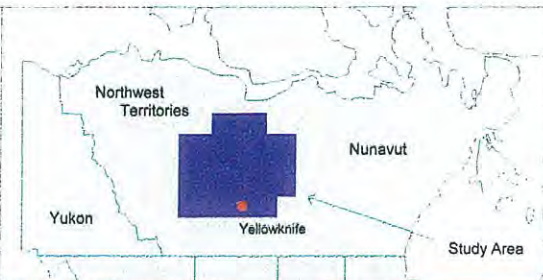


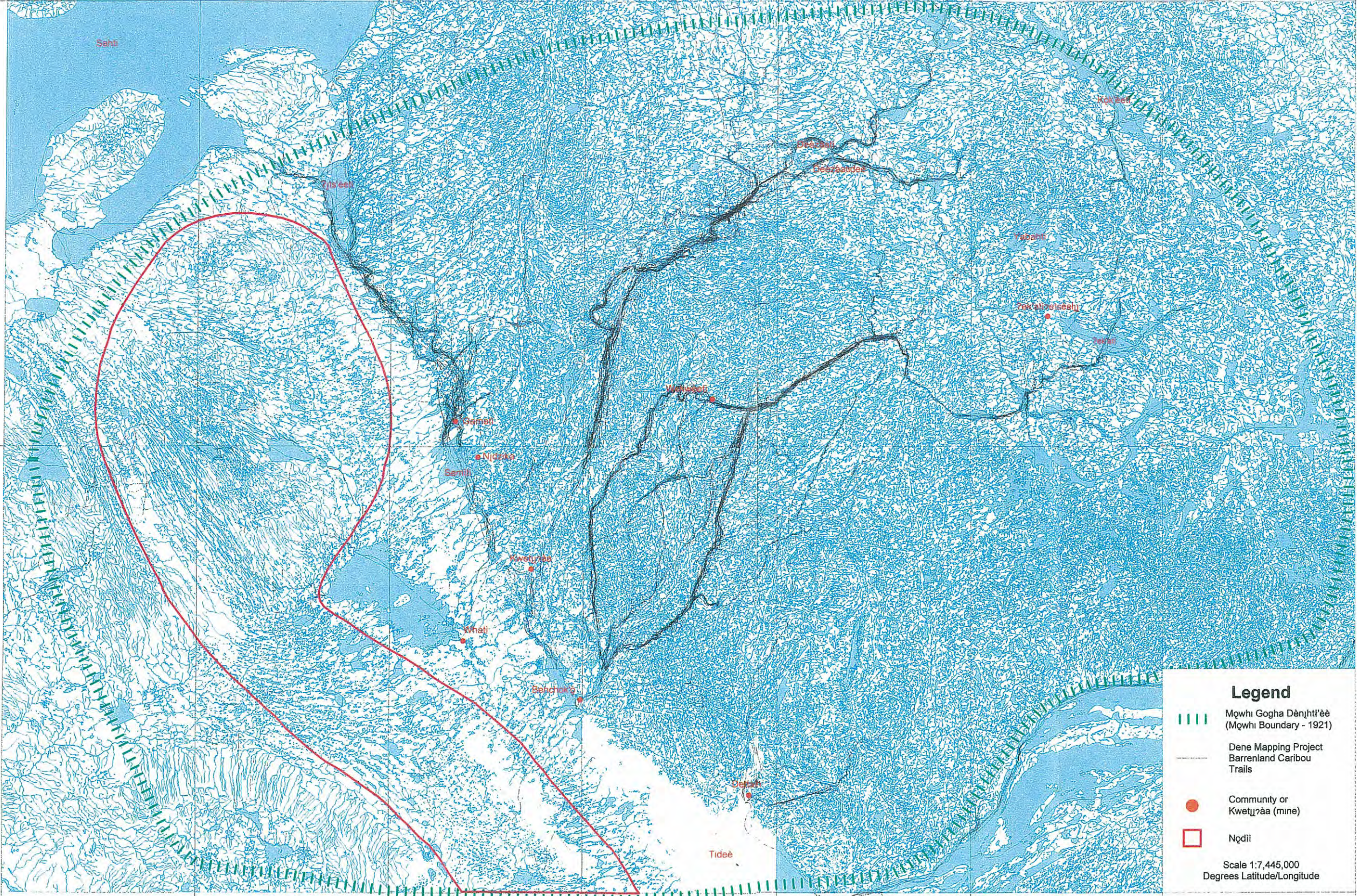
Elizabeth Chocolate  
1999





Traditional Trails  
Used for  
Harvesting ʔekwò

(Credit: Whaèhdòò Nàowoò K'ò, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council)



**Legend**

- Mqwhi Gogha Dènjht'èè (Mqwhi Boundary - 1921)
- Dene Mapping Project Barrenland Caribou Trails
- Community or Kwetj'aa (mine)
- Nqdi

