Management Plan for the Rusty Blackbird in Canada - Final Posting

On July 31, 2015, Environment Canada posted the final *Management Plan for the Rusty Blackbird (Euphagus carolinus) in Canada* [Final version] on the Species at Risk Public Registry, following earlier consultations with co-management partners on draft and the posting of the proposed document on the Species at Risk Registry. The management plan can be found at: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1528

7. Species at Risk Stewardship Funding – Call for Expressions of Interest/Proposals

Environment Canada will be sending out a call for expressions of interest/proposals for the 2016-2017 fiscal year for species and habitat conservation work. These programs are offered jointly by Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Parks Canada Agency under the auspices of the *Species at Risk Act* to help engage Canadians in stewardship and recovery actions. The four funding streams are:

1. Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk
2. Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Prevention
3. Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR)
4. Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) for Prevention

The “Prevention” streams of funding are for Canadian species not listed under the Species at Risk Act or assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Appendix 1: COSEWIC Assessment Summary

Phalarope, Red-necked | *Phalaropus lobatus*

Status: Special Concern

Last Examination and Change: November 2014 ([New](#))

Canadian Occurrence: YT, NT, NU, BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NB, PE, NS, NL, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean

Status Criteria: Not applicable

Reason for Designation: This bird has declined over the last 40 years in an important staging area; however, overall population trends during the last three generations are unknown. The species faces potential threats on its breeding grounds including habitat degradation associated with climate change. It is also susceptible to pollutants and oil exposure on migration and during the winter. This is because birds gather in large numbers on the ocean, especially where currents concentrate pollutants.

Status History: Designated Special Concern in November 2014.

Appendix 2: Listed and COSEWIC assessed species and recovery document status for Nunavut species

SARA Status	Taxon	Common Name	Last COSEWIC Assessment Date and Change	SARA Listing Date	Recovery Document Type	Recovery Document Status	Recovery Document Due (Legislated)	Recovery Document Target Year
Endangered	Mammals (terrestrial)	Peary Caribou	May 2004 (Reassigned)	2011-02-04	Recovery Strategy	Drafting	2014-02-04	2016-2017
Endangered	Birds	Eskimo Curlew	November 2009 (No Change)	2003-06-05	Recovery Strategy	Final	---	
Endangered	Birds	Ivory Gull	April 2006 (In a higher risk category)	2003-06-05	Recovery Strategy	Final	---	
Endangered	Birds	Red Knot <i>rufa</i> subspecies	April 2007 (New)	2012-06-20	Recovery Strategy	Drafting (First Jurisdictional Review complete)	2013-06-20	2015-2016
Threatened	Birds	Olive-sided Flycatcher	November 2007 (New)	2010-02-23	Recovery Strategy	Proposed on registry (Public Consultation period complete)	2012-02-23	2014-2015
Threatened	Birds	Ross's Gull	April 2007 (No Change)	2003-06-05	Recovery Strategy	Final	---	
Threatened	Mosses	Porsild's Bryum	November 2003 (New)	2011-02-04	Recovery Strategy	Proposed on registry (Finalization Delayed)	2013-02-04	2014-2015
Special Concern	Birds	Harlequin Duck (Eastern population)	November 2013 (No Change)	2003-06-05	Management Plan	Final	---	
Special Concern	Mammals (terrestrial)	Polar Bear	April 2008 (No Change)	2011-10-27	Management Plan	Drafting	2014-10-27	2015-2016
Special Concern	Vascular Plants	Felt-leaf Willow	May 2000 (New)	2003-06-05	Management Plan	Final	---	
Special Concern	Mammals (terrestrial)	Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)	May 2004 (Reassigned)	2011-02-04	Management Plan	Drafting	2016-02-04	2016-2017
Special Concern	Birds	Short-eared Owl	April 2008 (No Change)	2012-06-20	Management Plan	Drafting (Second Jurisdictional Review complete)	2017-06-20	2015-2016
Special Concern	Birds	Red Knot <i>islandica</i> subspecies	April 2007 (New)	2012-06-20	Management Plan	Drafting (First Jurisdictional Review complete)	2015-06-20	2015-2016
Special Concern	Birds	Peregrine Falcon <i>anatum/tundrius</i>	April 2007 (Reassigned)	2003-06-05	Management Plan	Proposed on registry (Public Consultation period complete)	2015-06-20	2015-2016

SARA Status	Taxon	Common Name	Last COSEWIC Assessment Date and Change	SARA Listing Date	Recovery Document Type	Recovery Document Status	Recovery Document Due (Legislated)	Recovery Document Target Year
Special Concern	Birds	Rusty Blackbird	April 2006 (New)	2009-03-05	Management Plan	Final (Posted 2015-07-31)	2012-03-05	2013-2014
No Status	Mammals (terrestrial)	Grizzly Bear (Western population)	May 2012 (Reassigned - Special Concern)					
No Status	Birds	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	May 2012 (New - Special Concern)					
No Status	Birds	Horned Grebe (Western population)	April 2009 (New - Special Concern)					
No Status	Mammals (terrestrial)	Wolverine	May 2014 (Reassigned - Special Concern)					
No Status	Birds	Red-necked Phalarope	November 2014 (New – Special Concern)					

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Date Drafted: 2015-Aug-10