



Environment  
Office of the Deputy Minister

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

April 11, 2017

Joe Tetlich, Chair  
Porcupine Caribou Management Board  
Box 31723  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6L3



Dear Mr. Tetlich:

**Re: Harvest Management Plan 2017 Annual Harvest Meeting – PCMB Recommendations**

Thank you for your letter dated March 8, 2017 outlining management recommendations established at the seventh Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM) for the Porcupine Caribou Herd (PCH).

Government of Yukon accepts the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's (PCMB) recommendation that the PCH is in the Green Zone. We will continue to manage the herd consistent with the Green Zone, as described in the Harvest Management Plan (HMP). Specifically:

- Harvesters will be encouraged to only take what they need. We echo the PCMB's recommendation of taking bulls where possible, as harvesting bulls impacts the herd less than harvesting cows.
- Licensed harvesters will receive a maximum of two bull tags.
- We will continue to support hunter education and awareness programs, including "sight in your rifle" events and initiatives that speak to the importance of retrieving wounded animals.
- We will continue to work internally and with other parties to improve collection of accurate and verifiable harvest information. This information will be provided to the PCMB before the 2018 AHM.

With respect to the PCMB's recommendations regarding other concerns, Government of Yukon offers the following for consideration:

- **Native User Agreements (NUA):** Developing NUA remains a priority. We are pleased to co-fund this important initiative with the PCMB and other Parties so that activities 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.4 as described in the HMP Implementation Plan (IP) can be completed.

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- **Sale Trade and Barter Guidelines:** It is important to understand how First Nation and Inuvialuit communities interpret and implement the PCMB's 2011 *Guidelines for the Sale, Trade, and Barter of Porcupine Caribou Meat*. This understanding can help the PCMB and Parties decide on next steps, which may include additional education and communication to ensure implementation is consistent and follows the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement.
- **Dempster Highway hunting rights:** We look forward to working with the PCMB and Parties to complete the Dempster Highway Hunting Brochures and signage clarifying harvesting rights in time for the fall 2017 harvesting season.
- **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):** We appreciate the initiative the PCMB has taken with respect to planning next steps for the management of PCH in light of the COSEWIC assessment of barren-ground caribou as threatened. As detailed in our March 14, 2017 letter to you, we agree a jurisdiction/land claim based process is the best approach and that the PCMB should take a lead role in coordinating planning efforts for a PCH management plan.
- **Encourage hunter's participation in programs:** We will continue to support the participation of member communities in gathering information on PCH harvest and body condition through our regional and harvest programs.
- **Hunter education:** We will continue to support hunter education and awareness programs to help ensure ethical harvesting practices and behaviors.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the PCMB and Parties to ensure the sustainable management of the PCH as described in the HMP and IP and look forward to completion of key priorities like the NUA. Our government remains committed to collaborative management of the PCH.

If you have any further questions, please contact Christine Cleghorn, Director Fish and Wildlife, at [Christine.Cleghorn@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Christine.Cleghorn@gov.yk.ca) or 867-667-5356.

Sincerely,



Joe MacGillivray  
Deputy Minister of Environment