



April 15, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Tetlich:

**RE: Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM) – PCMB Recommendations**

Once again, we commend the PCMB for organizing an informative and productive meeting. As well, we would like to express our gratitude for the invitation to participate in this very important occasion, I understand it was well planned and very well attended by many participants from each user community; thus once again reflecting on the progress of the collaborative efforts made by the Parties and the Board throughout the two day meeting from February 11-12, 2014. Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge your correspondence of February 24, 2014, seeking comments to the Board's recommendations on the AHM. It is with appreciation that we submit our comments as follows:

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government is in full support of, *Section B, Recommended Harvest Management Zone and Harvest Management Actions*. We articulate the Board has carried out its due-diligence in reviewing the information provided at the AHM in collaboration with the Parties, therefore; we support the recommendation to remain in the Green Management Zone as outlined in the PC Harvest Management Plan as well, to take notice of the information provided at the meeting (PCHMP, page 20):

Green Zone Management Actions:

- 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 Annual Harvest Meeting.

We are very pleased to harken information on the recent census, not with-standing the successful studies correlating the indicators, as well as traditional knowledge that was shared at the meeting. In addition to low harvest estimate, low cow harvest and no unforeseen abnormalities, we are confident in the management harvest zone recommended.

Consequently, we continue to emphasize on meaningful education and communication, although we are in the Green Harvest Management Zone, it is important to keep up the momentum of communicating good harvesting practices, TH has been educating our youth for two decades through our First Hunt program, which contributes to practices of good stewardship on the land, within TH Traditional Territory, therefore; we suggest that communication on best practices

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**PCMB AHM Response**

and education is highly maintained throughout the Green Harvest Zone.

In terms of the Boards recommendations for *Section C, Rationale for Board Recommendations*, we are in support for the most part as we had concerns in the past and are now satisfied with the indicators as out-lined as follows:

- *Section C-1.3.5, Bull ratio:* As mentioned prior, we were concerned with the cow/bull ratio and articulated the importance to maintain the monitoring of their ratios; while the weight of harvesting bulls is encouraged as there is potential for over-harvesting mature bulls, the adverse effect could be the result of reproduction trends, we suggest monitoring harvest to evaluate mature bull harvest and cow/bull ratios studies continue;
- *Section D-1, Incorporate Traditional Knowledge Into Process:* Although, some Traditional Knowledge was shared at the meeting, we continue to emphasize that Traditional Knowledge (THK) is a key component when discussing herd indicators, particularly in today's trend, when climate change is in-effect and exclusively throughout phases of limited scientific knowledge, TK needs to be weighted as a contributing value for management decisions when discussing the Herd's population, health and habitat;
- *Section D-2, Coordinate workshop on computer model:* We're content knowing the caribou modeling is well within completion; as previously mentioned, we look forward to the completion of the computer model and participating in the workshop as it pertains to the applications reflective of the indicators out-lined in the PCHMP and to ensure the accuracy and certainty the model's in-put and out-put will play as part of the decision making when relied upon for population considerations;
- *Section D-4, Develop Native User Agreement:* As mentioned at the meeting, some effort have been made and TH is committed to move forward with this file as part of implementation obligations through the PCHMP, TH will continue to hold discussions with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun as the year progresses, we are optimistic that much progress will be succeeded this year.

We are encouraged with the implementation of the PCHMP, the implementation continues to be improving at such an un-expected success rate, we should all be proud for over-coming the challenges and maintaining the realization of this valuable and essential tool. Again, it is imperative for us to mention how important it is to honor the obligations in the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan (PCP) and Implementation Plan. Through the Implementation of the Plan, we supported the administration of being responsible for the management of our Citizens harvesting activities, thus respecting the management within each other's jurisdiction. We support any of the Parties on the development of management actions within their jurisdiction, vice versa; we request the equivalent support for the progress of management actions within TH Traditional Territory.

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation on the continued efforts the Board and the Parties have made with the Implementation of the PCHMP. We concur with the recommendations and will implement the recommendations accordingly through our Fish and Wildlife Act. Should you have any concerns with regards to our response, please feel free to contact our Manager, Fish and Wildlife, Roberta Joseph at 867-993-7115.

Sincerely,

**TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN**



Eddie Taylor  
Häkhe