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# **WILDLIFE MITIGATION AND MONITORING PLAN**

*PISTOL LAKE PROJECT  
KITIKMEOT REGION, NUNAVUT*

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**May 2021– DRAFT V1**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

Leeward Capital Corp. is a Calgary, Alberta based exploration company with projects currently in Nunavut (Pistol Lake) and British Columbia (Nithi).

The Pistol Lake Property is in NTS map sheet 76-N-2 in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut. The Property is located approximately 14 km southwest of Portage Bay on Bathurst Inlet, Nunavut, and 580 km from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The general geographic coordinates of the Property are 67°02'55"N and 108°47'10"W. Pistol Lake Property (the Property) has previously been explored in 1964-67 by Roberts Mining Co. and the Hope Bay Syndicate, then in 1979-84 by Goldfields Exploration Canada. Further work was done in 1984-91 by Silver Hart Mines then Chevron Minerals and more recently from 1991 to 2001 by Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (the Development Corporation of the Qikiqitani Inuit Association based in Iqaluit, Nunavut) and Leeward Capital Corp.

The Pistol Lake Property consists of two contiguous mineral leases named L-4240 and L-4241 for a total 700.63 hectares on Inuit Owned Subsurface Land (IOL) identified as parcel BB-39 managed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) on behalf of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI).

Exploration activities proposed for the summer of 2021 includes construction and occupancy in a phased approach (construction, geologists for mapping etc., then drilling) starting at the beginning of July depending on weather. Camp will be a 16-person temporary camp to support prospecting, sampling, and 3000 meters of core drilling. This could be in operation from July 1, 2021 to October 1, 2021 depending on weather, and will be helicopter supported. Location of the temporary camp is expected to be in the area of historical exploration at 67° 02' 53.35" N 108° 47' 28.33" W to minimize wildlife and environmental disturbance and will be close enough to Knutsen Lake for camp and drill water use.

It is proposed that the temporary camp and infrastructure will support multi-year exploration based on program results. Work proposed for 2021 is modest in size and duration and every effort will be made to employ local employees and to purchase local goods when it makes business sense.

Leeward Capital Corp. acknowledges that exploration programs have the potential to impact wildlife and wildlife habitat. Potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat include displacement from and avoidance of wildlife habituation and attraction to personnel and/or the camp, and unintentional interactions and disturbance. Leeward Capital further recognizes that the Bathurst Inlet Caribou Herd is of particular sensitivity in the regional project area. Accordingly, Leeward Capital will rigorously work to prevent or minimize potential impacts on caribou and other wildlife and wildlife habitat, by implementation of the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan, as presented in this document.

The main purpose of the Plan is to formally outline Leeward Capital’s wildlife protection, avoidance and mitigation strategies. The Plan will function as a set of Standard Operating Procedures for Leeward Capital staff and contractors working on the Project and on lands proximal to the project, inclusive of those surrounding the local unincorporated Settlement of Umingmaktok or Bathurst Inlet. The Plan commits to wildlife protection by preventing or minimizing personnel/wildlife interactions and wildlife impacts.

The Plan addresses the following specific wildlife species, species groups and their critical habitats:

- Those that occur within and immediately adjacent to the project site or along project flight paths during project operations,
- Those that are important harvestable species, and
- Those with special conservation status

