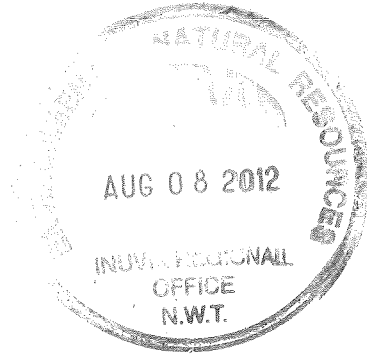




Northwest
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

0000000000

Mr. Robert Alexi Sr.
BOX 64
FORT MCPHERSON NT X0E 0J0



Dear Mr. Alexi:

NWT Hunter Education Modules Review

Based on the guidance provided by you and other workshop participants at the February 2011 Hunter Education Workshop, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has begun to develop the student manuals for a Northwest Territories (NWT) Hunter Education Program.

ENR hired Mr. Andy McMullen to develop the hunter education student manual using the table of contents that was developed during the February 2011 workshop. The first three modules, of the proposed hunter education student manual have been drafted and are attached for your review.

The modules attached are:

- Module 1 - The Responsible Hunter
- Module 2 - Ecology and Wildlife Management
- Module 3 - Hunting Laws and Hunter Rights

An ENR Renewable Resource Officer will be contacting you in the near future to gather your feedback on the modules. Your comments will be forwarded to Ms. Danielle Morin who is managing this program and will ensure the modules are revised accordingly.

Module 4 of the student manual will cover firearm safety and basic shooting skills. Based on feedback given at the hunter education workshop, ENR has decided to incorporate the Federal Canadian Firearm Safety Course (CFSC) into the NWT Hunter Education program. By incorporating the CFSC into the NWT Hunter Education Program, training duplication will be avoided and individuals who complete the training will be able to challenge the Firearm Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) exam if they choose.

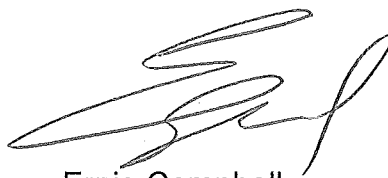
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The remaining modules to be developed are outlined in the attached document entitled "Additional Modules of proposed NWT Hunter Education Program". As these modules are completed, ENR will send them out for your review. Your feedback will be considered in the next draft of the modules. Once all the module revisions have been made, they will be sent out for a final review.

ENR would like to thank you for your cooperation on this project, appreciates your input and looks forward to receiving your feedback. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Danielle Morin at (867) 920-3258

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Ernie Campbell
Deputy Minister

Attachments

c. Ms. Amy Thompson
Executive Director
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

Mr. Robert Alexie Jr.
President
Gwich'in Tribal Council

Mr. Daryl English
Conservation Education Officer
Inuvik Region, ENR

Mr. Stephen Charlie
Superintendent
Inuvik Region, ENR

MODULE ONE
THE RESPONSIBLE
HUNTER

THE RESPONSIBLE HUNTER

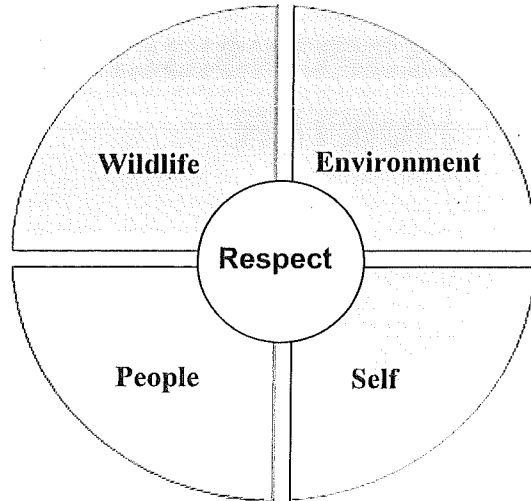
Hunting in the Northwest Territories (NWT) has a long and honourable history. Aboriginal peoples of the NWT are direct descendants of one of the oldest hunting cultures in North America. Hunting was also important to the lives of the early non-aboriginal settlers of the NWT. Everyone's survival was dependent on the knowledge and skills of the hunter.



Hunters today should be guided by this significant cultural wisdom. They must be responsible and follow a code of conduct, which has served hunters for centuries.

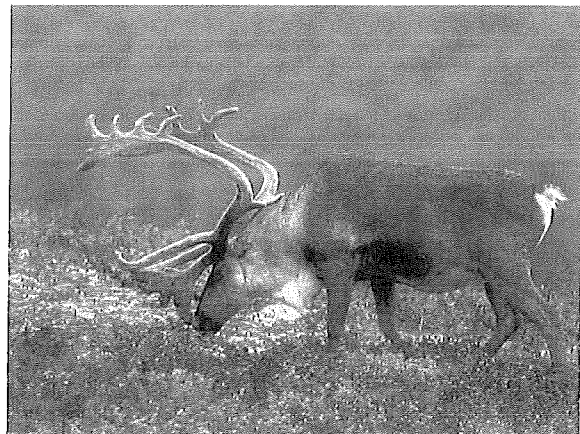
The NWT Hunter Education Program reflects the hunting values of the peoples of the NWT, past and present. Respect is at the heart of the hunter education program.

A responsible hunter shows respect for:



Experienced hunters have identified the key actions necessary for all respectful and responsible hunters. These are:

Respect for Wildlife

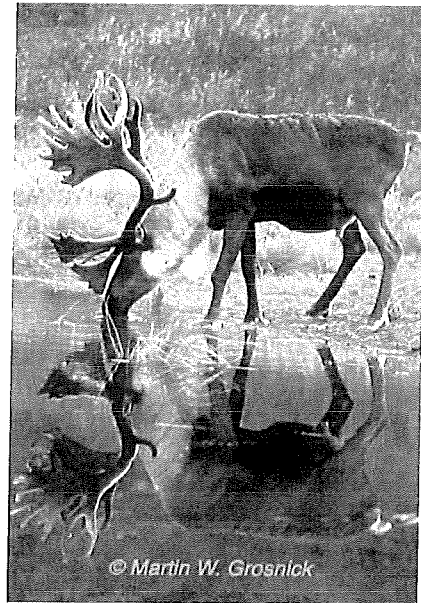


As a respectful and responsible hunter you should:

- Learn about the wildlife you're going to hunt.
- Practice good hunting skills.
- Ensure a one-shot kill.

Respect for Wildlife Continued...

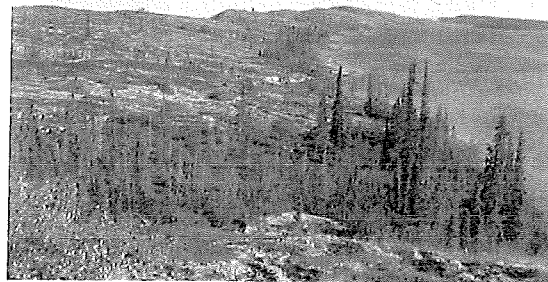
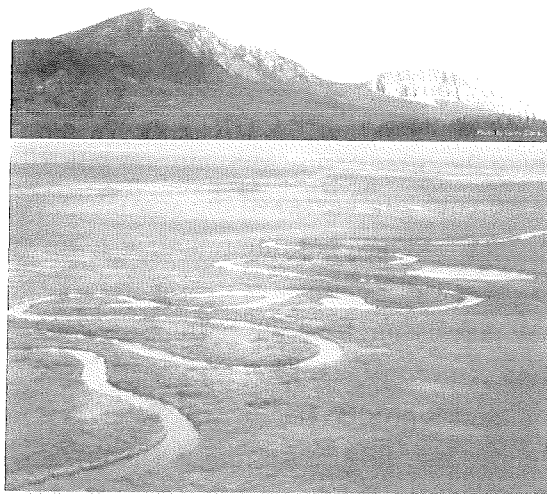
- Track wounded animals and kill them humanely, never club an animal to death.
- Harvest only what you need.
- Use as many parts of the animals as possible.
- Prevent parts you can eat from spoiling.
- Dispose of the unused parts in a respectful manner.
- Do not chase or harass wildlife.



Respect for the Environment

As a respectful and responsible hunter you should:

- Clean up kill sites. Keep them out of sight and away from areas people use like trails and camps.
- Put guts and bones on land and not on the ice or in the water.
- Leave the land the way you found it.
- Pack your garbage out.
- Be careful with fire, even in the winter.



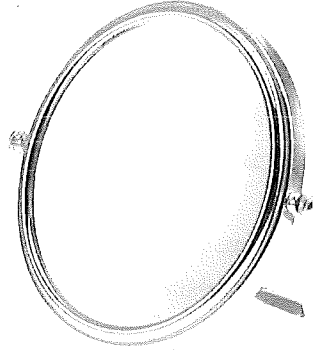
Respect for People

Ideally the image for this section will be of a hunter sharing his game with an elder.