Scale 1:7,445,000  
Degrees Latitude/Longitude





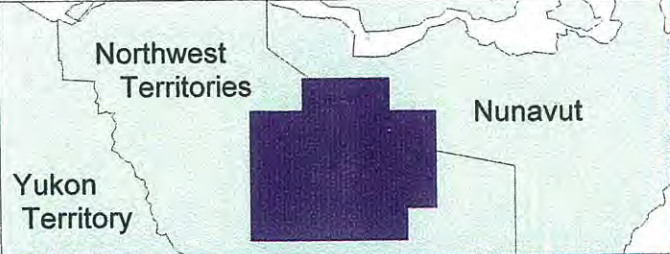
## **APPENDIX II**

**ʔekwò (Barrenland Caribou) Distribution  
Based On Harvesting Patterns in Winter and Spring  
1925 to 1998**



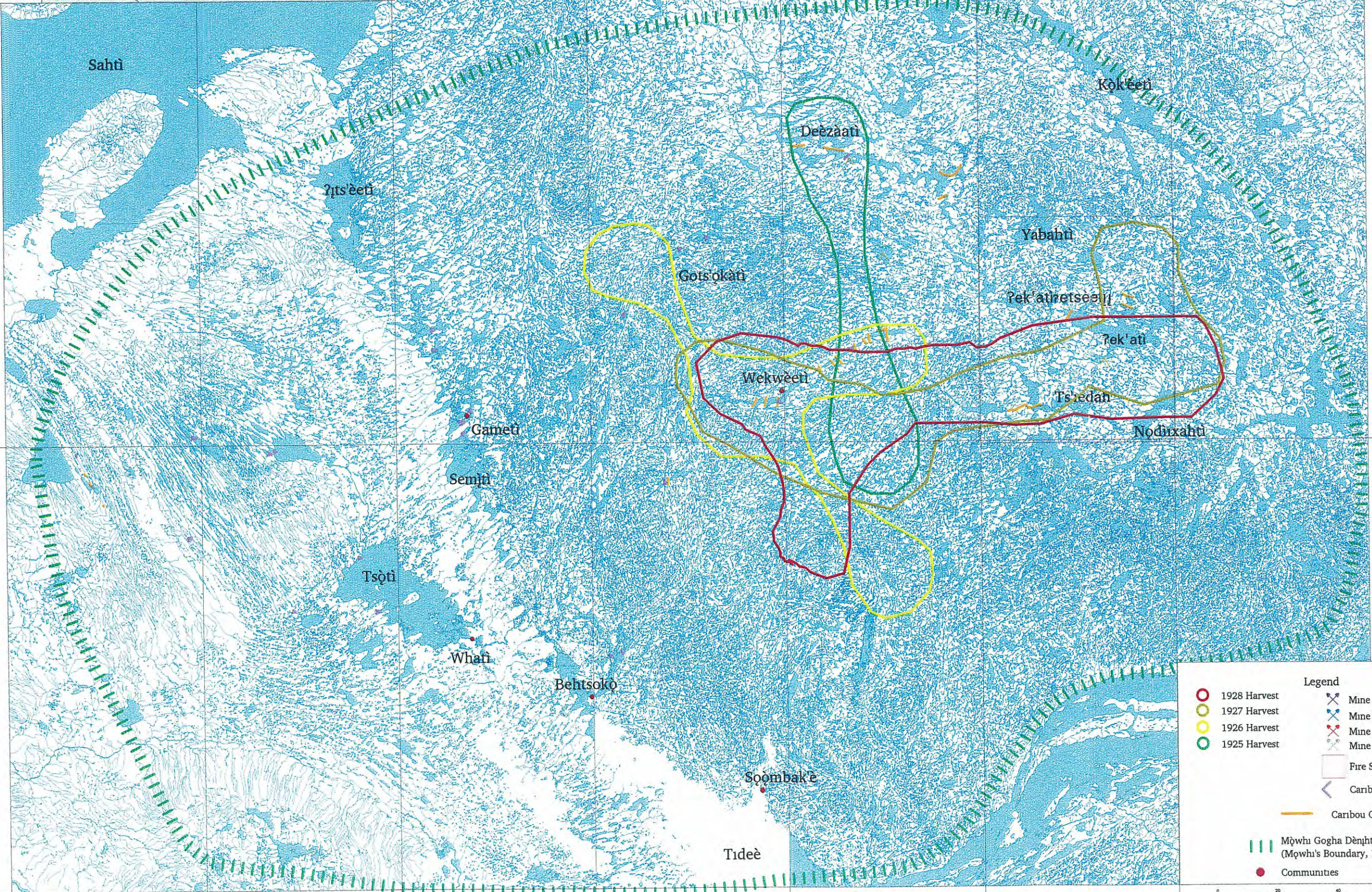






Barrenland Caribou Distribution Based On  
Harvesting Patterns in Winter and Spring  
1925 to 28

Whaèhdqò Nàowòò Kq, Dognb Treaty 11 Council (Oct, 2000)



1928 Harvest

1927 Harvest

1926 Harvest

1925 Harvest

Mine Exploration

Mine Construction

Mine Operation

Mine Closed

Fire Site(s)

Caribou Fences

Caribou Crossings

Mqwhì Gogha Dènhìt'èè  
(Mqwhì's Boundary, 1921)

