



**Sahtu Renewable
Resources Board**

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17 February 2006

Honorable J. Michael Miltenberger
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Government of Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Re: Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herd Recommendations

Mr. Miltenberger:

At our recent February 2006 Board Meeting, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) and all Sahtu Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) further discussed the July 2005 Bluenose Caribou Herd photo-census results and required actions. Everyone agreed that the decline in both the Bluenose-West & East caribou populations is cause for concern as barren-ground caribou are one of the most important renewable resources in the Sahtu Settlement Area (SSA).

Therefore, the Board and RRCs have prepared the following list of interim recommendations for regulation change and management actions that should be considered immediately to avoid any serious detriment to the caribou herds:

- Set the voluntary annual Allowable Harvest for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd at 1040 caribou and the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd at 3300 caribou until June 30, 2006
- Reduce the commercial quota for barren-ground caribou in the SSA to zero until June 30, 2006
- Close the non-resident and non-resident alien hunting seasons for barren-ground caribou in the SSA until June 30, 2006
- As a public wildlife management board, the SRRB would like to see Northwest Territories' residents have the opportunity to harvest barren-ground caribou; however, since the Minimum Needs Level, as determined by

the Sahtu Settlement Harvest Study, has already exceeded the Total Allowable Harvest and to err on the side of conservation, the Board recommends closing the resident hunting season for barren-ground caribou in the SSA until June 30, 2006

- ENR should continue enforcement and compliance efforts including monitoring harvesting activity in the SSA and enforcement of wastage legislation
- ENR should work with the SRRB and RRCs to develop barren-ground caribou conservation-education initiatives, including the voluntary selection of bulls

Upon completion of the 2006 photo-census survey, the SRRB and RRCs will review the survey results and any additional information available at that time to determine whether or not to adjust, add to, and/or remove the above Sahtu recommendations.

The Board and RRCs looks forward to working with ENR to address this important wildlife issue. If there are any questions, please contact our office at (867) 588-4040. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Walter Bayha
Chairman

Cc Walter Bayha, Chair, SRRB
SRRB Board Members & Alternates
Steve Hannah, Superintendent, ENR – Sahtu Region
Richard Kochon, President, Behdzi Ahda' Renewable Resource Council
Paul Modeste, President, Deline Renewable Resource Council
Roger Boniface, President, Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council
Rhea McDonald, President, Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council
Wilfred Lennie Sr, President, Tulita Renewable Resource Council
Larry Carpenter, Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT)
Robert Charlie, Chair, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board