As a respectful and responsible hunter you should:

- Share the meat of any animals you kill.
- Share your knowledge of the animals, the land and best hunting practices with others.
- Ask permission before hunting in another person's hunting area or using someone's property.
- Honour people's property rights (cabins, trap lines, land claims, private lands).
- Be careful and remember the safety of others when hunting.
- Handle firearms safely at all times.
- Never place a life, yours or others, in danger by forgetting to tell people where you plan on hunting and how long you plan to be gone.

Respect for Self

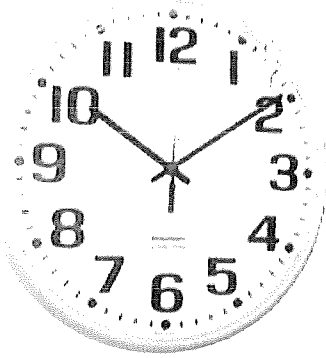


As a respectful and responsible hunter you should:

- Know how to take care of yourself on the land.
- Be prepared for an extended stay on the land, even if you only plan to be out for the day.
- Understand the limits of your knowledge and skills and stay within them.
- Keep learning new information and skills that will help you become a better and safer hunter.
- If possible, travel with a hunting partner.

New hunters must know how to behave when hunting and practice respectful and responsible hunting at all times.

Time



No person is born a safe and responsible hunter. You must learn this skill.

Learning to be a respectful and responsible hunter takes time and practice.

handling your meat after your hunt. Experienced hunters encourage you to slow down and take the time to:

- Learn about the wildlife and the environment in your hunting area.
- Prepare for your hunt, making sure you have everything you need and that it is in good working condition.
- Observe your surroundings. Note the landscape, how wildlife use it, and how it changes during the seasons and the time of day.
- Select your animal and make accurate, clean kills.
- Prevent spoilage or wastage of wildlife.
- Share your harvest with others.

Most important, take the time to appreciate the places where you hunt. Hunters in the Northwest Territories are hunting in some of the most pristine places in the world. Take the time to reflect on how lucky you are to be out on the land.

These hunter education course modules provide the knowledge and skills you need to become a respectful and responsible hunter.

Taking your time is important in every aspect of the hunt. This includes everything from preparing for your hunting trip to



**ECOLOGY AND
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT**

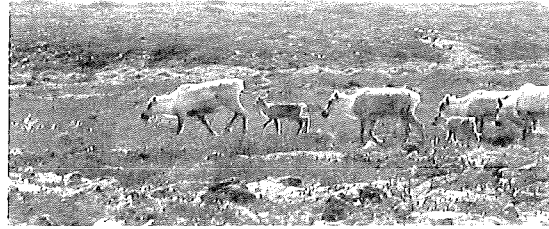
ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Why do hunters need to know about ecology and wildlife management?

Successful hunters are not just lucky, they are knowledgeable. They know about the life cycles and needs of the animals they hunt. They understand changes in habitat, seasons and weather all affect wildlife.



They also know that their activities can have an impact on wildlife. Responsible hunters make sure their actions do not harm wildlife populations.



The modern term for this type of knowledge is ecology and wildlife management. This knowledge helps hunters become successful and responsible hunters.

ECOLOGY

HABITAT

Habitat provides everything a wildlife species needs to survive.

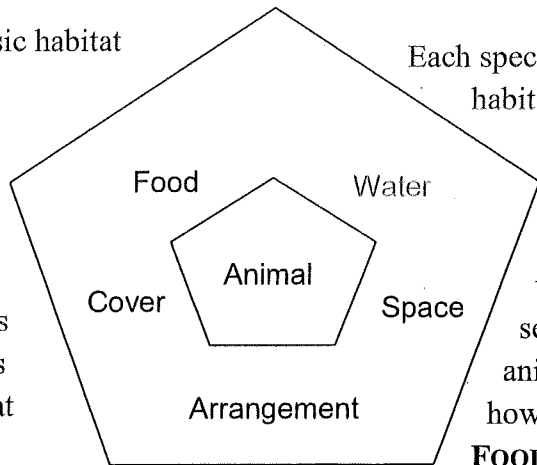
The fifth basic habitat need is the proper “arrangement” of food, water, cover and space.

All living things have basic habitat needs. Four of these are:

1. Food
2. Water
3. Cover
4. Space

Each species of animal has its own habitat requirements.

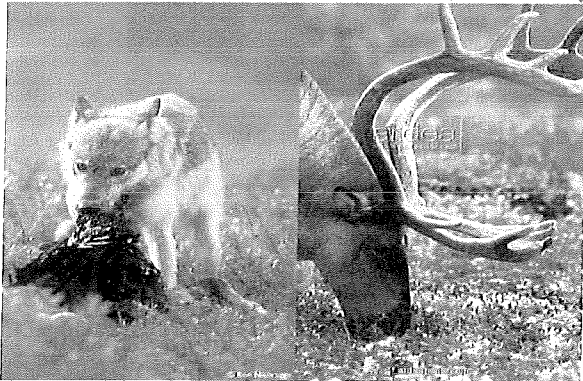
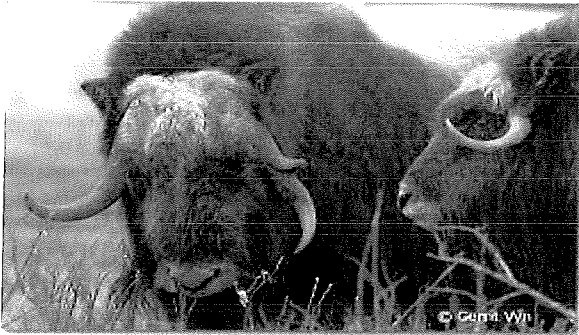
If any of these basic needs is in short supply, it limits the number of wildlife that can live in an area.



Successful hunters understand the daily and seasonal habitat needs of the animal they are hunting and how habitat supports wildlife.

FOOD

All animals need food to survive. Different wildlife species may need to eat very different types of plants or animals to survive.



The quantity and quality of food available determines how many animals can live in the habitat or area. This is the “carrying capacity”. Habitat with lots of good quality food may be able to support more animals if the animals’ other habitats needs are met.

The amount and quality of food available in an area changes from season to season. Animals may have to switch to a different food type or move to where their preferred foods are in order to survive. For many wildlife species, winter food shortage is the most important factor affecting the carrying capacity of a habitat.

COVER



Animals need cover or shelter to hide while resting, breeding, sleeping or eating. Cover also provides escape and protection from predators and the weather.

Moose need trees or tall shrubs for cover while snowshoe hares like thick brush. Each wildlife species has its own cover needs.

Proper cover is an important part of each animal’s daily and seasonal life cycle. If there is no cover in an area, wildlife numbers will be low.

WATER



All animals need water. Many animals get most of their water from the food they eat, such as green plants. Others get most of their water by drinking from lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. During the winter, water may come from eating snow.

Water is not only for drinking. During the hot summer days, large animals like bears and moose often go into water to cool off. For some animals, like beavers and ducks, water is the main part of their habitat.

SPACE

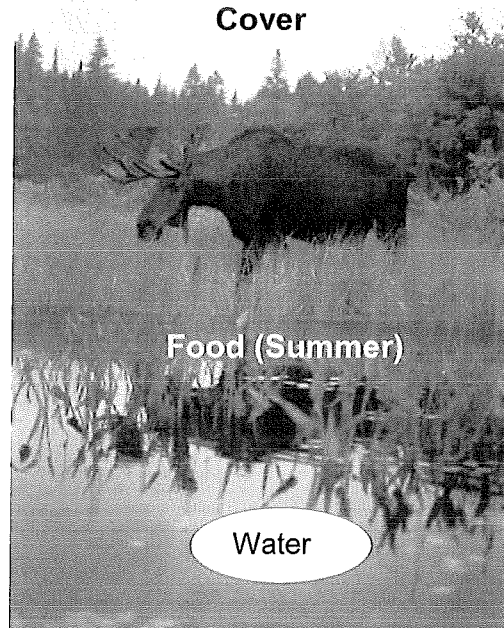
Animals need space to survive. Over-crowding can result in too much competition for food. This may lead to starvation or quick spread of disease.

The need for space limits how many animals can live in an area even if there is enough food, water or cover there.

ARRANGEMENT

The arrangement of food, cover, water and space is important in figuring out how many animals can live in, and throughout, an area.

For many species of wildlife, the best habitat is an arrangement where two or more components meet or overlap with each other. These places are called “edges”.



The best wildlife habitat has lots of edges so food, water and cover are close to each other. Knowledgeable hunters find animals by hunting the edges.

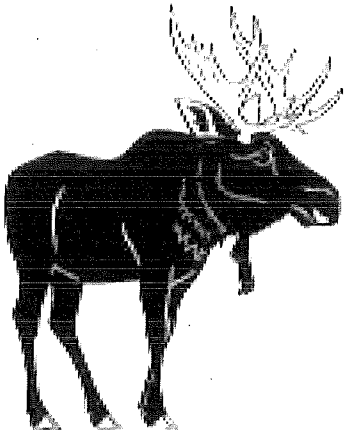
Remember each animal has its own specific habitat needs. What is good for one animal may not be good for another animal. Where an animal finds food in the spring may be different from where it finds food in the winter.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

A wildlife population is a group of the same species of animals living in the same area at the same time.