Communities

0

20

40

kilometers

66

64

62

122

120

118

116

114

112

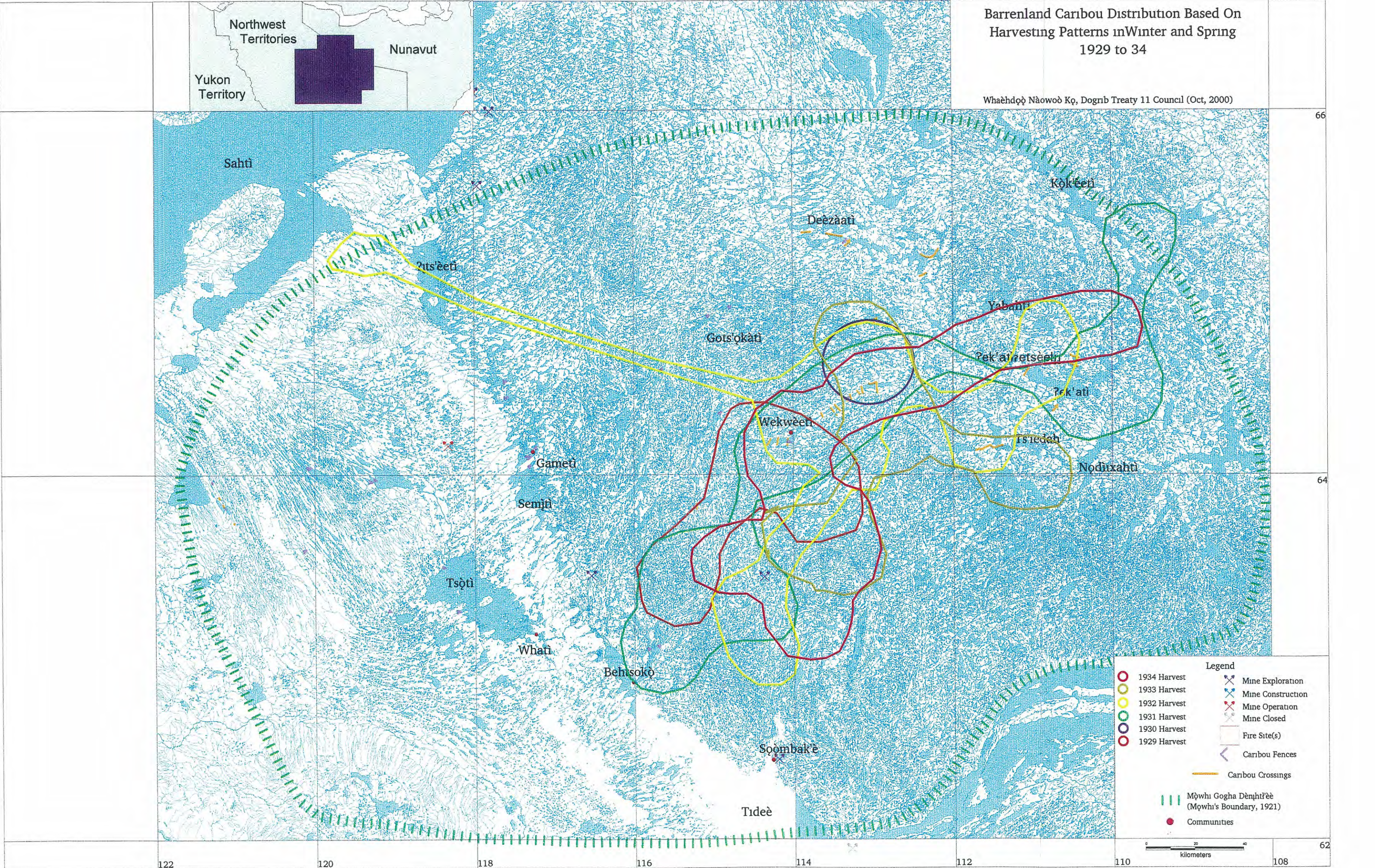
110

108





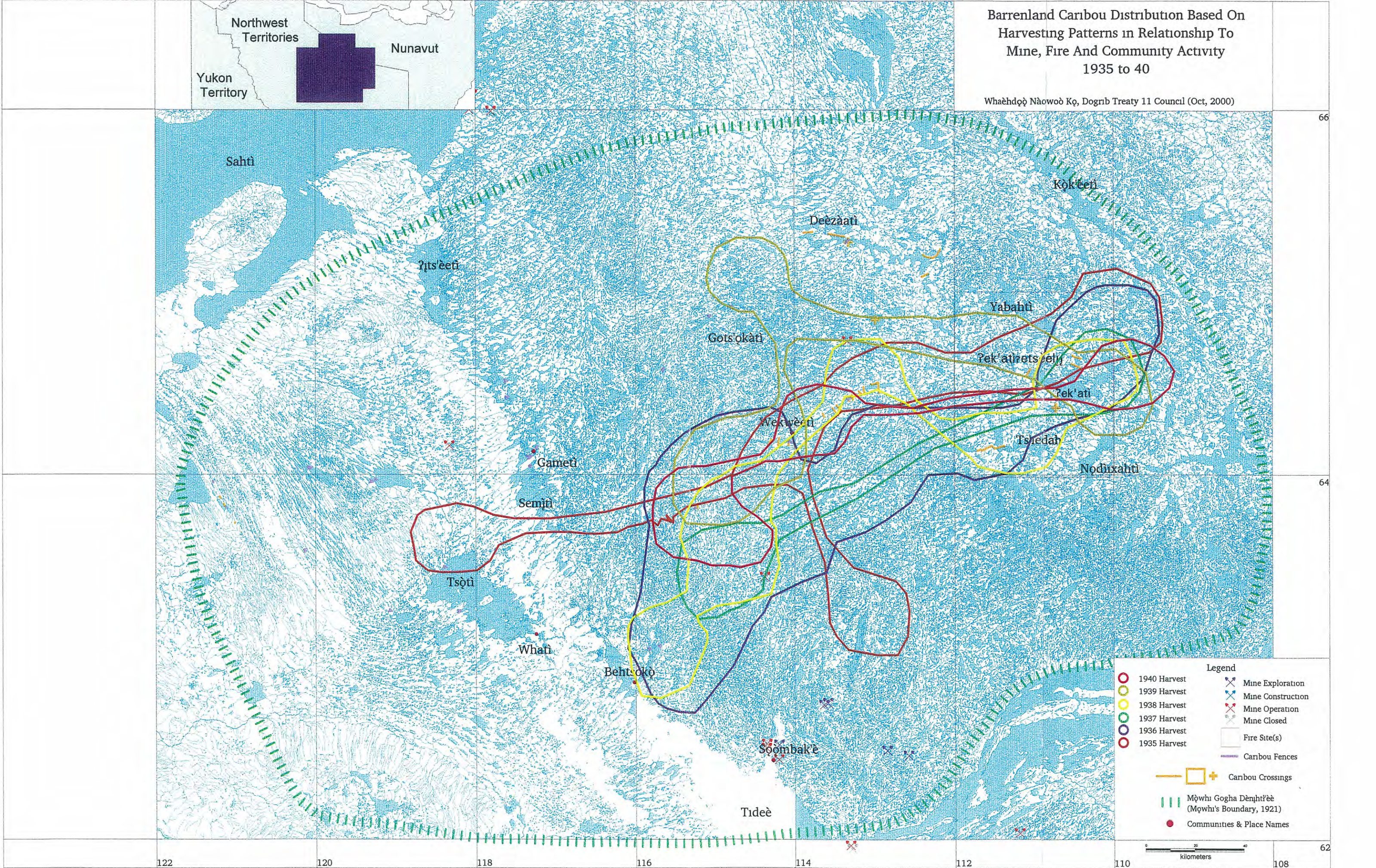








