



Sahtu Renewable Resources Board Public Hearing – Information Requests October 22, 2007

Background

Section 13.8.21(b) of the Sahtu Dene-Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement requires the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) to conduct a public hearing before making any decisions about establishing a total allowable harvest for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd in the Sahtu Settlement Area. The SRRB will be conducting a public hearing November 21-23, 2007 in Fort Good Hope to hear from all affected and interested parties about establishing a total allowable harvest to reduce harvesting on the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd. This hearing will also allow parties an opportunity to express their views on barren-ground management in the Sahtu Settlement Area.

Information Requests

The purpose of these Information Requests is to provide the SRRB with additional information for its consideration prior to the hearing. All registered participants will receive copies of all information filed with the SRRB in response to these questions.

These Information Requests are directed to:

- Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Behdzi Ahda' First Nation
- Government of Canada, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

The deadline for filing responses with the SRRB is Monday, November 5, 2007, at 5:00 pm. All responses are to be filed in written and electronic format (director@srrb.nt.ca) to facilitate distribution of information to all participants.

IR Number: 1.1

To: Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)

Subject: Barren-ground Caribou Management

Preamble

In September 2005 & 2006, ENR presented the Barren-Ground Photo-census Survey results to the SRRB and the community Renewable Resource Councils. ENR recommended that overall harvest be reduced and to concentrate harvest on bulls only.

Request

1. Please describe, in detail, all management actions that ENR considered as options for assisting the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd to recover.
2. ENR biologists indicated that the current harvest levels, particularly adult females, are not sustainable and recommends harvest should not exceed 3% of 2006 herd size. What is ENR's rationale for the 3% level? If the recommended level is incorporated, what is the timeframe for the slow or reverse in decline in the herd? If the recommended level is not incorporated, in your view, what are the impacts to the herd?
3. Please provide a life table, or other accepted population modelling technique, using the proposed total allowable harvest and standard demographic parameters such as cohort based natality and mortality (either known or estimated) to predict possible future growth rates of the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd and when the herd size could be expected to return to 2000 levels.
4. Please describe what options exist for implementing mandatory reporting of harvest by subsistence and resident harvesters.

IR Number: 1.2

To: Behdzi Ahda' First Nation

Subject: 2006 Colville Lake Caribou Survey

Preamble

In its letter of 15 January 2007 to the Minister of ENR, the Ayoni Keh Land Corporation states that the community of Colville Lake conducted its own caribou count in the fall of 2006. The results challenge the numbers released by ENR for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd.

Request

1. Please provide the caribou survey results collected by the Behdzi Ahda' First Nation in Fall 2006.
2. Please explain, in detail, the methodology used to obtain the survey results described in question one.

IR Number: 1.3

To: Government of Canada, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Subject: Current Land Dispositions in the Range of Bluenose-West Caribou Herd

Preamble

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has provided land rights to a number of parties in the way of mineral and hydrocarbon exploration rights in the range of the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd.

Request

1. Please provide, in map form, all existing land dispositions within the range of the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd, including prospecting permits, mineral exploration licences & claims, and hydrocarbon exploration licences.