Food, cover, water and space are basic needs and changes to any of these will determine how many animals can live in an area. The need in shortest supply is called the **“limiting factor”**.



For example, a habitat may have enough water, cover and space to support 10 moose but only have enough food for five. The limiting factor is food. A healthy moose population for the area will be limited to five.

The amount of food available in an area changes from season to season and year to year so the number of animals living in the area also changes. Nature tries to remain balanced by reducing or increasing the

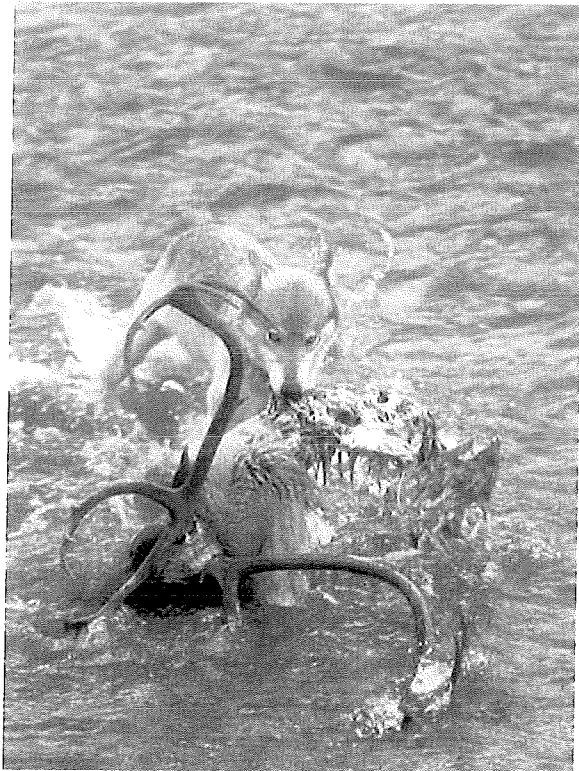
number of animals to match the resources available.

Other factors that can limit population growth are:

- Predation
- Weather
- Disease and parasites
- Human activities
- Carrying capacity

PREDATION

Some wild animals eat plants and others eat the animals. For example in the NWT, caribou eat plants and wolves eat caribou.

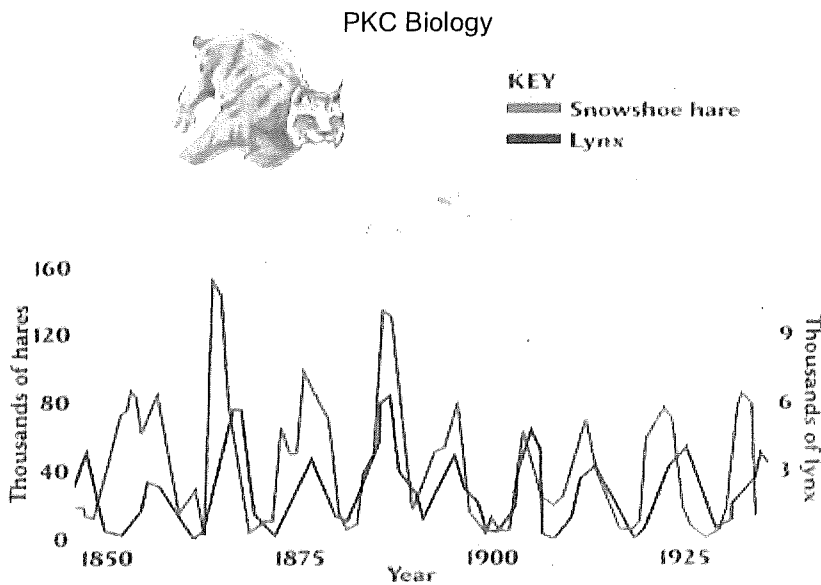


Any animal that eats another animal is called a predator. The animal a predator eats is called prey.

Most predators eat only a few specific prey species. Predator numbers are usually dependent on the number of their prey. A good example is the relationship between the lynx and the snowshoe hare.

When a preferred prey population (caribou) declines, the number of wolves decline. However, the decline in the wolf population will not be as bad because wolves can switch to other prey until the preferred prey population recovers.

The large well-furred feet of lynx help it move over snow-covered ground easily to hunt snowshoe hares. Lynx feed almost



entirely on snowshoe hare. Linked together like this, both populations follow a 10-year cycle of boom and bust.

WEATHER

This graph shows the number of lynx is limited by the amount of prey (snowshoe hares) available. A crash or reduction in the hare population is quickly followed by a crash in the lynx population.

Weather also influences the survival of wildlife populations in the Northwest Territories.

A similar predator – prey relationship exists between wolves and their prey. However, wolves hunt more than one type of prey. They hunt small mammals, caribou, moose, bison and muskox.

Weather affects food, water, cover and other habitat components. Weather changes can decrease or increase the wildlife populations.

Freezing rains or deep snow can make it difficult for animals like caribou and muskox to access food. The energy spent finding food may be greater than the energy

gained. The animals can become malnourished and may starve to death.



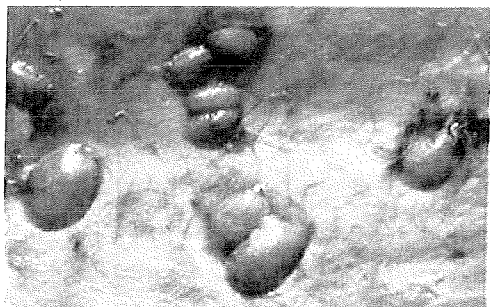
Mild winters with little snow can increase the chance of survival. Food is much easier to find and the animal requires less energy to get it.

DISEASE AND PARASITES

Most wild animals in the NWT are healthy, but diseases and parasites can occur in any wildlife population.

A parasite is an organism that spends all, or part of its life, inside of and dependent on a host animal. It cannot survive without taking nutrients from another organism.

An example of a parasite is the warble fly. It spends the larval stage of its life feeding under the skin of caribou.



Warble fly larvae

Some parasites have little effect on their

host animal. Others can cause the host serious problems and can lead to death.

A parasite can also carry a disease. A disease is an illness, virus or infection that impairs the health of an animal. Many diseases do not cause much stress to the animal. Some diseases, such as rabies, can quickly lead to the death of an infected animal. An infected population may decline significantly.



Rabid arctic fox attacking dog

The effect of a disease or parasite is related to the level of stress experienced by the animal. Some habitat factors increase stress. These can be:

- loss of habitat;
- crowding; and,
- over population.

If animals are stressed they may die and large declines in the population can occur.

Some diseases carried by animals can infect people too. It is important hunters know the signs of sickness are and how they can protect themselves and others. You will learn more about wildlife diseases in Module 7 – “After the Shot”.

HUMAN ACTIVITIES

Human activities can change the quality or amount of habitat available. These changes have a direct impact on the health and survival of wildlife populations.

Building roads, communities and other human developments typically removes habitat. This direct loss of habitat limits the number and kinds of wildlife that can live in the immediate area.

Some human activities may destroy habitat for some wildlife species but improve it for others. For example, controlled burning may create habitat some animals, such as bison or moose.



Sometimes wildlife habitat is lost without actually removing it. For instance, noise from human developments can cause some wildlife to avoid habitat they might normally use.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

WHY MANAGE WILDLIFE?

It is really humans, not wildlife, that needs to be managed for wildlife populations to survive. Northern hunters have always been a part of nature and are the top predator.

It is easy for hunters to get into wildlife habitat today. They can travel on snow machines, ATVs, 4-wheel drive trucks, boats and planes. Development has created access routes along all weather or winter roads, rights-of-way, cut lines and other paths deep into wildlife habitat.

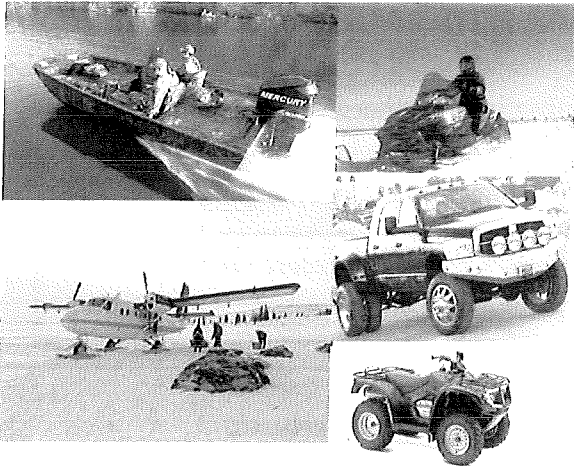
Modern hunting equipment like high-powered rifles has made it easier for hunters to kill animals at long ranges.



Hunters need to be aware of the power of improved access and technologies and use them to benefit the hunt and not to put increased pressures on wildlife.

All hunters are in control of their own actions. If you do not hunt responsibly, you can cause negative impacts to wildlife populations and take away hunting stock.