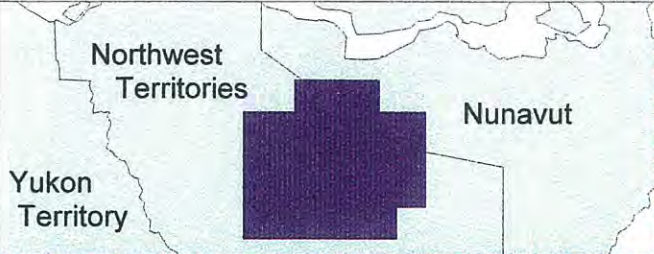






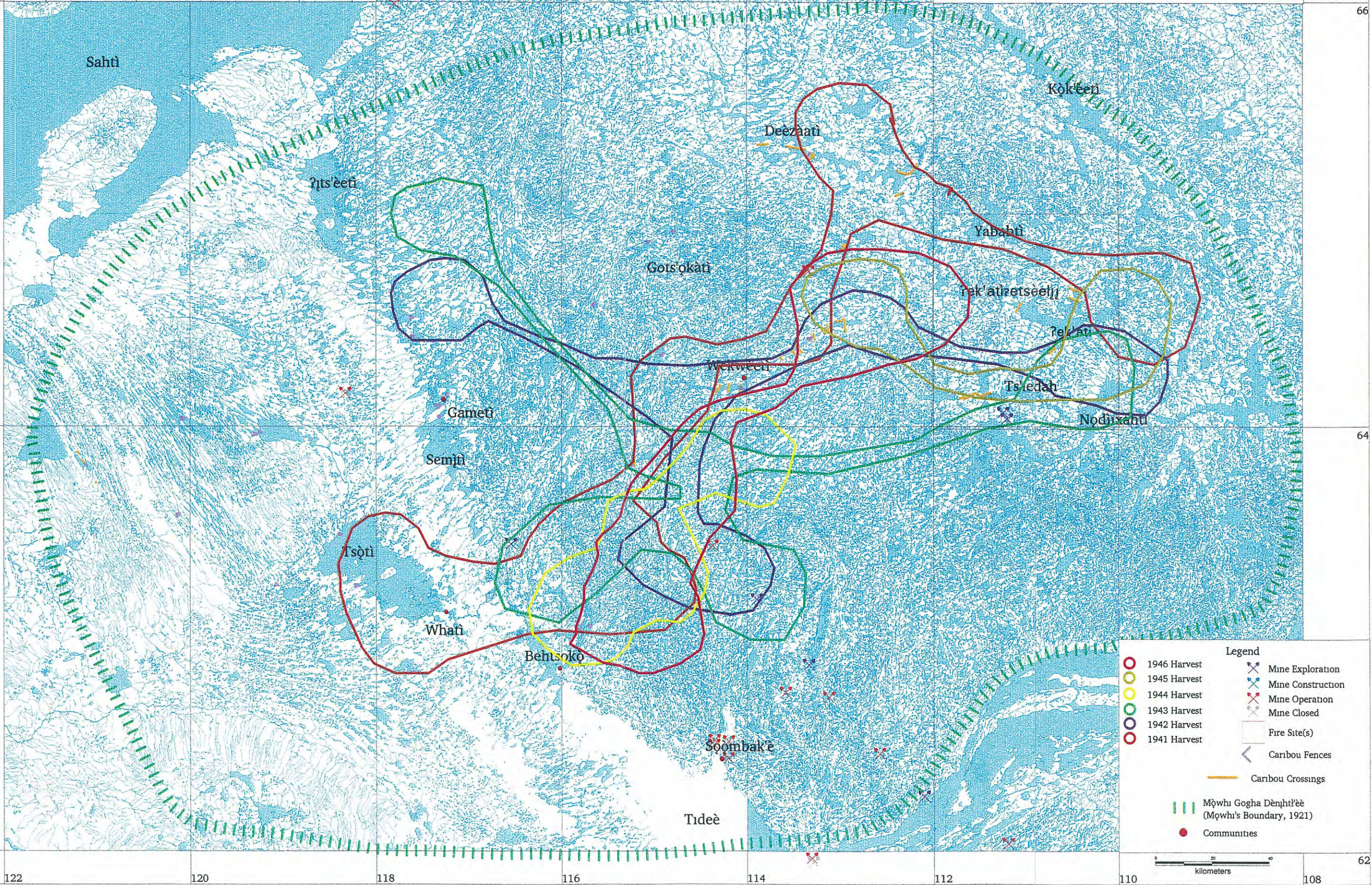






Barrenland Caribou Distribution Based On  
Harvesting Patterns in Winter and Spring  
1941 to 46