**Table 1:**

**Wildlife Species and Species Groups addressed by the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.**

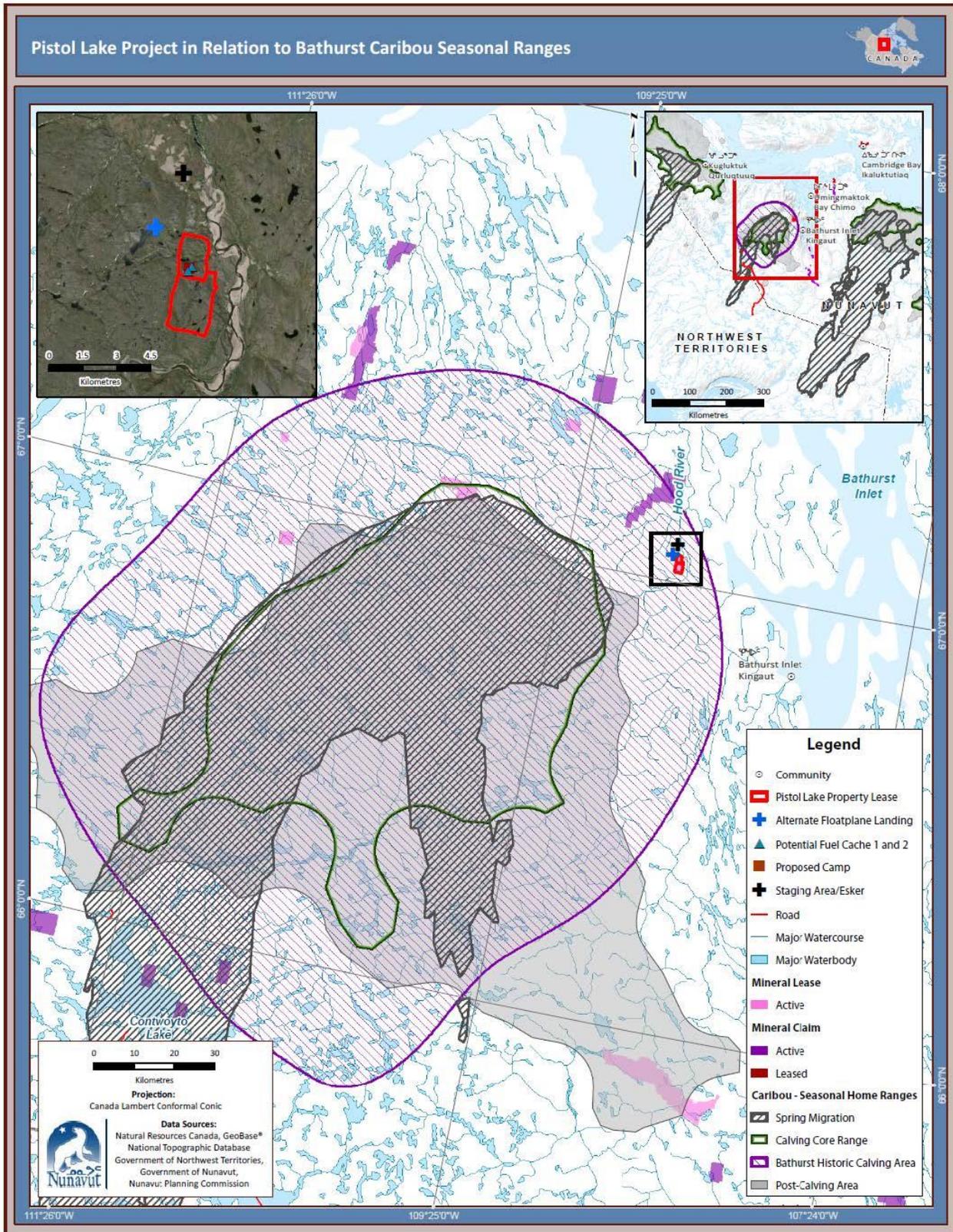
<b>Species or Species Group</b>	<b>Species or Species Group</b>
Bathurst Inlet Caribou Herd	Geese (and their nests)
Moose	Other Waterfowl and Waterbirds (and their nests)
Muskox	Ptarmigan (and their nests)
Arctic Fox (and their dens)	Short-eared Owl (and their nests)
Wolf (and their dens)	Peregrine Falcon (and their nests)
Grizzly Bear (and their dens)	Rough Legged Hawk (and their nests)
Wolverine (and their dens)	Gyrfalcon (and their nests)
Fish (and aquatic life)	Other Falcons (and their nests)

## 2 BATHURST INLET CARIBOU HERD

The Bathurst herd is one of nine barren-ground caribou herds that spends all or part of its time in the Northwest Territories. The Bathurst caribou is named for Bathurst Inlet, the general area of the herd's traditional calving grounds. The Bathurst range, where caribou live throughout the year, has traditionally spanned from southern and central Northwest Territories to the herd's calving grounds west of Bathurst Inlet in Nunavut. In some years, Bathurst caribou have wintered as far south as northern Saskatchewan. More recently, as the size of the herd has decreased, the extent of the range used by the herd has also become significantly smaller.

A dramatic decline in the population of Bathurst caribou has been observed over the last 30 years. At their most recent peak in the mid-1980s, the Bathurst population was approximately 470,000 animals. 2018 survey results indicate the population is now around 8,200. This reflects a reduction of nearly 60 per cent since the last surveys in 2015. Since 2015, harvest of Bathurst caribou has not been allowed in the NWT, although historically many Indigenous peoples, including the Tłıchǫ, the Yellowknives, Dene, the Łutsel K'e Dene and the North Slave Métis, along with other Indigenous groups, have depended on this herd.

Although Leeward Capital's Pistol Lake Project is located in the historic calving and post calving grounds for the Bathurst Inlet Caribou Herd, proposed exploration activities are not planned during the sensitive times of June 2 to 28. This is in accordance with the first mechanism in the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan, which is avoidance. No work will take place on the Project during calving and post calving.



### 3 INTERNAL POLICIES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### Caribou and All Other Wildlife

All Leeward Capital employees and contractors will be made aware of all internal policies, procedures in addition to the Terms and Conditions of the Project's licenses and permits. Training will include, but will not be limited to:

- Spill contingency/response
- Environmental policies
- Safety
- Bear safety
- Wildlife Mitigation Measures
- Caribou Protection Measures

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment, have identified the Project area to be in the historic calving and post calving grounds of the Bathurst Inlet Caribou Herd. Leeward Capital will adopt the following best management practices to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and mitigate against disturbance to wildlife and sensitive areas.

These policies will be strictly enforced. Any employee or contractor who is found to be violating any of these rules will find their employment immediately terminated and removed from the Project.

