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**Sahtu Renewable
Resources Board**

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20 December 2006

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

Re: Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herd Recommendations

Mr. McLeod:

At our September 2006 Board Meeting, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB), all Sahtu Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) and the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR), Sahtu Region, discussed the July 2006 Bluenose Caribou Herd photo-census results and required actions. Everyone agreed that the continued decline in the Bluenose-West caribou populations is cause for concern as barren-ground caribou are one of the most important renewable resources in the Sahtu Settlement Area (SSA). Follow-up consultations were undertaken in each Sahtu community, along with caribou management workshops with Junior and Senior High School students, which led to specific conservation measures.

Therefore, the Board has prepared the following list of recommendations for regulation change and management actions that should be considered immediately to avoid any serious detriment to the caribou herds (SRRB Motion #12-18-06-01):

1. Set a total allowable harvest (TAH) for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd at 4% of the 2006 photo-census results for subsistence harvesting until a new population estimate is available in 2009 and to limit the harvest of females at 20% of the TAH. The TAH will be distributed between regions based on

- percentages agreed to by the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT), the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, and the SRRB.
2. Since good harvest statistics are lacking for Kugluktuk, Gameti, and Wrigley, the SRRB suggests setting a voluntary total allowable harvest for the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd at 4% of the 2006 photo-census results for subsistence harvesting until a new population estimate is available in 2009 and to voluntarily limit the harvest of females at 20% of the TAH.
 3. ENR should provide funding to allow the SRRB and Sahtu RRCs to engage in discussions about the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd with community wildlife organizations in Nunavut, Tlicho, and Deh Cho as well as the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Organization, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board, and the Deh Cho First Nations.
 4. Reduce the commercial quota for barren-ground caribou in the SSA to zero until the July 2009 photo-census results are made available.
 5. Close the non-resident and non-resident alien hunting seasons for barren-ground caribou in the SSA until the July 2009 photo-census results are made available.
 6. 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 the July 2009 photo-census results are made available.
 7. ENR should determine the size of the Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herds by conducting a photo-census survey in July 2009.
 8. ENR should continue enforcement and compliance efforts including the enforcement of wastage legislation. Funding should be provided to the SRRB to continue the Sahtu Settlement Harvest Study to monitor caribou harvesting activity in the SSA, especially the sex ratio.
 9. ENR should work with the SRRB and RRCs to develop barren-ground caribou conservation-education initiatives, including the voluntary selection of bulls and ethical harvesting methods.

Upon completion of the 2009 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 looks forward to working with ENR and other wildlife management boards 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Bayha', written over a horizontal line.

Walter Bayha
Chairman

Cc **SRRB Board Members & Alternates**
Keith Hickling, A/Superintendent, ENR – Sahtu Region
Richard Kochon, President, Behdzi Ahda' Renewable Resource Council
Dolphus Tutcho, President, Deline Renewable Resource Council
Roger Boniface, President, Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council
Norm Hodgson, President, Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council
Wilfred Lennie Sr, President, Tulita Renewable Resource Council
Frank Pokiak, A/Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT)
Robert Charlie, Chair, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Joe Tigullaraq, Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Philip Kadlun, President, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Organization
Alphonse Nitsidea, Chair, Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board
Herb Norwegian, Grand Chief, Deh Cho First Nation