Hunters must demonstrate respect for wildlife, the environment, people and themselves. This respect should guide all hunters in their use of new and improved technologies.



Wildlife management attempts to balance the needs of wildlife with the needs of people.

The primary goal of wildlife management is to maintain healthy wildlife populations and habitats by managing their use to meet the present and future needs of the people of the Northwest Territories.

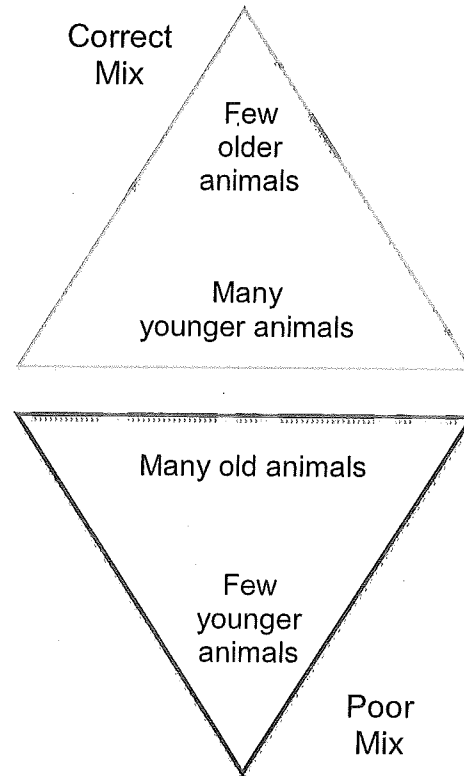
Wildlife managers use the best available scientific, traditional and local knowledge about wildlife and wildlife habitat as well as the basic principles of ecology and conservation.

The principles of ecology help wildlife managers understand the needs of animals. The principles of conservation provide managers with guidance on how people can use wildlife resources wisely.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

1. Protect breeding stock.

Breeding stock is the mixture of adult and young animals needed to sustain a population.



The life span of wild animals is short. Storms, starvation in the winter, disease, predation, hunting and accidents are constant threats to their survival.

It is important to have enough mature animals to produce new, young animals. It is also important to have enough young animals growing up to replace the mature animals as they die off.

If animals are being harvested or dying off faster than they can be replaced, the number of breeding animals will be reduced and the

population will not be able to sustain its numbers.

THE SURVIVAL EQUATION



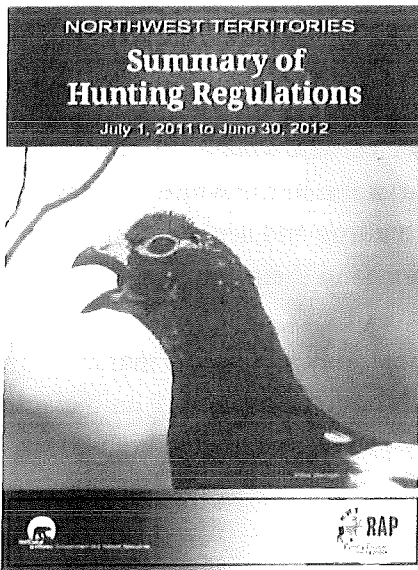
Birth Rate > Death Rate = Increasing Population

Birth Rate = Death Rate = **STABLE**

Birth Rate < Death Rate = Decreasing



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources uses hunting regulations to help ensure a proper mix of young and old animals in a population. These regulations can restrict the harvest of certain animals in the population.



Summary of Hunting Regulations will be discussed in Modules 3 of this course.

For example, the NWT big game hunting regulations states, “no hunter is allowed to hunt a bear cub or bear that is accompanied by a cub.” Protecting the cubs helps ensure they will grow up to be a stable part of the population. The protection of the breeding females improves the survival of the cubs.

Hunting seasons, harvest limits and licence quotas are other methods wildlife managers use to protect breeding stock.

Hunters can help protect breeding stock by harvesting mainly males.

2. Harvest wildlife wisely.

Seasons can be set so wildlife is harvested at a time of year when populations are at their highest and/or are not producing young.

Restrictions can be implemented to prevent hunting when meat may be of poor quality, such as during the breeding season.

Restrictions can be implemented pertaining to the calibre of firearm used to hunt a specific wildlife species. This ensures humane kills and helps prevent the wounding and potential loss of wounded animals.

Another way to use wildlife wisely is to prohibit hunters from wasting the edible parts of wildlife.



Experienced hunters know they should make the most use of the animal. This includes using the non-edible parts. Respectful hunters maximize the use of the animals they harvest.

3. Preserving animal / habitat relationships

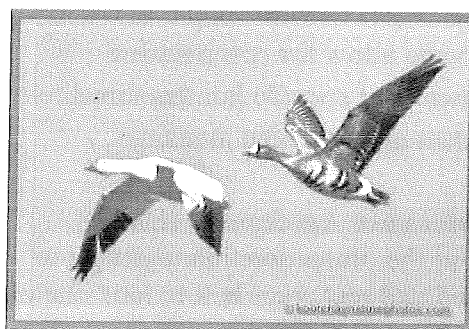
Currently, there is an abundance of productive wildlife habitat in the Northwest Territories. In many parts of North America, habitat is rapidly decreasing. Habitat management and conservation is the single greatest challenge facing wildlife managers today.

*Without protecting habitat,
protecting individual animals
becomes meaningless.*

Wildlife managers provide input and advice into land use planning and management programs to make sure suitable habitat is protected and maintained so wildlife can flourish.

WHO MANAGES WILDLIFE

Migratory birds in North America use land in Canada, the United States and Mexico to meet their habitat requirements. In Canada, migratory birds, such as ducks and geese, are managed under the *Migratory Birds Conventions Act*.



The Act is a treaty, signed by the three countries, to share management responsibilities for migratory birds. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), with the Government of Canada, administers the Act in Canada.

Marine mammals in Canada are managed under the Marine Mammal Regulations (MMR) of the *Fisheries Act of Canada*. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) administers the MMR in partnership with the Fisheries Joint Management Committee established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA).

All other wildlife in the Northwest Territories is managed by the NWT Wildlife Act, administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

Wildlife management or renewable resources boards (co-management boards) have been established as **the main instruments of wildlife management in areas where land claims are settled in the NWT.**

This means wildlife management responsibilities are shared between governments and traditional users. These public boards allow for co-operative management and provide hunters direct involvement in land claim areas.

Interim Measures Agreements (IMAs) provide for the protection, management or use of land and resources before land claim agreements are settled.

One of the primary roles of the GNWT is to collect and provide information to co-management boards. The boards use scientific, traditional and local knowledge to make recommendations to the Minister of ENR on management decisions affecting wildlife within their respective settlement areas.

The GNWT develops management actions and wildlife legislation in settlement areas based on input, consultation and recommendations from the co-management boards.

The GNWT works with these public boards

to share information with communities and participate in consultation and engagement sessions.



Community consultation is a critical part of the co-management system.

The Role of the Hunter

Hunters play a very important role in the management of wildlife in the Northwest Territories.

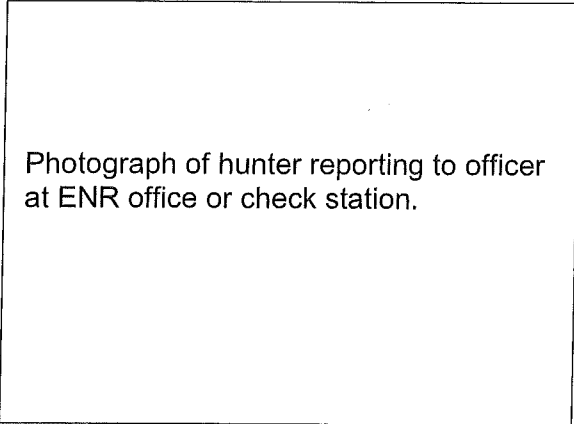
Hunters are typically the first to observe and note changes in wildlife populations and their habitat. As a hunter you can participate in wildlife management and help sustain healthy populations by working with your local HTO/HTC, ENR office or co-management board to:

1. Report

- The types, numbers and condition of the animals you harvest.
- Diseased or sick wildlife you find.

- Conditions observed in the area that may endanger wildlife (pollution, habitat destruction, neglect of wildlife laws).

Often this information is given by stopping at hunter check stations.



Photograph of hunter reporting to officer at ENR office or check station.

Your observations are important. Reporting what you see can provide early signs of potential problems. Early detection can prevent problems from occurring.

2. Provide samples from harvested animals

- Samples allow for monitoring of wildlife health and population factors.
- Diseased samples provide specific information.

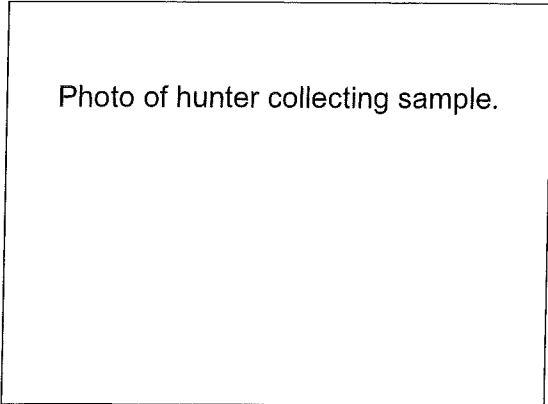


Photo of hunter collecting sample.