- **Approaching and feeding wildlife is prohibited.** There are absolutely no exceptions to this rule. If wildlife is present in the area, all employees and contractors are to avoid any contact with the wildlife.
- **Harassment and disturbance of wildlife is prohibited.** If any employees and contractors are approaching a work site where migrating caribou, caribou cows and calves, muskoxen nurse groups or other wildlife are in the area, this work site will be avoided until the animals have moved on to a distance of 2 km from the site.
- If employees and/or contractors encounter wildlife at any time, every effort should be made to stay out of sight of wildlife or redirect travel away from wildlife where possible, to avoid impact to wildlife.
- **Hunting and fishing is prohibited.** While conducting business on behalf of Leeward Capital Corp., hunting and fishing is strictly prohibited. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- **Low-level aircraft and helicopter flights will be kept to a minimum.** Low-level (<610 altitude) aircraft and helicopter flights will avoid wildlife occupied areas that are migration, calving, nesting and denning habitats. No aircraft landings will occur

Leeward Capital Corp, Pistol Lake Project

When migrating caribou, caribou cows and calves, muskoxen nurse groups or other wildlife are present.

- Helicopter pilots will be instructed that they are not to fly over wildlife in a way to cause them to change behaviour, run or flee at any time, within, or outside of migration. If such an interaction should occur incidentally, helicopter pilots will be instructed to divert and/or change altitude as quickly as safely practicable.
- A trained local hired Wildlife Monitor will be present and at the drill site at all times during drilling, to watch for approaching caribou and other wildlife. The Wildlife Monitor will advise the Project Manager and/or Drill Foreman if caribou, caribou cows and/or calves are within 2 km of the drill site.
- **Bear Safety Training will be provided.** All employees and contractors will receive Bear Safety Training. Bear safety information and material will be kept in a binder at site. The Government of the NWT published the “Territorial Safety in Bear Country Manual”. This document will be referred to in the safety orientation that all personnel and contractors receive when they arrive at site.
- If bears are present in the area, work will cease until they have moved safely out of the area. All human-bear interactions are to be reported immediately to the KitlA, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment. A wildlife monitor, trained in bear safety will be employed to ensure that camp employees and contractors are safe.
- **All den sites are to be avoided.** An environmental scan of the exploration area is proposed prior to exploration activities to determine active den sites for avoidance. If an active den site is discovered, the GPS coordinates will be recorded so that the site can be avoided. These coordinates will be provided to the appropriate regulatory authorities. No dens are to be disturbed.

<b>Bear incidents and/or interactions, and wolf or fox den sightings will be reported immediately to:</b>	
Bob Hansen, GN wildlife deterrent specialist <a href="mailto:bhansen@gov.nu.ca">bhansen@gov.nu.ca</a>	867-934-2075
Russell Akeeagok, Conservation Officer, Kugluktuk District, GN,	867-982-3058
<b>Bear sightings/incidents and large herd sightings will be reported to:</b>	
Mathieu Dumond, GN Wildlife Manager, Kugluktuk	867-982-2505
Paul Emingmak, KitlA, Executive Director	867-983- 2458
Geoff Clark, KitlA, Director of Lands and Resources	867-982-3310

- **Breeding birds are not to be disturbed.** An environmental scan of the exploration area is proposed prior to exploration activities beginning to identify nests for avoidance. No eggs or nests are to be disturbed by any activities. If any employee or contractor comes across any active nests, they are to cease all activities immediately to ensure that the nest is not disturbed. Coordinates are to be recorded on the wildlife sighting sheets and these coordinates are to be reported to Environment Canada. Moving or disturbing the nest is in contravention of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.
- The Peregrine Falcon has been identified as a species of Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. If any nests are found, A buffer must be maintained. A 1.5 km buffer is recommended for the peregrine falcon. Any nests discovered will be recorded and GPS coordinates provided to the applicable regulatory authorities.
- **Sightings of wildlife will be recorded.** Sightings of wildlife will be recorded by all employees and contractors to the Wildlife Monitor who will ensure the information is recorded on the wildlife sighting log. This information will be reported in the required annual reports to regulatory authorities.
- **Aquatic Life will be protected.** Working in and around waterbodies must be done in such a way that prevents disturbance to aquatic life and habitat. Waterlines must be properly placed and screened in accordance with the “Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Screen Guidelines” DFO. No wastes are to enter any water-bodies. This includes any discharge from the exploration camp.
- All sumps, fuel caches and the camp must be located at least 31 meters from the high-water mark of any water body unless otherwise approved by the appropriate regulatory authority.

- **Waste will be managed properly.** Proper food storage and handling of cooking wastes will prevent problems with attracting wildlife. Food waste will be incinerated daily and the ash stored in sealed drums for export out of camp and disposed of in Yellowknife on a regular basis. Nuisance wildlife will be reported immediately.
- **Firearms will only be carried for safety reasons.** Firearms may be carried only for safety reasons and only if such firearms are properly registered and stored in accordance with applicable legislation. All firearm discharges must be reported to the Project Manager.