



APR 0 6 2017

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



Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Harvest Management Plan - 2017 Annual Harvest Meeting

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2017 summarizing the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB)'s seventh Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM) held in Inuvik on February 14/15, 2017 and the PCMB's recommendations to the Parties.

The PCMB's assessment of the herds status (Green Zone; above 115,000 caribou) and the associated harvest-related recommendations are fully consistent with the 2010 Harvest Management Plan (HMP).

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) appreciates the update on the planned 2017 post-calving survey for the Porcupine caribou herd, and hopes those conducting the survey are successful and preliminary results are available for the 2018 AHM. For the Board's information, our Department is planning to conduct post-calving surveys of three barren-ground caribou herds (Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, and Bluenose-West) and calving-ground surveys of two herds (Bathurst and Bluenose-East) in summer 2018.

ENR recognizes that the development of the Native User Agreements is key to ensuring the long-term implementation of the HMP during all times. With that in mind ENR will continue to support the Parties efforts, through the Board, to ensure these agreements are developed as outlined in the HMP implementation plan.

Under the new *NWT Wildlife Act*, there is a need for a clear definition of *commercial* in the regulations, and ENR is currently working with our co-management partners to develop these regulations. ENR is very interested in the work the PCMB is doing on the Sale, Trade and Barter Guidelines and the implications of these for the NWT regulations.

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ENR supports the need to ensure a clear understanding of the hunting rights along the Dempster for NWT hunters and supports the development of an information package prior to the fall PCH harvest season. If there is any support ENR can provide please let us know.

ENR appreciated hearing PCMB's comments and recommendations related to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)'s assessment of barren-ground caribou as Threatened in November 2016 (letter dated February 21, 2017). Decisions on federal listing and development of a national recovery strategy will be made by the Government of Canada in consultation with affected jurisdictions and co-management partners, and ENR is considering the potential implications for herds that range within the NWT. There are management plans in place for most barren-ground caribou herds that occur in the NWT, and work is underway to develop a new management plan for the Bathurst herd. ENR would support the development of a Porcupine caribou herd comprehensive herd management plan that could be considered as part of the overall national recovery strategy for barren-ground caribou, and agrees PCMB is the most appropriate body to lead the development of such a plan.

ENR agrees that all Parties need to encourage hunter participation and continue to improve harvest reporting so that the estimated harvest reflects full reporting from all user communities. As the PCMB suggests, increasing the sample size of caribou assessed for body condition each year would be beneficial in supporting our ability to track herd health over time.

I would like to thank the PCMB for its continued leadership and commitment to support conservation and management of the Porcupine caribou herd, and for working closely with communities and co-management partners in the NWT and Yukon that rely on this important shared resource.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joe Dragon
Deputy Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

- c. Mr. Fred Mandeville, Assistant Deputy Minister-Operations, ENR
- Mr. Norman Snowshoe, Superintendent, Inuvik Region, ENR
- Dr. Brett Elkin, Director, Wildlife Division, ENR, GNWT
- Mr. Eugene Pascal, Chair, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Ms. Amy Amos, Executive Director, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Mr. Patrick Gruben, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council
- Ms. Jen Lam, Resource Person, Inuvialuit Game Council
- Mr. Larry Carpenter, Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Board (NWT)
- Ms. Jodie Maring, Resource Person, WMAC (NWT)