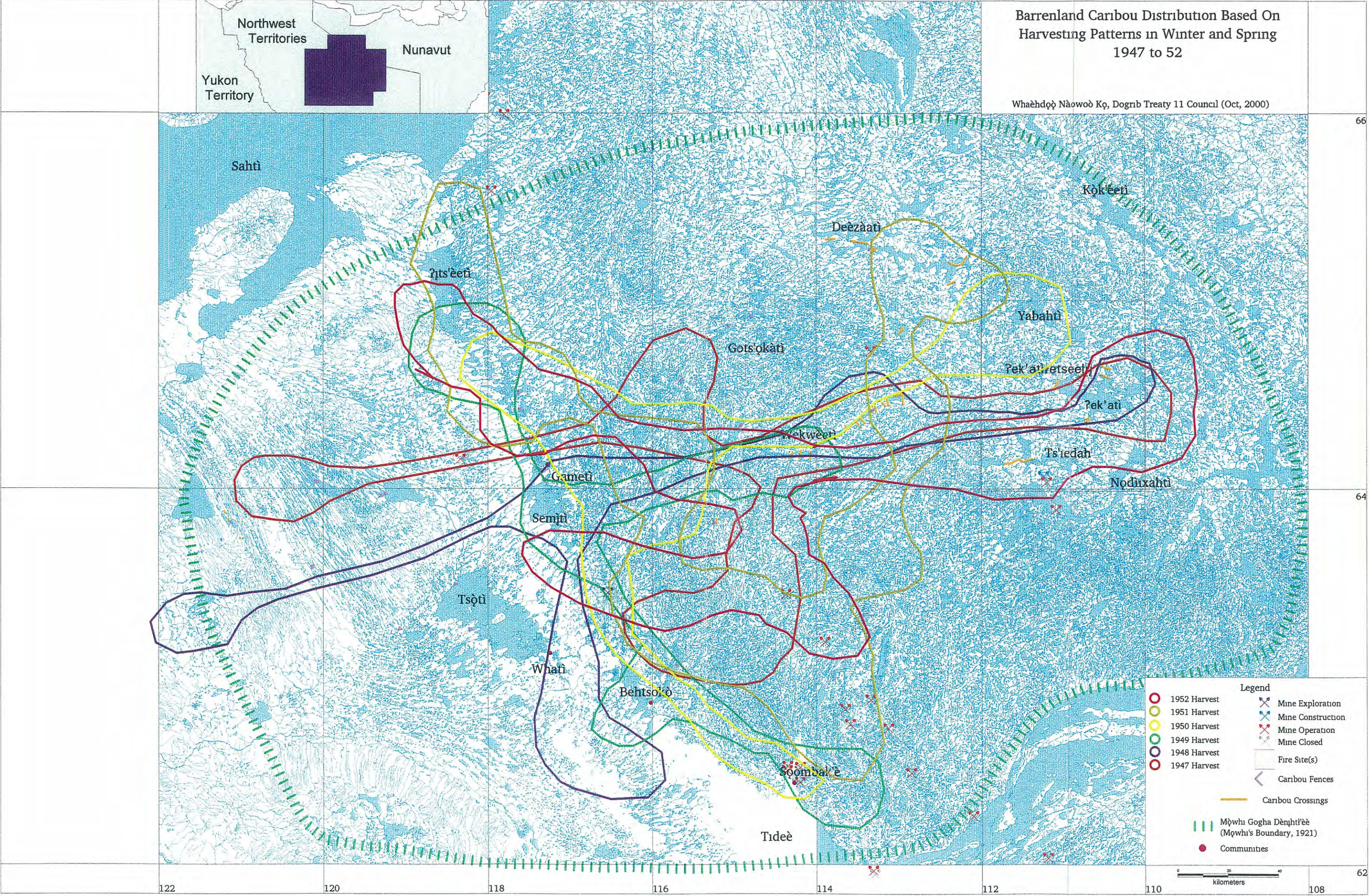
Whaèhdòò Nàowòò Kò, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council (Oct, 2000)







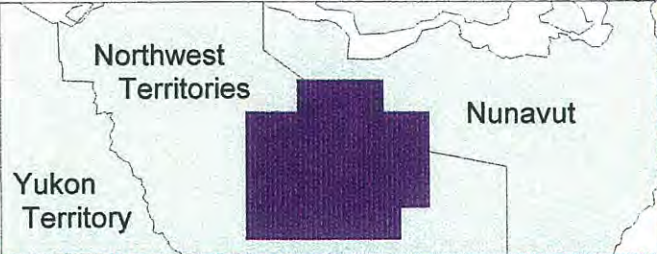






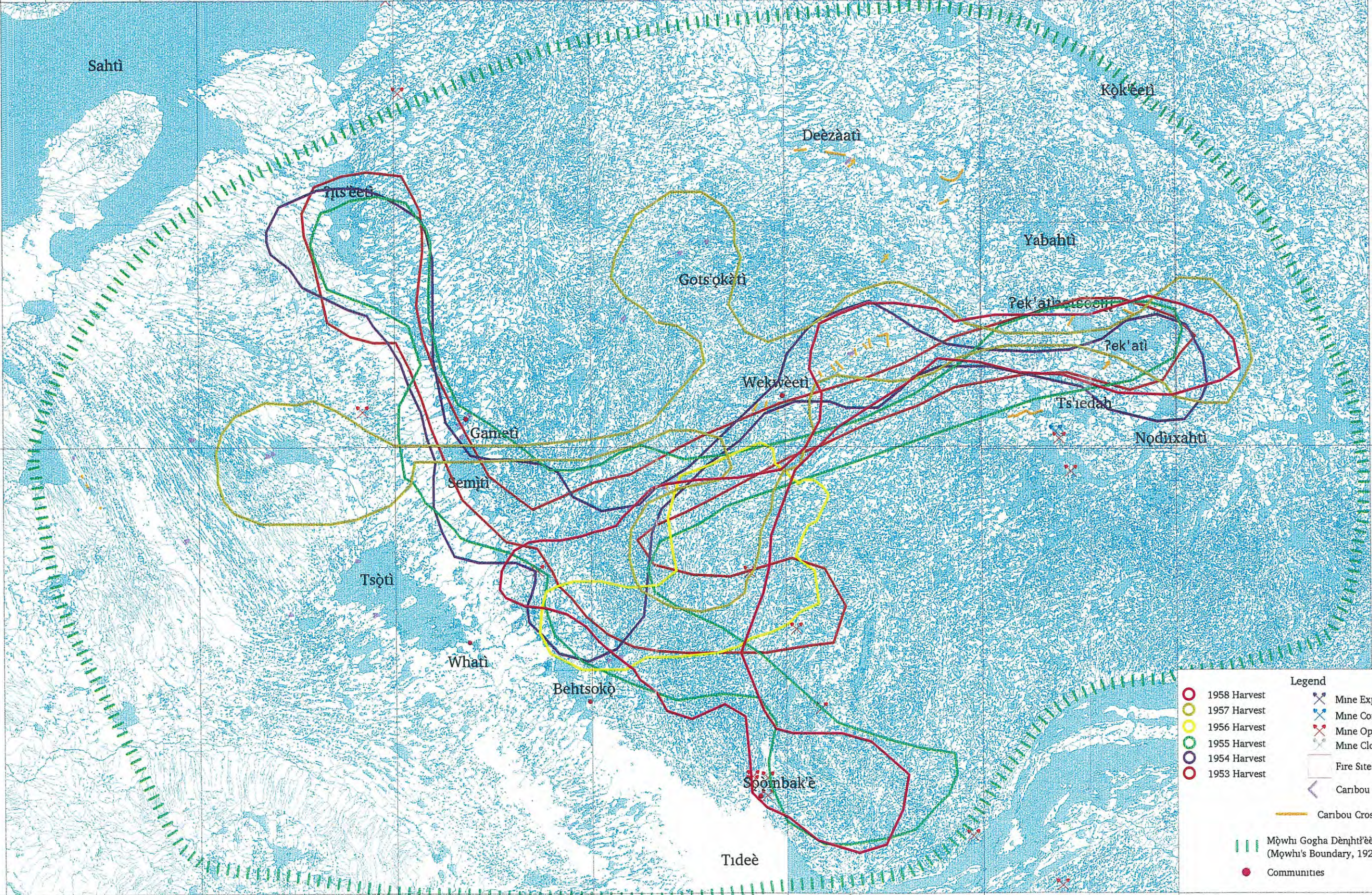






Barrenland Caribou Distribution Based On  
Harvesting Patterns in Winter and Spring  
1953 to 58

