



Grizzly bears are a long-lived, smart, dangerous, and large animal. They eat berries, roots, aquatic life, and many animals large and small including caribou, muskrats, and beavers; they also scavenge from hunters' kill sites. It is considered bad luck

Sheh (Gwich'ya Gwich'in dialect)

Shih (Teet'it Gwich'in dialect)

Grizzly Bear

Ursus arctos

to leave a wounded grizzly bear. They are dangerous when they're in their dens, which should be avoided in the spring. There is usually a lot of sign around their dens. Grizzly bears range throughout the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

If you see a grizzly bear in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, please ensure your own safety and the safety of the bear and its offspring. Interacting with humans may lead to bears being destroyed or displaced. Please report

sightings of grizzlies, number of cubs, and problem bears to WildlifeOBS@gov.nt.ca. If you must shoot a bear in self-defense, report the kill to ENR as soon as possible. If an Officer is not available, skin the bear and preserve the hide. The hide must be turned into an Officer.

Threats include: development and exploration, human-caused mortalities due to conflicts.

"In the fall time grizzly bears go into the water and come out at a sandy spot. They would roll around in this sand, and with the water and sand mixed it would freeze, they call this ahtth'an."

— Hyacinthe Andre²



Berries such as jak zheii (blue berries) are a favorite food for bears.

Photo: Gordon Court

Photo: Aletine Andre, GSCI

Other animals considered potentially at risk in the Gwich'in area include:

- Woodland Caribou (Boreal population)
- Woodland Caribou (Northern Mountain population)
- Gray-headed Chickadee (formerly Siberian Tit)
- Harlequin Duck (Western population)
- Horned Grebe (Western population)
- Rusty Blackbird
- Short-eared Owl
- Dolly Varden (Northern form)
- Collared Pika

For more information on species at risk in the NWT, see:
<http://nwt-speciesatrisk.ca>

CONTACTS:

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Animal photos, range map data and silhouettes provided by Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories.

Please report any sightings of these species at risk to WildlifeOBS@gov.nt.ca.

Quotations are from the following sources:

- ¹ COPE story
- ² Gwich'ya Gwich'in Googwandak Project 1999
- ³ Gwich'in Traditional Knowledge of the Mackenzie Gas Project Area Project 2004

This brochure was produced by the GSCI with financial support from the Species at Risk Stewardship Program, Government of the Northwest Territories. Information provided by Gwich'in participants and from <http://nwt-speciesatrisk.ca>.



Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute
To document, preserve and promote Gwich'in culture, language, traditional knowledge and values.



Nan S'ridatr'igwijiinlik Gwà'àn Nin Duulee Nìinji

Zhik nakhwanànkat S'ridatr'igwijiinlik gwizhìt jidii nin duulèe niinjii geenjit aii Adachoo K'àdagwidaadhat chan ts'at aii Dinjii K'àdagwidaadhat nakhwanànkat gwizhìt chan ts'at aii juudin diiyeenjit nan hàh guk'agwaadhat gidilii (GRRB) gòo zrit agadanh nihkhàh gah gwitr'it t'atr'agwah'h. Nihkhàh zrit jii jidii tthak nilii, dàgòonch'uu, nits'òo geenjit dàgwìdjin'e' gòonlii, guk'atr'ahnahtyaa gòo nankat tthak duulèh s'rinatr'igwihèe'aa geenjit, akoots'at duulèe nin làt tthak niinjii geenjit gwich'ì' gwitr'it t'atr'agwah'ii.

Aii juudin diiyeenjit nan hàh guk'agwaadhat gidilii guk'-àgwàhaadhat, guk'andehtr'inahtii ànts'at goonee'aa gidilii jidii tthak geenjit zhàn gòonlii gwehkhè' gahgidandaii eenjit t'agwahnùu.

SPECIES AT RISK in the Gwich'in Settlement Area

The Federal and Territorial governments and the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) share responsibility for the conservation of species at risk in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. They work together to identify, assess, list, protect and recover animals and plant populations and their habitats that are in danger of disappearing from the wild.

The GRRB provides direction, coordination and leadership by approving designations and management plans for species at risk.



Chiniitrành Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

tion is growing due to a ban on certain pesticides since the 1970s. They have long pointed wings, with dark cheeks and a dark 'cap'.

As with other birds at risk, if you see a nest, you must leave it alone and not disturb the adults or young ones. If a Peregrine Falcon flies at you making noise, you may be disturbing its nest, so please leave the area immediately. Please report any bird or nest sightings on ebird.ca or to NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca. Peregrine Falcons range throughout the GSA

Threats include: human disturbance at nest sites, development and exploration, egg poaching, declining songbird populations, chemical pesticides.

"... At my camp this summer there was no song birds. There wasn't any birds, period, because ... peregrine falcons had their nest [near-by]... It took me about three days to realize that there was no song birds."

— Douglas Kendo³



THREATENED



Olive-sided Flycatchers are seen in the Gwich'in Settlement Area from late May to early August, sitting high in branches and watching for their insect prey.

Sitr'igijiinjizhee Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi

They will defend their nests by flying at you or singing, so if you see this olive-drab bird flying towards you, or hear its loud song nearby, please leave the area immediately. You might be able to identify them by their call, which sounds like 'Quick! Three beers!' Please report any bird or nest sightings on www.ebird.ca or to NWTChecklist@ec.gc.ca.



"There is a lot of birds you hardly hear now... A long time ago, oh, it was just noisy with spring birds."

— Abe Peterson³

Threats are unclear but may be related to fewer insects and climate change. Many birds that eat insects from the air are declining.



SPECIAL CONCERN



Wolverines are well known for their excellent fur and their ferocious nature. Wolverines scavenge large game like caribou and are notorious for stealing from caches, stages, and traplines. Wolverine fur is good for trimming the hood on a parka because the fur doesn't freeze.

Nèhtrùh Wolverine

Gulo gulo

Wolverines roam widely, travelling alone. They hunt rabbits, ptarmigan, grouse, and mice, when they aren't stealing others' food.

Wolverine range across the Gwich'in Settlement Area, where their population is stable but low. Please report sightings of wolverines or in particular, wolverine dens to WildlifeOBS@gov.nt.ca.



Wolverine Tanning

"Wolverine skin is scarce these days so you really have to work with it carefully. Slowly and carefully I always remove pieces of meat and fat off the skin. You have to watch so the fire isn't too big (it can burn the fur). It has lots of fat and that softens the hide — next smoke it for a little while. You can work around, or on, the area where the feet were with baking soda and soapy water. It takes about two days to do this"

— Lucy Vaneltsi¹

Threats include: disturbance at den sites, development and exploration, human-caused mortalities due to conflicts.