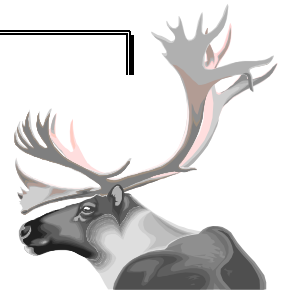


MEETING SUMMARY

PORCUPINE CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

April 29 – May 1, 2003, Whitehorse, Yukon



HERD UPDATE:

Dorothy Cooley, YTG Dawson Regional Biologist, indicated that:

- The next census is scheduled for July 2003.
- Although the Technical Committee agreed that the model presented at the April 2003 Harvest Workshop in Inuvik was useful, they would like more time to verify the raw data that went into the model. They did provide some recommendations such as doing a fall bull count.
- As part of the March fieldwork, conventional collars were put on 10 bulls and 11 short yearlings. Six satellite collars were deployed, 3 on recaptured animals.
- The snow survey taken from stations near the Dempster Highway indicated that this was an average winter for snowfall.

DEMPSTER HIGHWAY HUNTING REGULATIONS:

There was considerable discussion on the confusion surrounding the board's recommendation to shorten the cow season. It was decided that until the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement is amended to include all First Nations governments, it may not be possible to obtain community buy-in for a legislated shorter cow season for First Nations' hunters. Therefore, the members will recommend that all hunters not harvest cows through voluntary compliance. Support was also given to recommending that there be two one-week closures, one on the northern end of the highway and another later on the southern end, if the migration patterns warrant two closure periods. There were no recommendations resulting from the Summit meeting, however several First Nations are planning further discussions.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS WITH YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Chair, Ed Kormendy and Executive Director, Kelly Hayes, met with the board members to discuss what the consultation process should be when recommendations made to the Yukon Minister of Environment by the PCMB affect the general public. Last fall was the first time that the Minister asked the YFWMB to undertake a public consultation process on PCMB recommendations and the YFWMB wished to clarify the roles of both boards in regards to public consultation. It was decided that if a recommendation concerns only the Porcupine Caribou herd, the PCMB has precedence and should undertake the consultation process. In order to minimize the cost of consultation, the PCMB would take advantage of the YFWMB existing process and conduct the consultation in conjunction with the YFWMB. However, if the regulation affects the Porcupine Caribou herd and other herds, then there should be joint consultation with the YFWMB taking the lead. If there were a conflict between the recommendations from the YFWMB, whose authority flows from the Umbrella Final Agreement, and the PCMB, whose authority flows from the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement, the PCMA would take precedence. In order to further clarify the process, the Chairs of the PCMB and the YFWMB will meet to develop a joint proposal for consultation to be sent to the Yukon Minister of Environment.

AMENDING THE PORCUPINE CARIBOU MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT:

In an effort to facilitate this process, the Yukon government wrote to the signatories of the agreement. They have received positive replies from five of the original signatories to the agreement with the exception of the Council of Yukon First Nations. In order to make any amendments to the agreement all signatories must agree to examine the agreement. Because the agreement was signed before land claims were finalized with the user community First Nations, it has become increasingly difficult for the board to make progress on issues such as the Dempster Highway hunting regulations; a new management plan and a harvest management plan for the herd. The PCMB Chair will make a presentation at Council of Yukon First Nations Chiefs' meeting to obtain their approval to have the signatories meet to examine the agreement and discuss the necessary amendments.

PCMB MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP

Doug Urquhart facilitated a workshop held in conjunction with the PCMB meeting to develop the next three-year management plan for the board. It was decided that as progress on some major concerns can not move forward until the First Nations governments are recognized through amending the agreement, that the board develop a two year interim plan.

ADMINISTRATION:

The Hiring Committee held interviews for the Secretariat position on April 28th. Deana Lemke of Whitehorse will take over the duties of the secretariat in early September.

HUNTING AND CULTURAL CAMPS:

Ten groups/First Nations/schools from the Northwest Territories and Yukon have held cultural and hunting camps with support from the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation. The Aklavik RRC will hold its camp later this spring. The camps have been well-received and benefited youth and elders in almost all of the user communities.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place in Fort McPherson in October.