W̱aàhèḏq̱ Nàowòò Ḵq̱, Dogṉb Treaty 11 Council (Oct, 2000)



**Legend**

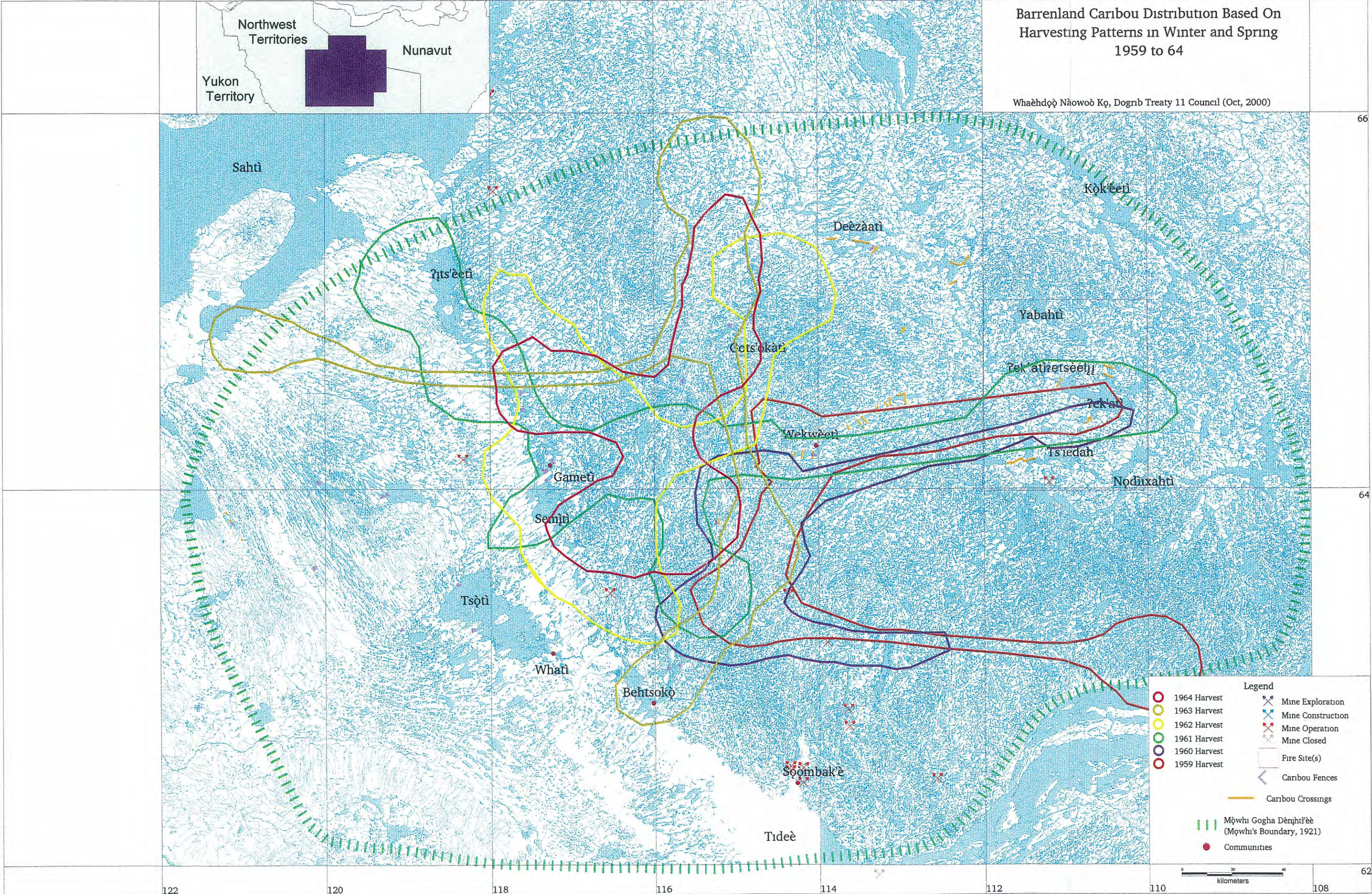
	1958 Harvest		Mine Exploration
	1957 Harvest		Mine Construction
	1956 Harvest		Mine Operation
	1955 Harvest		Mine Closed
	1954 Harvest		Fire Site(s)
	1953 Harvest		Caribou Fences
			Caribou Crossings
			Mòw̱hì Gogha Dènẖt'èè (Mòw̱hì's Boundary, 1921)
			Communities

