



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

December 19, 2019

Mr. George Barnaby
Chair, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

Re: Public Listening Session Colville Lake

Dear Mr. Barnaby,

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) (WMAC (NWT), or the Council) will always have a strong interest in shared wildlife populations and coordinated management actions between land claim areas, particularly for barren-ground caribou. Public Listening Sessions in Colville Lake notwithstanding, the Council expects the community conservation planning process in the Sahtú to comply with the transboundary agreements to which the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board is party, including the Memorandum of Understanding for the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) and the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan (ACCWM 2014).

The WMAC (NWT) is significantly concerned about the conservation of shared barren-ground caribou populations in the NWT and the need for compliance to existing and future conservation actions. The WMAC (NWT) and SRRB are expected to provide information, including harvest data, to the ACCWM on an annual basis. In their letter to ENR resulting from the 2007 hearing on the Bluenose West herd, the SRRB recommended detailed caribou harvest data collection and supported the 4% Total Allowable Harvest. At the Bluenose West Caribou Herd: Collaborative Meeting on November 17-18, 2015 between the WMAC (NWT), SRRB, and the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the SRRB showed commitment to closely monitoring harvest levels in order to ensure that harvest levels remain below the allocated TAH. A report was requested from the SRRB to the group, detailing monthly harvest information collected from the Renewable Resource Councils, with degree of confidence and information on how the numbers were collected, as well as a report as to how harvest data will be collected from non-Sahtú beneficiaries. To the Council's knowledge, the SRRB has not received nor shared any such reports since the 2007 hearing, and there have been no noticeable improvements in the sharing of harvest information from communities within the Sahtú with wildlife co-management partners. This information is imperative to have and share in order to make informed recommendations for the conservation of barren-ground caribou to the benefit of future generations.

At this time, the Council will limit their participation in the Public Listening Sessions in the Sahtú until collaborative wildlife co-management processes are reciprocated from the SRRB. The Council stresses that community conservation planning must work within the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan, and it must include methods to monitor harvest levels and allow the sharing of information between regions. Based on the information provided on the Public Listening Sessions to date, and the length of time required for the completion of results from those sessions, it is concerning to the Council how the SRRB intends to be engaged in the management of barren-ground caribou herds in the interim.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at wmac-c@jointsec.nt.ca, Jodie Maring, Resource Coordinator, at wmacnwt@jointsec.nt.ca, or Rosemin Nathoo, Wildlife Biologist, at wmac-bio@jointsec.nt.ca or (867) 777-2828.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



Larry Carpenter
Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

CC:

Vernon Amos, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council
Jody Pellissey, Executive Director, Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Amy Amos, Executive Director, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Daniel Shewchuk, Chairperson, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Attima Hadari, Chairperson, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
Tom Nesbitt, Chair, Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
Dr. Erin Kelly, A/Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources