



MAR 11 2014

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



Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Harvest Management Plan – Annual Harvest Meeting Porcupine Caribou Management Board Recommendations

Thank you for your letter dated February 24, 2014 regarding the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (Board) recommendations from the Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM), held in Dawson City, Yukon on February 11 to 12, 2014 in accordance with the Harvest Management Plan (HMP).

Recommendations from 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 AHM.

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The GNWT agrees with the Board 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:

1. Incorporate local hunter and traditional knowledge into process:

Government of the Northwest Territories 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 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, reviewing the model and evaluating the input data parameters. ENR remains committed to working with the Parties, Board, contractor, PCTC and others to ensure appropriate application are reviewed cooperatively. ENR will assist with communications at a user community level on the role and application of the new model.

3. Finalize summary of historical harvest data collection efforts:

ENR will continue to work through the Board on this issue and supports all initiatives relating to harvest data collection for the PCH.

4. Develop Native User Agreement:

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

5. 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.

6. Encourage hunter education programs:

ENR will continue to encourage all harvesters to participate in ENR annual harvest education awareness programs, such a 'sight in your rifle'.

7. Monitoring human activities in range of herd:

ENR will document and monitor human disturbance and report back to the Board, this information will be included in our annual status report.

8. Address safety concerns related to increased grizzly bears/hunters:

ENR is aware of the increased human/bear interactions being reported on the Dempster Highway. ENR's first priority is human safety, and is working together with the Parties in formulating a study that will assist in addressing this issue.

The GNWT is committed to the HMP and will continue to work to complete our commitments, 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 Board and the Parties and efforts should continue to ensure the HMP remains a success in cooperative wildlife resource management.

Sincerely,



Ernie Campbell
Deputy Minister