Providing biological samples helps wildlife managers track changes in the overall health of wildlife populations in the area.

Warning: Handling diseased animals and taking samples must be done with caution. ENR officers can provide you with sampling kits to take along on your hunts.

3. Control Harvest

- Take only what you need.
- Restrict your harvest levels when necessary.

While some harvest controls may be set by law, others are self-regulated: **Only you know what you actually need and can use.**

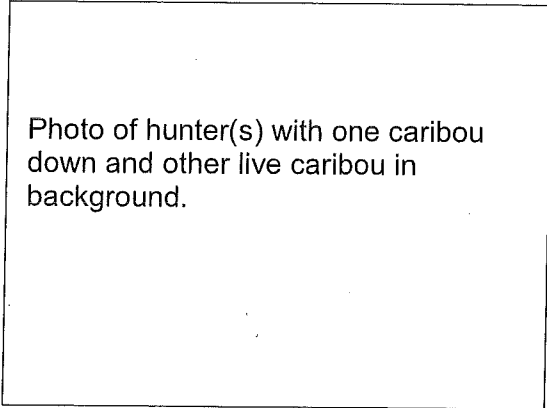


Photo of hunter(s) with one caribou down and other live caribou in background.

4. Complete surveys

- Fill out questionnaires.
- Participate in surveys.

There is a strong relationship between the number of animals seen per days hunted or the length of time it takes a hunter to get an animal and the density of the population. This type of data is called “trend data”.

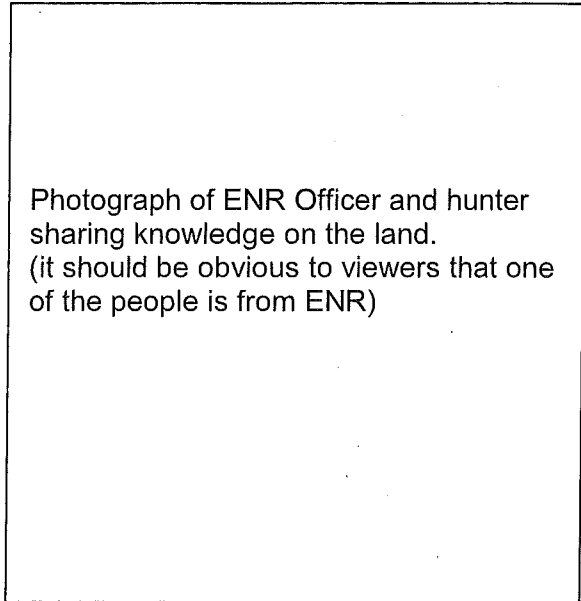
Trend data analyzed over a number of years can indicate if a population is increasing, decreasing or remaining stable.

Summary Statement

Although hunters and wildlife managers may use different terms to describe their ecological knowledge, the success of both are dependent on their knowledge of the natural processes at work.

Both the hunter and wildlife manager rely heavily on observation skills. Both find success by learning about the natural world around them.

Hunters and wildlife managers have the same goals – to conserve wildlife populations and hunting opportunities today and for future generations.

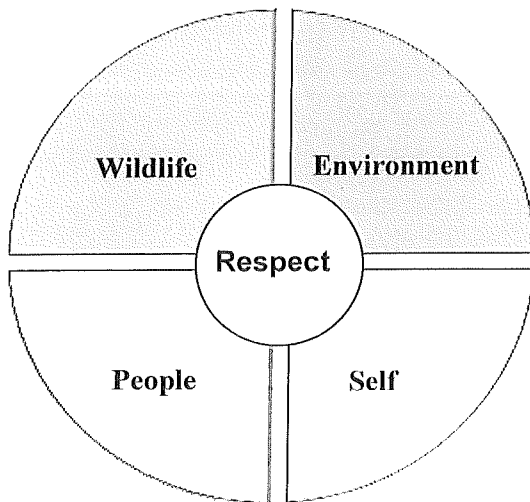


HUNTING LAWS
and
HUNTER RIGHTS

HUNTING LAWS & HUNTER RIGHTS

The main purpose of wildlife laws is to conserve healthy viable populations of wildlife for present and future generations. Traditional laws have always guided hunter behaviour.

Traditional wildlife laws are based on the fundamentals of respect for wildlife, the environment and people, including others and self. These laws govern hunter conduct.



Most traditional wildlife laws remain unwritten, although some people are documenting them. The principles of traditional wildlife laws are as relevant today as they were centuries ago. The wisdom of past generations of hunters is the foundation for much of our modern wildlife law.

Modern Wildlife Law

Modern wildlife laws reflect the hunting values of past generations and set rules to address the needs of wildlife and people today.

Modern wildlife laws can be grouped into a number of general categories. These are:

- Biological
- Allocation
- Human behaviour
- Management Support
- Humane kills
- Hunter management
- Safety

Biological laws consider the biological traits of wildlife, such as breeding seasons, birth rates, death rates and population size. Laws may regulate the timing and length of hunting seasons as well as sex and age-specific harvesting. One example is:

“No person shall hunt a polar bear cub or a polar bear that is accompanied by a cub

Allocation laws consider the fair distribution of the available resource among hunters. They address such issues as the number of animals or birds each hunter is allowed.

NWT allocation of wildlife resources is based on the following priority ranking:

First priority – subsistence hunting

Second priority – resident hunting

Third priority – outfitted hunting

Fourth priority – other commercial uses

Some land claim beneficiaries have exclusive rights to certain species of wildlife and receive the entire allocation.

A human behaviour law considers hunter actions and includes provisions to prevent wastage of game meat.

“Subject to the regulations, no person shall waste, destroy, abandon or allow to spoil (a) big game, other than bear, wolf, coyote or wolverine, or an upland game bird that is fit for human consumption;” is an example of this.

Management Support laws assist wildlife officers. An example from the *Migratory Bird Convention Act* is the requirement to leave a wing on waterfowl so the species can be easily identified.

Humane kill laws address the need to ensure a quick kill of the animal being hunted. Wildlife laws controlling the methods used to kill game can specify the minimum calibre of firearms or bullets and/or the minimum bow draw length and draw-force (weight) that can be used for hunting various species of game. Two such NWT regulations are:

“No person shall use a bullet size under 200 grains to hunt wood bison.”

Or

“Draw weight (of a bow used for hunting big game) must be at least 20 kg at 700 mm draw. Arrows must have a broadhead point width of at least 25 mm at the widest point or a barbless three-bladed bodkin head and must not contain any explosive. Crossbows may be used for hunting in the NWT.”

Hunter management laws establish areas where and when wildlife may or may not be taken. An example is:

“No person shall (a) hunt in, commence to hunt in or continue to hunt in a wildlife sanctuary; (b) without the authority of the Superintendent, be in possession of wildlife, nests, eggs or parts of nests or eggs that were acquired in a wildlife sanctuary;”

Safety laws relate to the personal safety of hunters or the non-hunting public. An example from the *NWT Wildlife Regulations* is:

“No person shall hunt wildlife without due regard for the safety of other persons and property.”

Wildlife Laws within the NWT

In the Northwest Territories three main laws governing hunting:

- *Constitution Act, 1982 Sec. 35(1)*
 - Treaties, Aboriginal Rights and Land Claims Agreements
- Territorial Law
 - *Wildlife Act and Regulations*
- Federal Law
 - *Fisheries Act and Regulations*
 - *Migratory Bird Convention Act*

Some federal laws are derived from international conventions, treaties or agreements

Land and Resource Agreements and Treaty Areas

Harvesting and wildlife management articles are a major part of land and resource agreements. Many items pertain only to the beneficiaries. However, articles in agreements also contain items relevant to non-beneficiaries. All hunters should become familiar with the agreements in the area where they plan to hunt, especially those items pertaining to hunting rights and hunter responsibilities.

If there are no agreements in place, Aboriginal harvesting rights are contained in Treaties.

Aboriginal hunters should speak with representatives of their Aboriginal governments or Renewable Resource Board to fully understand their hunting rights.

Comprehensive land claim, self-government and resource agreements are available on-line at: <http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca>.

General Hunting Licence (GHL)

A general hunting licence authorizes a person to harvest game, subject to:

- land claims agreements; and,
- the provisions of the *Wildlife Act* and Regulations .

To be eligible for a general hunting licence:

- a person must have an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest wildlife in the NWT;
- is eligible to be a member of a prescribed Aboriginal organization located in the NWT; and,

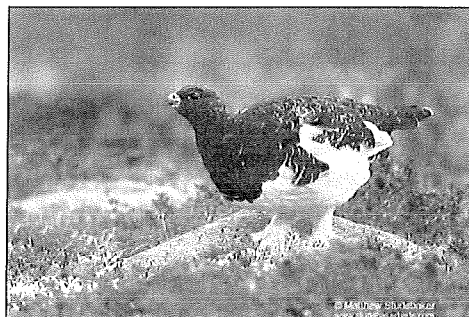
- meet the residency requirements prescribed for holders of general hunting licences.

