

PCMB MEETING UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2007, WHITEHORSE

Porcupine Caribou Management Board

Special Points of Interest:

- *The Harvest Management Strategy workshop is coming up October 18-21, 2007. At this meeting, representatives of all user communities and stakeholders will work together to identify acceptable harvest management options to help conserve the herd.*
- *There are increasing oil and gas interests in the herd's range, and the PCMB is working to protect the herd's habitat by staying involved and making recommendations to all agencies as the opportunities arise.*
- *The PCMB is a member of the CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) network, and it participates in sharing information among caribou experts to better understand trends and management options.*

HOW IS THE HERD DOING? LOTS OF RESEARCH TELLS US.

Dorothy Cooley reported on several recent caribou studies.

- First, the exciting news ... In the March 2007 calving survey, there were 39 calves per 100 cows; in a good year, there should be 30-35 calves per 100 cows. Survival rates were high, as well.
- New radio collars and new satellite collars were deployed on 27 caribou to help researchers locate the herd to conduct important studies like the calv-

ing survey.

- A photocensus was done in July, and the results are expected soon. The last photocensus was done in 2001. The Board is very anxiously awaiting the results of this photocensus.
- A study is being conducted to measure the effect of snow machines on the tundra.

Elisabeth Robbins (University of Alaska, Fairbanks) reported on community interviews she conducted about caribou leaders.

Tracey Smith (University of Alberta) reported on her study of traditional knowledge in caribou co-management.

Shawn Francis from the North Yukon Planning Commission gave a presentation to the Board about cumulative impacts.

Gary Kofinas and Wendy Nixon talked about a CARMA project that is aimed at bringing together community-based monitoring and PCMB decision making.

For more information about any of these reports, feel free to call our office.

DEMPSTER HIGHWAY REGULATIONS

Government announced that Department of Environment will not enforce the 500-metre no-hunting corridor for caribou or the one-week closure to let the leaders pass. The Department will not restrict First Nation hunters from using snow machines off-highway but will continue

to enforce the snow machine regulations on resident hunters. Conservation Officers will be enforcing laws of general application on all harvesters.

Regulations prohibiting shooting out of vehicles or shooting along or across road and wounding animals will still be enforced.

All regulations will remain legislated until repealed by OIC. The Department will await direction arising from the Harvest Management Strategy.

This decision by government does not affect the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement or the PCMB's mandate.

PCMB Activities

The Chair has been working hard, attending meetings to brief and to hear from other groups about the herd.

The Board will attend the CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) Network meeting in Vancouver in November. This network shares information about caribou from all over the circumpolar north.

Keep checking your mailboxes ... The PCMB's 20th Anniversary Annual Report is coming soon.

The Board is working on coordinating the development of a Harvest Management Strategy. The users will work to identify harvest management options that they can upon by users, and the PCMB will be functioning as the catalyst. Doug Urquhart will be facilitating.

The Board is monitoring oil and gas activity in the range of the herd. The Board makes submissions to boards such as the Mackenzie Gas Joint Review Panel, Yukon Socio-Economic and Environmental Assessment Board, and the Yukon Oil and Gas Branch (rights disposition process) about how activities affect the herd.

The PCMB is continuing its work in developing a comprehensive Porcupine Caribou hunter education package that will use scientific as well as traditional knowledge. There has been a lot of demand for this type of package, and it looks like the Board will be receiving a lot of support, too.





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The date and location of the next PCMB meeting will be announced shortly.

New Oil and Gas Developments

The PCMB works hard to protect the herd's habitat. The PCMB heard from two presenters from the Yukon oil and gas branch.

Deb Wortley explained the oil and gas rights disposition process. Kirstie Simpson explained best management practices, especially as they relate to the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

The PCMB has been invited to give a presentation at the oil and gas best management practices symposium in Inuvik in October.

Congratulations

Frederick (Sonny) Blake was elected Chief of the Tsiigehtchic Council. He is the youngest Gwich'in chief ever, and he brings lots of traditional knowledge to his position.

The CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring (CARMA) Network has adopted the body condition monitoring protocol designed largely by Dorothy Cooley from the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee. This means that researchers all over the world will work to these methods so that the studies can be compared. Researchers know more about the Porcupine Caribou Herd than any other herd in North America.

Ian McDonald, Board Member for the Government of Canada, is on paternity leave to welcome his second child, a boy named Owen. Wendy Nixon of Canadian Wildlife Service served as his alternate during this meeting.

Read more about our news, our meeting and our Board on our Web site:
www.taiga.net/pcmb

HARVEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WORKSHOP PREPARATION

The Harvest Management Strategy workshop is scheduled to take place October 18 to 21 in Inuvik.

The PCMB is pleased to announce that Doug Urquhart will be facilitating. At this PCMB meeting, Doug spent three hours with the PCMB and community representatives to prepare for the workshop.

Discussions centered around the process of developing the HMS, not on what the content of the Harvest Management Plan will be.

The HMS will be driven by the participants. The discussions here are preliminary ideas only.

Key points include:

- PCMB's role will be to function as a catalyst for all governments, including First Nation governments, in managing harvest. PCMB can research and identify options, and the HMS signatories can make decisions for the HMS.
- It is important to plan for how the HMS will work once it has been completed. Ultimately, all the groups and the harvesters should be able to accept the HMS.
- Treaties must be mentioned; and treaty rights must be recognized.
- How the PCMB members and working group mem-

bers communicate with their own citizens and inform the communities will determine the success of the HMS. The whole community has to buy in.

- The HMS should not put too many details on implementation. There should be flexibility for the communities' own implementation methods.
- Face-to-face community meetings would be an important way to ensure hunters understand the recommendations.

The HMS Working Group will be discussing more details regarding the workshop plans when they meet in Dawson on October 4.

CARMA

The PCMB has participated in the CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) Network for several years. The next CARMA meeting will be in November, and the PCMB will send representatives to attend.

At the meeting, experts from all around the world will be sharing information about northern caribou herds. This type of information sharing is invaluable to guiding board decisions.

CARMA was recently approved for International Polar Year funding to continue its operations.