

DECEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER - SEASONS GREETINGS

Sahtu Renewable Resources Board - To protect, conserve manage renewable resources



CARIBOU GENDER IDENTIFICATION

The numbers of caribou in Canada's North are far less than they were five years ago. In response to this, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board has consulted with representatives from all five RRCs and have met with RRCs and community members in Tulita, Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, and Deline to hear their recommendations. One recommendation that was supported at all the meetings is a voluntary Bulls Only hunt for at least part of the season. This is probably the biggest contribution that the people of the Sahtu can make towards building larger caribou populations.

The easiest way to distinguish bulls from cows is by looking at their rear ends.

Bull

Cow



Chris Yukon skinning a wolverine at Deline Renewable Resource Office



Photo: Toby Halle

Robert Lyslo teaching a class after bringing in the fire wood at Colville Lake School



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Dr. Paul Latour of the Canadian Wildlife Service for his reappointment to the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board. Great to have you back!

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board would like to welcome Mr. Michael Sanagan to the Sahtu as the new Regional Superintendent for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

WANTED: WILDLIFE ARTWORK FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Send me your animal drawing and it could be featured in the next Issue!

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SAHTU TRAPPERS HIT THE TRAILS

Trapping in the Sahtu is under way! At least 66 trappers (and some with families) are out on the land. The RRCs reported that as of November 30th there were 6 from Tulita,

T 32 from Fort Good Hope,
R 14 from Deline, 12 from
A Colville Lake, and 2 from Norman Wells. Others
P will join them in the next few weeks. Major target
P species include marten, beaver, lynx, wolf, muskrat,
E and wolverine. The Western Canadian Raw Fur
R Auction Sales Ltd. forecasts a Very Good Demand
N for marten with select bringing in \$95-\$125. Lynx,
E wolverine, wild mink and muskrat are amongst those
W in Good Demand. Remember - the February (17th)
S sale is usually the biggest. The last receiving date at
the auction for this sale is February 1st, 2006. Get
your furs into ENR before then to be included.



WOLVERINE CARCASS STUDY

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is continuing a long-term biological study to learn more about wolverines. Any hunter or trapper in the Northwest Territories who brings a complete skinned out wolverine carcass to their local Renewable Resource Office will be paid **\$50.00**. Please contact your local ENR Renewable Resource Officer for more information.



TRADITIONAL WILDLIFE ECONOMY SCHOOL PROJECTS

Three Sahtu schools are currently getting ready to start Traditional Wildlife Economy projects. These projects were developed and facilitated by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board as a means to re-unite the Sahtu youth with the wildlife resources of their culture. The majority of funding was generously provided by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment through the tireless efforts of Frank Pope and Sam Kivi. Each school is running a separate type of program but share many similarities including trapping and bush skills.

Colville Lake students will take part in the Take a Kid Trapping Program. An instructor will show the students how to set a marten trapline using Sauvageau 2001-5 traps. These are short excursions, with the instructor and students returning to the school each day after setting the line and checking it for catches. This program will run for approximately 4 weeks and can potentially expose all of Colville Lake School's students to trapping this year.

10 students from Fort Good Hope will experience a week-long program under the direction of Mr. Charlie Barnaby. Two groups of 5 students each will accompany Mr. Barnaby to Hume Lake for seven days and learn trapping and bush skills. In addition, Mr. Barnaby will take the opportunity to tell the youth about their past and Traditional Customs of their People.

Deline is undertaking their second season of Aboriginal Traditional Studies. This year, Mr. Fred Bonnell was able to purchase several pieces of major equipment for the project including two snowmobiles and a toboggan. We are hopeful that other sources of financial support can be secured to expand the inventory further in the future. This year the program will take five or six students at a time out on the land for five days and four nights each. We predict that more than 40 students will participate this year. Breaking trail was very difficult due to deep snow. However, three groups totaling seventeen students have been out on the land so far and future trips will take place over the next few months. This program is the model for the Sahtu due to its comprehensive format. In addition to trapping, survival training, small engine maintenance, and camping skills, students will be taught and certified First Aide and undertake firearms certification. Supplementary classroom training in small business management will also be included as this essential component for success in today's economy is often overlooked in trapper training programs. The Aboriginal Traditional Studies Program is open to all registered students in the Sahtu Settlement Area. We encourage the Principals in other communities to contact Mr. Bonnell (867-589-3391) for more information if they have candidates in mind.