0 20 40  
kilometers





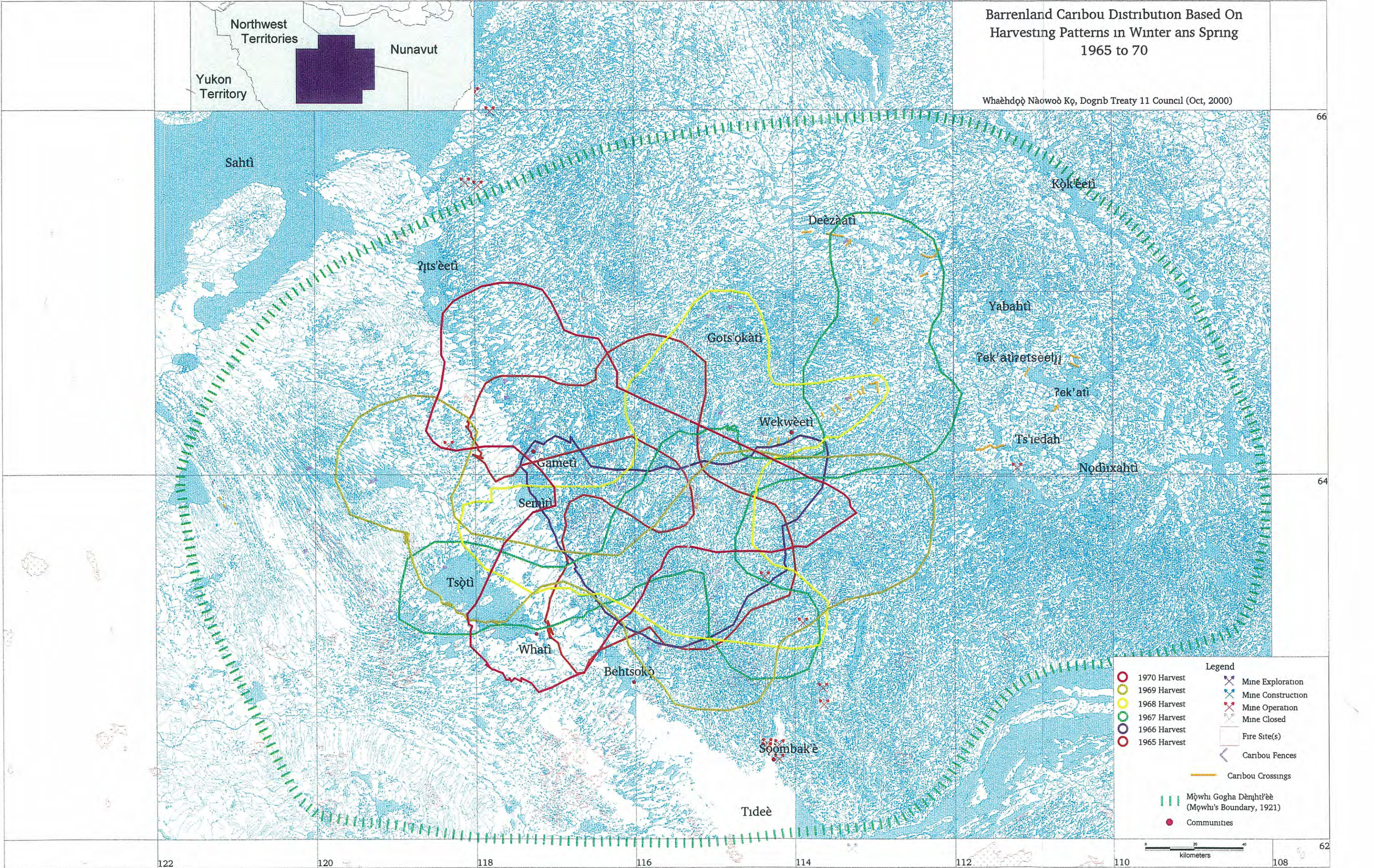








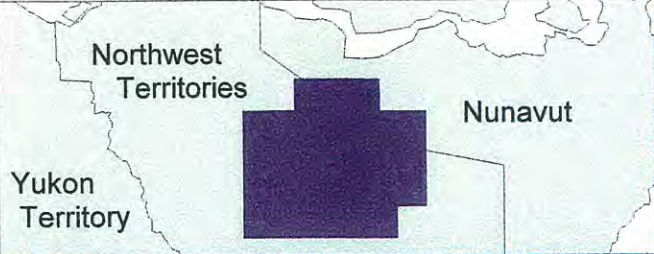






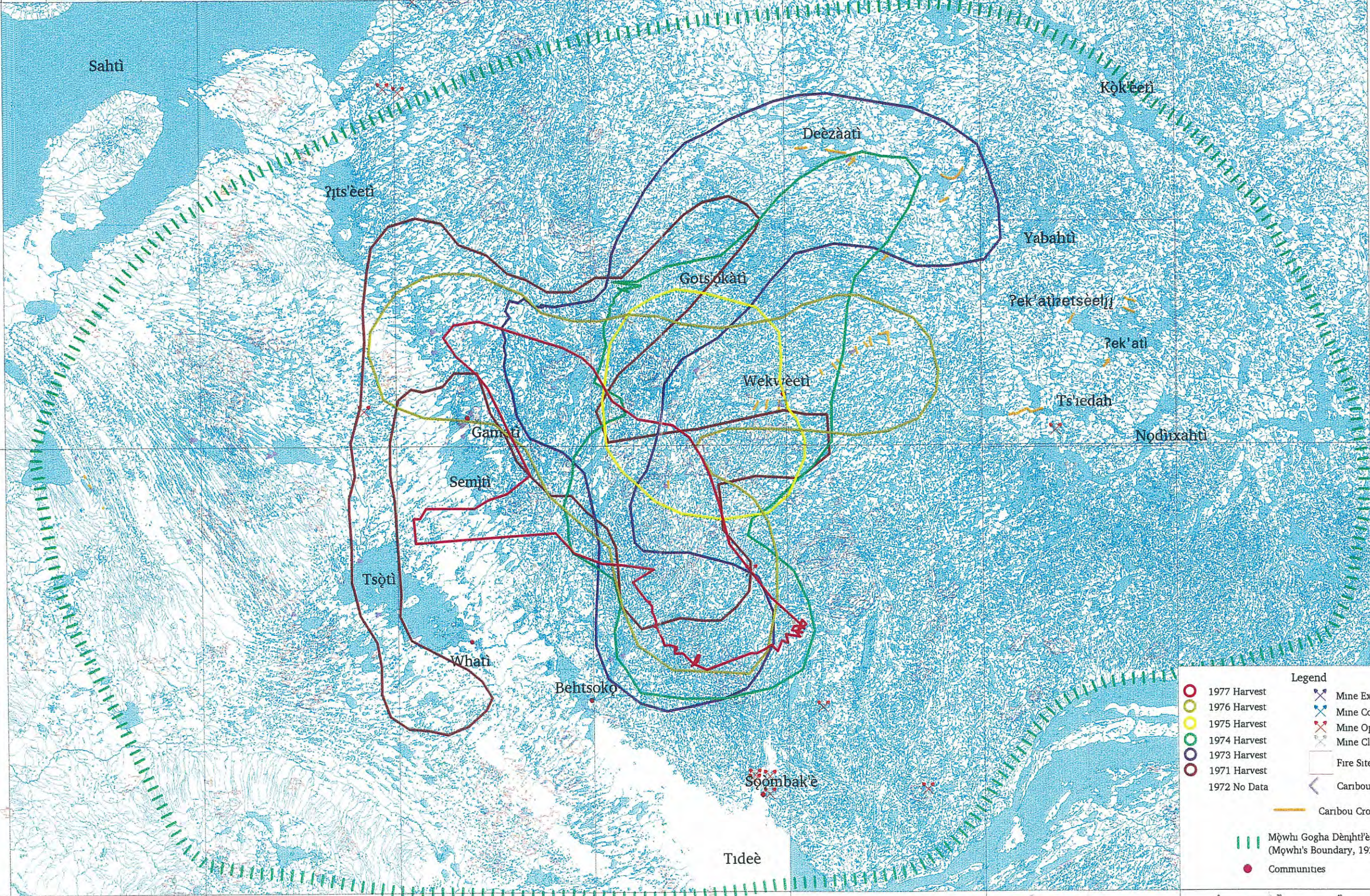






Barrenland Caribou Distribution Based On  
Harvesting Patterns in Winter and Spring  
1971 to 77 (No Data for 1972)

Whaèhdqò Nàowòò Kq, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council (Oct, 2000)



