



MAR 17 2015

Mr. Joe Tetlich, Chair
Porcupine Caribou Management Board
BOX 31723
WHITEHORSE YT Y1A 6L3

Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Harvest Management Plan – Annual Harvest Meeting PCMB Recommendations

Thank you for your letter dated February 23, 2015 regarding the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (Board) recommendations from the Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM) held in Inuvik, NT on February 10 to 12, 2015 in accordance with the Harvest Management Plan (HMP).

As requested I am providing the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) responses to the recommendations provided by the Board in their report:

Section B: Recommended Harvest Management Zone and Harvest Management Actions

The Board recommends that the Porcupine Caribou Herd (PCH) be considered in the Green Zone (above 115,000 caribou).

Consistent with the Green Zone harvest management actions (HMP, page 20), the Board recommends that:

- Harvest only the amount needed;
- Licensed hunters receive a maximum of two bull tags;
- Shooting will be accurate and wounded animals will be retrieved; and
- Parties will collect rigorous and verifiable harvest data, to be provided for the Annual Harvest Meeting.

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The GNWT agrees with the Boards recommendation that the PCH be considered in the Green Zone (above 115,000 caribou). Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) will continue to work with our partners to collect and provide harvest data for the AHM. ENR regional staff are working with the Board to ensure consistent collection and reporting among user communities.

Section D Recommendations Regarding Other Concerns

1. Incorporate local hunter and traditional knowledge into process:

GNWT recognizes the value and importance of local and traditional knowledge as well as scientific knowledge to inform the decision making process. ENR commits to continue to work as part of the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee (PCTC) to provide scientific knowledge. ENR will also continue its commitment to support projects and initiatives aimed at providing local and traditional knowledge about the herd status. Arctic Borderlands Ecological knowledge cooperative is one such initiative.

2. Coordinate workshop on computer modeling:

Models are important tools in guiding management decisions. The development and review of computer models is crucial in clarifying their application and limitations. ENR is supportive of a coordinated workshop involving the Parties, to review the model and evaluate the input data parameters. ENR remains committed to working with the Parties, Board, contractor, PCTC and others to ensure appropriate applications are reviewed cooperatively. ENR will assist with communications at a user community level on the role and application of the new model.

3. Develop Native User Agreement:

ENR continues to support the development of a Native User Agreement and will assist the Board in the coordination of meetings with the appropriate Parties to ensure the development of the Agreement.

4. Encourage hunter participation in programs:

ENR will continue to encourage all harvesters to participate in harvest data collection. ENR will increase our use of community radio and efforts through conservation and education programs.

5. Communicate clear messaging regarding regulations and harvesting rights:

ENR will continue to work with Yukon on the Dempster Highway to clarify any confusion about the application of hunting regulations and harvesting rights through direct consultation and engagement. ENR is committed to ensuring that Gwich'in and Inuvialuit are informed of their rights with respect to all species along the Dempster Highway.

The GNWT remains committed to the HMP and will continue to work to complete our tasks and actions as identified in the HMP Implementation Plan (IP). This includes continued collaboration with the Board on communications and education as described in the HMP. The HMP and the associated IP are significant achievements for the Parties and Board and efforts should continue to ensure the HMP remains a success in cooperative wildlife resource management.

Sincerely,



Ernie Campbell
Deputy Minister