



## APPENDIX

The Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area and adjacent areas have been recognized as a uniquely productive High Arctic ecosystem supporting high densities of Peary caribou and muskoxen.

Peary caribou were listed as Endangered under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) in 2011 and a national Recovery Strategy is currently being drafted. Under Section 32 (1) of SARA, “No person shall kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual of a wildlife species that is listed as an extirpated species, an endangered species or a threatened species.”

Caribou and muskoxen are sensitive to disturbance, including over-flights, ground activities, and noise which can affect their access to habitat, feeding cycles, reproduction and ultimately their survival. Caribou are particularly sensitive to disturbance during their calving and post-calving periods (late May to late June) whereas muskoxen are most sensitive to over-flight disturbance during their calving (late March into May, depending on the year and population) and early-rut (August) periods. Low-level flights are of significant concern, with the degree of disturbance to caribou and muskoxen decreasing with increased flight elevation.

Since the project is anticipated during the muskox calving season, it is important to minimize disturbance to muskox groups. Small calves are particularly vulnerable to being injured or left behind when herds stampede. Personnel and aircraft should not approach muskoxen, taking a different route or returning later if necessary. A recommended minimum flight elevation of 300 m should be observed when flying to minimize disturbance to wildlife.