

Gwich'inat Eenjit
Gàdatr'igwijiłcheii Gidilii

*Gwich'in nan, nakhwek'yùu ts'at gwitr'it
tthak nakhwidavee gwiłheezàa eenjit*



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Gwich'in land, culture & economy for a better future

March 27, 2018

Mr. Joe Tetlich, Chair
Porcupine Caribou Management Board
P.O. Box 31723
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 6L3

Dear Mr. Tetlich,

This is in reply to your letter dated February 26, 2016 requesting a response from the Parties, on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) recommendation that the Porcupine Caribou Herd (PCH) be considered in the Green Zone - above 115,000 caribou.

Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) is in agreement with PCMB recommendations on the Green Zone and reiterates the Green Zone Harvest Management Plan actions (HMP - page 20):

- 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 before the Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM).

GTC has the following comments regarding concerns raised during the last PCMB AHM held in Inuvik:

- The population computer model – a demonstration is requested to accurately estimate with a high level of confidence, prior to the labeling 'one of the best science-based tools to help understand how the herd is doing. There is also mention of combining other information in to the equation for the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee (PCTC) assessment and recommendations. Local Traditional Knowledge (LTK) should also be acknowledged in its contribution to the PCTC understanding of the PCH. Yukon has committed to community consultation on the model in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.
- Draft Dempster Highway hunting rights pamphlets, have been updated and GTC is reviewing Yukon's interpretation of GTC's assertions of hunting rights in the Yukon. GTC has not signed off on the latest draft pamphlet presented by Yukon.
- GTC agrees that the current Canadian harvest is not a major concern. GTC also acknowledges the PCMB's recognition that cow harvest is not of concern, when the herd is in the Green Zone.

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GTC is committed to the PCH HMP and looks forward to working with the PCMB on the following recommendations and concerns.

1. Finalizing the Native User Agreements in 2018.
2. Review the Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessment of barren-ground caribou (BGC) in Canada as threatened. PCMB will review and develop options for the development of a PCH approach as part of the overall national recovery strategy for BGC for Parties consideration.
3. Will work with Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to encourage and increase harvesters' participation in voluntary harvest data collection and monitoring programs.
4. Continue to support Hunter Education and work with Parties to address these issues through appropriate communication programs.

If further information or clarification is required contact Stephen Charlie, Director of Lands and Resources at (867) 777-7927 or emailed at stephen.charlie@gwichin.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

Bobbie-Jo Greenland-Morgan, Grand Chief

c/c Jordan Peterson, GTC Vice-President
Carolyn Lennie, GTC Chief Operating Officer
Stephen Charlie, GTC Director of Lands and Resources