



Porcupine Caribou Management Board

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April 29, 2009

Hon. Elaine Taylor
Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Hon. Ms. Taylor:

Re Porcupine Caribou Herd Conservation and Management Measures

The Porcupine Caribou Management Board (Board) is in receipt of your correspondence dated March 27, 2009, with respect to consultation on the Porcupine Caribou Herd interim conservation and management measures.

The Board is of the view that the harvest management planning process must be allowed to be finalized. In the meantime, interim measures should not be implemented.

As you are aware, a Working Group was established in October 2007 and mandated to develop a draft Harvest Management Plan (HMP) for the PCMB. Government of Yukon, as a signatory to the HMP Protocol, has agreed to participate in good faith with other signatories to develop a HMP through this process. The Working Group anticipates comments on the second draft of the HMP from signatories within the next few weeks. It is the Board's understanding that the Working Group will forward a final draft to the Board by the middle of May. The Board will then review the draft and forward it, along with any comments the Board has, to the parties for consideration and signing. If there is not agreement on the HMP as recommended by the Board, then there may be a need for the Board to meet with all parties to consider proposed changes.

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The Board appreciates the Yukon's concern over conservation of the herd and recognizes the need to prepare for a new harvest regime that reflects the conservation goals agreed to by the parties. The Board recommends that this new regime be based on the final signed HMP and subsequent recommendations from the Board. Until the HMP is complete, it is impossible to know what its contents will include. Therefore, at this time, to state that any interim measures are based on HMP discussions would be presumptuous. The Board feels that it is critical to allow the process to be completed by the Working Group. The Board recognizes it is challenging to engage communities, particularly in the NWT, as each Working Group member represents several communities spread over large geographic areas. Adequate opportunity and time to undertake this process with their respective communities is essential.

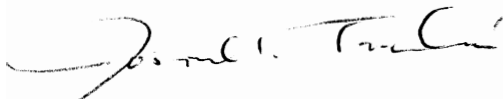
All parties are striving to arrive at a cooperative, common management approach in the HMP. The Board is concerned that a separate process led by one party (Government of Yukon, in this case) will, at best, confuse user communities regarding progress that has been made toward a recommended HMP. At worst, it may be seen to usurp the cooperative harvest management planning process the parties have been engaged in for the past year and a half.

The Board is encouraged that significant progress has been made in terms of cooperation, communication and understanding among the parties. The HMP will be a precedent-setting achievement that all parties can take pride in. Achieving agreement on a cooperative harvest management regime to conserve an important shared resource as valued as the Porcupine Caribou Herd is no insignificant matter. The Board has a very real concern that Government of Yukon's interim-measures initiative will jeopardize progress made to date by the eight parties.

In closing, the Board would like to emphasize its view that the harvest management planning process must be allowed to be completed, and that interim measures should not be implemented at this time.

If you require further information regarding the position of the Board, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Joe Tetlich
Chair