For more information or to apply for a GHL, please visit your local ENR Office.

NWT Wildlife Act and Regulations

The *NWT Wildlife Act* and Regulations cover the hunting of small and big game species in the NWT.

The NWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) administers and enforces the *NWT Wildlife Act* and its regulations.



Small game species include:

- hares (all species)
- marmots
- woodchucks
- ground hogs
- porcupines
- squirrels (all species)
- ptarmigan and grouse

Non-aboriginal hunters who do not have a general hunting licence (GHL) must have a licence to hunt small game.



Big game species include:

- bear (black, grizzly and polar)
- wood bison
- barren-ground caribou
- woodland and mountain caribou
- mountain goat

Big Game continued....

- dall's sheep
- moose
- muskoxen
- wolf
- wolverine

Non-aboriginal hunters who do not hold a GHF need a hunting licence and wildlife tag(s) to hunt big game.

Aboriginal hunters, with traditional hunting rights and those who possess a GHF in the NWT, do not require tags to hunt big game unless the animal is regulated under a quota. Tags for quota species such as grizzly and polar bear, wood bison and muskox are allocated and administered by community hunters and trappers organizations, renewable resource councils or other identified Aboriginal group.

Age Requirements

- Licences to hunt big game are only issued to those 16 years or over.
- Licences to hunt small game may be issued to persons 14 and over but they must:
 - a) be accompanied by a parent or guardian who holds a hunting licence for small game; and,
 - b) the parent or guardian must endorse the application and licence for small game.

Parents or guardians who endorse the application are responsible for the activities of a minor while hunting.

Categories of Hunting Licences

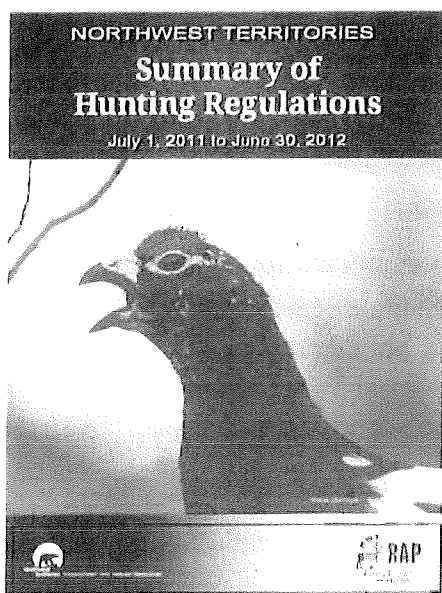
(NWT Wildlife Act only)

Hunters requiring a licence can get one of the following: NWT resident, non-resident or non-resident alien hunting licence.

- **NWT Resident:** a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who has been living continuously in the NWT for at least two years.
- **Non-resident:** a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who lives outside of the NWT or has not resided in the NWT for a full two years.
- **Non-resident Alien:** an individual who is neither an NWT resident nor a non-resident.

Non-resident and non resident aliens licence holders cannot hunt big game in the NWT unless they are accompanied by a licenced guide.

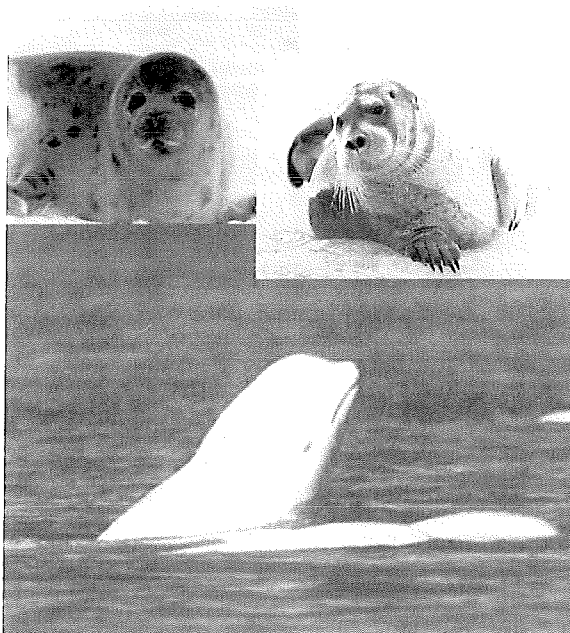
ENR publishes an annual “Summary of Hunting Regulations”, a condensed version of GNWT laws pertaining to hunting in the NWT.



Hunters receive this summary when they purchase a hunting licences and tags. It has information on seasons, bag limits and other laws relating to game species managed by the GNWT. Hunters can also obtain copies of the summary from any ENR office or online at: <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca>.

Hunters are encouraged to speak with their local Renewable Resource Officer if they have any questions. Hunters are also asked to report any and all violations of wildlife laws to the nearest ENR Office or the Report a Poacher line at: **1-866-762-2437**.

Fisheries Act and Regulations



The hunting of whales, walrus and seals in the NWT is managed under Marine Mammal Regulations (MMR) of the *Fisheries Act* of Canada.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) working with the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), administers the MMR in the NWT.

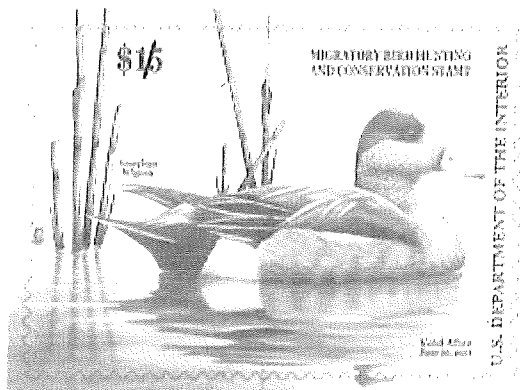
The species most commonly harvested in the NWT are ringed or bearded seal and beluga whales. Beneficiaries of the IFA have first priority for the harvest of marine mammals within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Non-beneficiaries living in the Inuviluit Settlement area, and within sealing area two, can hunt seals for food.

Migratory Bird Convention Act (MBCA) and Regulations

Canada seasonally hosts more than 500 species of migratory birds. Environment Canada develops and implements policies and legislation to ensure the protection of migratory birds, their eggs and their nests.

Non-aboriginal hunters who do not hold a GHF must obtain a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, coots, rails or snipes) in the NWT.



These are available from any Canada Post office and are valid in all provinces and territories. Information on seasons, bag limits and fees is available from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) or outlined in a brochure that can be obtained from a post office.

Summary

Hunters must be respectful of others and observe the conservation laws and regulations that are in place.

Whether hunting is considered a privilege or an inherent right, everyone should understand his or her responsibilities as a hunter. Every hunter should know the laws, modern and traditional, governing hunting in the NWT.

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Module 4

FIREARM SAFETY

Rational & Discussion

To buy or possess a firearm or purchase ammunition Canadians must have a Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL). In order to qualify for a PAL all Canadians must be certified in the safe handling of firearms. People in the NWT can obtain this certification in one of three ways:

1. Take the Canadian Firearm Safety Course (CFSC) and pass the written and practical tests.
2. Challenge and pass the written and practical tests without taking the CFSC.
3. Apply for an exemption from the CFSC requirements using the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada Adaptations Regulations (Firearms).

“Firearm Safety” is a major component of all Hunter Education Courses and must be included in the proposed NWT Hunter Education Program. However the Government of Canada only accepts one of the above three options as certification of safe firearm handling. This means that NWT hunter education students would also have to take and pass the CFSC before they could actually hunt.

NWT Hunter Education Workshop participants considered a requirement for new hunters to take Firearms Safety training through the NWT Hunter Education Program and then again through a Federal course an unnecessary duplication. The availability of the CFSC in the NWT has been very limited especially outside of the Yellowknife. Based on these concerns the department of Environment and Natural Resources is proposing the following:

1. Incorporate the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) into the NWT Hunter Education Program. The CFSC will be the firearm safety component of the NWT program.
2. NWT Hunter Education Instructors will be certified to teach the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and administer the tests people need to pass in order to qualify for the Possession and Acquisition Licence.

On completion of the NWT Hunter Education Program students would receive their NWT hunter education certification as well as a CFSC certificate qualifying them to apply for a Possession and Acquisition Licence.

NOTE: Although the Canadian Firearm Safety Course will be incorporated into the NWT Hunter Education Program the completion of the written and practical exams associated with the CFSC **will not** be mandatory. The tests will be available to all those wishing to meet the application requirements for a PAL.

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Module 4 Content

1. Introduction to firearms
2. Basic firearm safety
3. Ammunition
4. Operating firearm actions
5. Safe handling and carrying of non-restricted firearms
6. Firing techniques and procedures for non-restricted firearms
7. Care of non-restricted firearms
8. Social responsibilities of the firearms owner/user
9. Safe storage, display, transportation and handling of non-restricted firearms

Live Firing and Sighting-In exercises will be mandatory components of a
Northwest Territories Hunter Education Course

The “Live Fire” range module will include information on shooting skills and safe firearm handling in the field, in addition to what is included in the CFSC. The live fire module will give students the opportunity to practice firearm shooting skills and learn the proper procedures for “sighting in” a rifle.

ENR will make a final decision on the type and number of firearms that will be needed for the “live fire” component following further discussions with our program reviewers (you) and ENR risk assessment staff.

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Module 5

HUNTING SKILLS

Rational & Discussion

In order to be successful the hunter needs to possess a solid understanding of the animal they are hunting; for instance, what it looks like, what signs it leaves, the habitat where it is found in different seasons or times of day. In order to make quick clean kills the hunter also requires a good understanding of wildlife anatomy, more specifically the vital kill areas.

To communicate the above information it is recommended that the NWT Hunter Education program provide a collection of information sheets on each of the wildlife species and birds that can be hunted in the Northwest Territories. For many species the information sheet would only require one page, but for species like caribou multiple pages may be required to show the differences between species (barren ground vs. woodland), and how to tell the difference between males and females.

Each information sheet should include the following:

- Sketch of the animal showing key identification characteristics with the species vital areas overlaid.
- Written descriptions under the subject headings of
 - Identification – key identification characteristics
 - Habitat – where animal is commonly found
 - Hunting Skills – basic behaviour of the animal and recommendations on the hunting techniques that have proven successful when hunting that species
 - Best time to hunt species for certain food or clothing requirements
 - Times to avoid – protection of breeding populations
- Sketches and descriptions of ways to identify sexes and/or age groups.
- Sketches of most common signs that indicate presence in an area

Possible Content

Introductory statement (s):

- In order to be successful the hunter needs to possess a good understanding of the animal they are hunting; what it looks like, what signs it leaves, the habitat where it is found in different seasons or times of day.
- Sometimes hunters are restricted to only hunting males of a species or only adult animals. Therefore the hunter not only needs to be able to accurately identify wildlife species, they also need to recognize the sexual and age characteristics of wildlife as well.
- In order to make clean kills, avoid wounding animals or wasting meat, the hunter must also possess knowledge of the animal's anatomy - where are the kill areas, the location of edible organs, and cuts of meat. Based on the animal's size and anatomy, the hunter can select the right firearm and ammunition to kill the animal quickly and humanely.

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- To be successful hunters must know a variety of hunting techniques. Not all animals behave the same and some animals' behaviours may change based on weather conditions or time of day. If hunters only know one hunting technique, they limit their chances of being successful.

Topic Details

Information sheets for

- Small and Big Game
- Hunted fur bearers
- Upland game birds
- Waterfowl
- Marine species

Basic Anatomy

- Illustrative drawings for quick clean kill target and location of edible parts
- Tool - University of Calgary caribou posters
- include small game and marine species
- 3 - dimensional shot placement and shooting angles

Selecting the Right Firearm for the Species Hunted

- Rifle - minimum and maximum calibre
- Shotgun - minimum and maximum gauge
- Ammunition – appropriate cartridges and shells

Participants in the Hunter Education Workshop recommended including a table listing the various wildlife species along with the recommended type of firearm to be used including the appropriate minimum and maximum calibres / gauges and bullet weight or shot size; for instance, as per the table below.

Species	Rifle				Shotgun			
	Calibre		Grain Size		Gauge		Shot Size	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max

Hunters Visual Abilities

This subject was not included in the 2010 draft table of contents and not a lot of time was devoted to the subject during the Hunter Education Workshop. It may be that people consider the ability to see clearly as such a basic requirement that it is assumed that hunters have good vision abilities simply based on them being a hunter.

Whatever the reason, not including the topic of visual abilities would be an oversight. When developing the content of this topic the NWT can take guidance from the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education program that dedicates almost an entire chapter to the subject.

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The subjects to be covered under this topic heading include:

- Distance Acuity
- Nearpoint Vision
- Depth Perception
- Peripheral Vision
- Binocular Coordination
- Light Gathering
- Colour Vision
- Perception
- Improving vision through eye training
- Vision rules for the hunter

Hunting Techniques

Hunting techniques vary according to the hunting circumstances. The hunter may choose the technique used based on preference but in many cases the type of animal being hunted will dictate the choice. This topic will cover the subject of hunting techniques in general terms and will not endorse one technique over another.

Techniques to be covered include

- The importance of Wind , Sound and Movement
- Still – staying still and letting the animals come to hunter
- Tree stands – need to include discussion of tree stand safety
- Tracking and Stalking
- Blinds / Pits
- Hunting in low light situations
- Hunting from a boat

Hunting Day

- Start early when animals are most active.
- Leave enough time to process pack out game.

Take the Time to Select Your Animal

- Make sure that there isn't an animal behind the one you have chosen.
- Avoid shooting into a herd or group of animals.
- Make sure the animal is of the sex and age desired or are allowed to shoot.

Take only what you need.

- Know what is needed before you hunt.
- Leave animals for others to hunt and to maintain healthy wildlife populations.

Summary Statement

When a hunter knows about the animals they are hunting, their chances of hunting success improves and they demonstrate their respect for wildlife. Successful hunters are respectful hunters and respectful hunters are knowledgeable.

Hunting skills are acquired skills over a life time; ones skills improve with practice. When starting out the new hunter is encouraged to seek out the wisdom of experienced hunters with knowledge of the animal they want to hunt. New hunters should take advantage of opportunities to hunt with skilful hunters.

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Module 6

AFTER THE SHOT

Rational & Discussion

One of the most common concerns expressed by aboriginal leaders, experienced hunters and ENR staff is that of wastage. The causes of this wastage are numerous; a few of the more common reasons are listed below:

- Some hunters shoot into herds of caribou, wounding some and allowing them to wander off to die.
- Some hunters take only the prime cuts of meat leaving the rest behind.
- Some hunters do not know how to properly dress and butcher their kills.

The goal of this component of the NWT Hunter Education program is to provide new hunters with the knowledge and, where opportunity allows, the skills needed to prevent wastage of wildlife.

The importance of the topics covered in this component were clearly demonstrated by the amount of time and detailed discussion that Hunter Education Workshop participants dedicated to this component of the CORE. What follows is the essence of the information shared by workshop participants.

Possible Content

Introductory statement (s):

- Respectful and responsible hunters:
 - Are careful in selecting their animal.
 - Follow-up any wounded animals, and when found dispatch them quickly.
 - Bring back all the useable parts of the animals that they shot, and use everything that they take.
- The experienced hunter knows that the shooting of the animal doesn't signal the end of the hunt; it simply marks the beginning of what many consider the most important phase of the hunt – especially in terms of preventing wastage.
- The quality and taste of the meat when eaten will reflect the knowledge and skill of the hunter. Good quality meat will indicate that the hunter was careful in selecting the animal they hunted and that care was taken in field dressing the animal. The taste of the meat will be a reflection of how knowledgeable and skilled the hunter was in terms of cutting up, and preserving the meat. Having the knowledge and skills to be able to put good quality meat on the table is the true sign of a good hunter.
- The respectful hunter shares his good fortune with others.

Respectful hunters know the importance of properly caring for their kills from Take to Table.
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Topic Details

Retrieval

- Following-up of wounded animals.
- No responsible hunter abandons the pursuit of an injured animal as long as there is a trail that can be followed.
- If the animal is still alive when found, dispatch it quickly with a carefully placed shot; never club an animal

Approaching Downed Animal

- Approach from the rear.
- Watch for rise and fall of chest cavity/
- Be aware of the animal's eyes.
- If animal is still alive, dispatch it quickly with a carefully placed shot.
- Take respectful pictures of animals killed; do not joke around or sit on the animal.

Symbols and Offerings

- Once the animal(s) have been shot, take time to reflect on your good fortune and the sacrifice of the animal.
- Offerings are symbols of Gratitude and Respect. What to leave is the personal choice of the hunter. The making of the offering doesn't have to be an elaborate affair – simply a pause to give thanks.

Tagging and reporting requirements

- These are typically legal requirements which may apply to all classes of hunters.
- Reporting assists in the preservation of healthy viable wildlife populations.

Preparing surroundings for butchering

- Clear area for butchering by removing rocks, cutting brush, etc.
- Lay down tarp or clean brush.
- Set out the equipment you will need.
- Set up light if you will need it.
- Move animal into position.

Field Dressing & Butchering

The topic of field dressing and butchering generated a lot of discussion at the Hunter Education Workshop with much time spent debating the virtues of the "guts-in" vs. the "guts-out" methods of field dressing. (Both techniques could be described and illustrated.) It was concluded that ultimately the choice of method used is up to the individual hunter. Whatever technique is used the underlying principles remain the same:

- Take the time to do the job right.
- Keep the meat cool.
- Keep the meat clean.
- Take as many of the edible parts that you can. (Even if you don't eat certain parts others will; find out who will eat what before you hunt.)

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The following information focuses on Big Game as an example of what might be included in this section. Similar information would be provided for small game, upland game birds, water fowl, and marine mammals

- Basic Equipment for Big Game
 - 2 clean sharp knives (1 sheath knife no longer than 4" (10cm) and a two bladed folding knife with blades 2 1/2" to 3 " (6cm to 8cm)
 - Sharpening stone or steel
 - Bone saw or small axe
 - Rope (3 - 4 meters)
 - Strings or cords (at least 30 cm. long) for "tying off"
 - Rubber or plastic field dressing gloves
 - Clean clothes or paper towels
 - Cheesecloth bags

For large animals like moose the hunter's field dressing equipment could also include:

- A tarp to place under the animal when quartering.
- cloth sacks (game bags or old bed sheets) large enough to hold a quarter
- Small hand winch or block and tackle to position the carcass for butchering, or pull an animal out of the water.

- **Field Dressing Descriptions and Illustrations will be provided for:**
 - Small Game
 - Birds – Upland Game Birds and Waterfowl
 - Marine Mammals – Seals, Walrus, Whales

Wildlife Disease Identification

- Common NWT Wildlife Diseases and Parasites
- Safe Handling of Diseased Animals

Sampling

- Diseased animal samples
- Proof of sex samples
- Indicators of Animal Health

Transport

- Appropriate methods of transporting wildlife in a vehicle, boat, ATV or snowmobile so that the meat doesn't get contaminated or spoil.
- Laws related to the transportation of wildlife locally and to outside of the NWT.

Disposal of Remains

- Gut piles and bones on land not water.
- Away from places where people travel – trails, edge of roads.
- Danger of leaving on ice roads.
- Respectful of local beliefs.

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Preservation of Meat

- Butchering of Big Game
 - The NWT department of ENR has meat cutting charts and brochures available for the public that could be used in developing this topic. However the Hunter Education Workshop participants suggested developing a chart that would show the various cuts that would normally be produced if the hunter was not using a meat saw.
- Description of the methods that can be used to preserve meat for the short term or for extended periods of time. Information provided to the students in a training course would be very basic, but further information resources could be listed in an appendix.

Methods to be briefly discussed include:

- Pepper to keep flies off
- Smoking
- Drying
- Freezing

Preparation of Meat and Internal Organs

- The discussion around what could be eaten and how it might be prepared generated considerable discussion - everything from tenderloins to intestines. Communicating all of the different ways that the parts of wildlife could be prepared would be a daunting task and beyond the scope of the NWT Hunter Education program.
- A suggestion put forward at the Hunter Education Workshop was to use a labelled diagram of a caribou to show the major meat cuts and internal organs. For each cut or organ labelled there would be a description of how that item could be cooked i.e. boiled, roasted, fried etc.. A recipe or two for each could be included in an appendix.
- This section could be fleshed out with further research and consultation, deciding what would be appropriate to include in the Hunter Education program itself and what would be included in an appendix.

Sharing the Take

- Providing meat to elders and family members or others in need.
- Collecting and distributing parts you may not use to people who do, for instance, heads, tongue, organs, hides, and antler.

Summary Statement

There is a saying that the real work starts after the hunter kills his prey. The information provided in this component of the Hunter Education program would illustrate the truth in that.

The true test of a hunter's knowledge and skill will be clearly demonstrated when the hunter brings his or her take home. Experienced users of wildlife will be able to tell if the animal was hunted in a respectful way or if was chased before being shot. They will be able to tell how much care and skill was used in field dressing and cutting up of the meat. They will also be able to see how much respect that the hunter shows towards others by how they share their good fortune. The pride that comes with doing the job right is very rewarding.

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Module 7

HUNTER SAFETY

Rational & Discussion

All Canadian hunter education programs contain the topics: hunting equipment & clothing; map and compass reading; and survival and first aid. The depth to which these topics are covered varies between jurisdictions; for example the former NWT Firearm Safety program addressed these topics over six 8 ½" x 11" pages while Alberta uses fifty two pages for these topics.

The new NWT Hunter Education program could include an updated version of the former NWT material but place comprehensive information in a companion reference for student self-learning.

Possible Content

Introductory statement (s):

The environments of the Northwest Territories can be harsh and unforgiving to those who are not properly prepared. Quickly changing weather conditions and extreme cold make it imperative that hunters plan for the worst. The combination of vast wilderness and few roads means that even the smallest problem can lead to serious consequences. The hunter must be prepared to be self-sufficient – help may be a long way off.

Learning about what could go wrong and what can be done to prevent problems or how to deal with these if they arise is critical to any hunter, especially those in the north. This knowledge is essential for self-survival or to help others.

Topic Details

Awareness of Outdoor Dangers

- There are many hazards that a hunter may encounter while hunting in the Northwest Territories, for instance:
 - frost bite
 - hypothermia
 - drowning
 - Injuries resulting from fall, firearms, or other mishaps.
 - ATV or snowmobile accidents

Awareness of the hazards that a hunter could encounter is the first step in reducing hunter risk.

One group at the Hunter Education Workshop surveyed potential hazards by season (spring, summer, fall, winter). Then for each potential hazard within each season, they listed what preparation should be taken to minimize the associated risks. Workshop participants saw value in using this approach in the hunter education program.

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Planning and Preparation

- Travel Planning
 - Plan trip with hunting companions to ensure everything has been considered and to prevent unnecessary duplication.
 - Let people know where you are going, your planned route, who you are going with and when you plan to return.
 - Stick to your plan.
- Never travel alone.
- Always travel with someone who knows the area. Remember, landmarks look different from season to season or from one position on the land to another.
- Always take adequate clothing. Hunting clothing must:
 - Provide insulation for warmth.
 - Move perspiration away from the body through breathable layers.
 - Stop wind and rain.
- Be prepared to overnight, even if you plan to be out for one day.
- Always take matches and equipment needed for providing heat.
- Take a supply of food, tea, and a tea pail.
- Take a firearm and the correct ammunition for it.
- Make sure that your equipment is functioning before you leave.
- Carry basic tools for making repairs to your equipment, and take along spare parts.
- Carry an adequate supply of gas and oil.
- Below the treeline, carry a sharp axe. Above the treeline, carry a snowknife or handsaw for making snow shelter.

Care and Maintenance of Hunting Equipment

- Firearms, snowmobiles, ATVs, boats, camping equipment, etc.
- Double check equipment prior to each and every trip.

Checklists

- Hunter Education Workshop participants put a strong emphasis on preparation and recommended the use of checklists to assist hunters to prepare.
- Develop check lists based on the seasons, potential hazards, and species being hunted.
- Adjust for length of the hunt.
- Develop sub-lists for:
 - Clothing
 - Hunting Equipment
 - Type of Transportation i.e. boat, ATV or snowmobile
 - Camping Equipment
 - Food Supplies
 - Survival kit
 - First Aid kit
- Hunters should develop and verify the checklists with their hunting partners.

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Orienteering

- Map and Compass
- GPS
- Orienteering by traditional or non-technological methods, for instance, stars, snow drifts, etc.

Survival

- Building Survival Kit
- Shelters – above and below treeline
- Sources of Heat – above and below treeline
- What to Do when Lost
- Signalling
- Enemies of Survival

First Aid

- Basic First Aid
- Building First Aid Kits

Hypothermia

- Causes
- Prevention
- Signs
- Treatment

Other Skills

- Camp Safety tips
- Basic Bear Safety
 - Focus on hunting related situations like leaving and approaching (kills) carcasses, caches, and possibly attractant management, especially in camps,

Summary Statement

Hunting is a safe sport, but it does involve a certain amount of risk. Aside from firearm safety issues, a variety of incidents can occur on a trip outdoors. The rougher the terrain—particularly when it's unfamiliar terrain—the greater the chance of accidents. Climate extremes also increase the risk. In remote areas, there's always the possibility of becoming lost.

Being aware of and prepared for what could go wrong can mean the difference between life and death. Acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to be able to travel safely on the land doesn't only benefit the individual hunter but family, friends and other hunters as well. The average hunter will access their first aid and survival kits more often in the aid of other people rather than themselves.

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Module 8

TESTING OF KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS

Rational & Discussion

Knowledge and skills will be tested through the use of a multiple choice written exam and a practical firearms handling exam.

The students will have the option of having the written test be given orally.

SPECIAL INTEREST MODULES

Rational & Discussion

Survival and First Aid

As suggested previously in the “Hunter Safety” rational & discussion, a comprehensive module could be developed for student self-learning. Further consultation may result in a recommendation that this module be included in the main course material and covered by the course instructor.

Bow Hunting and Muzzle Loading

Many hunter education courses include components which address Bow Hunting and Muzzle Loading. However ENR staff and others indicated that these hunting techniques are not in common use in the NWT and would be of little interest to the majority of students.

Rather than include this information as part of the core program, it could be provided as add on modules, possibly included in training courses depending on student interest. Written and practical tests would have to be adjusted accordingly.

Re-Loading Ammunition

As a result of the high cost of ammunition in the NWT, some hunters have begun re-loading their own hunting ammunition. It is reported that the cost savings to an avid hunter can be significant. A “Re-Loading” module could also be included.