**Legend**

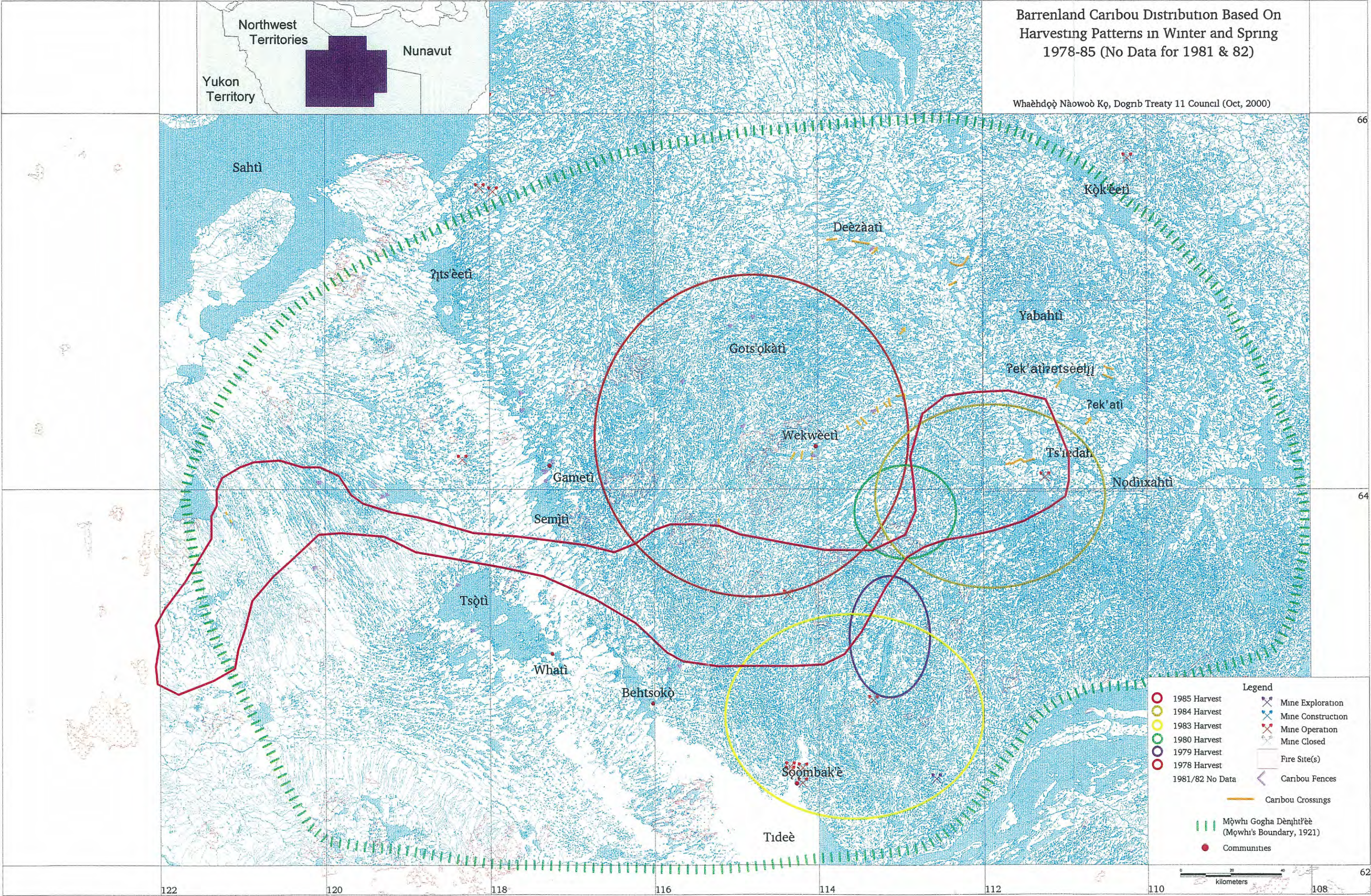
1977 Harvest	Mine Exploration
1976 Harvest	Mine Construction
1975 Harvest	Mine Operation
1974 Harvest	Mine Closed
1973 Harvest	Fire Site(s)
1971 Harvest	Caribou Fences
1972 No Data	
	Caribou Crossings
	Mòwhì Gogha Dènhìt'èè (Mòwhì's Boundary, 1921)
	Communities







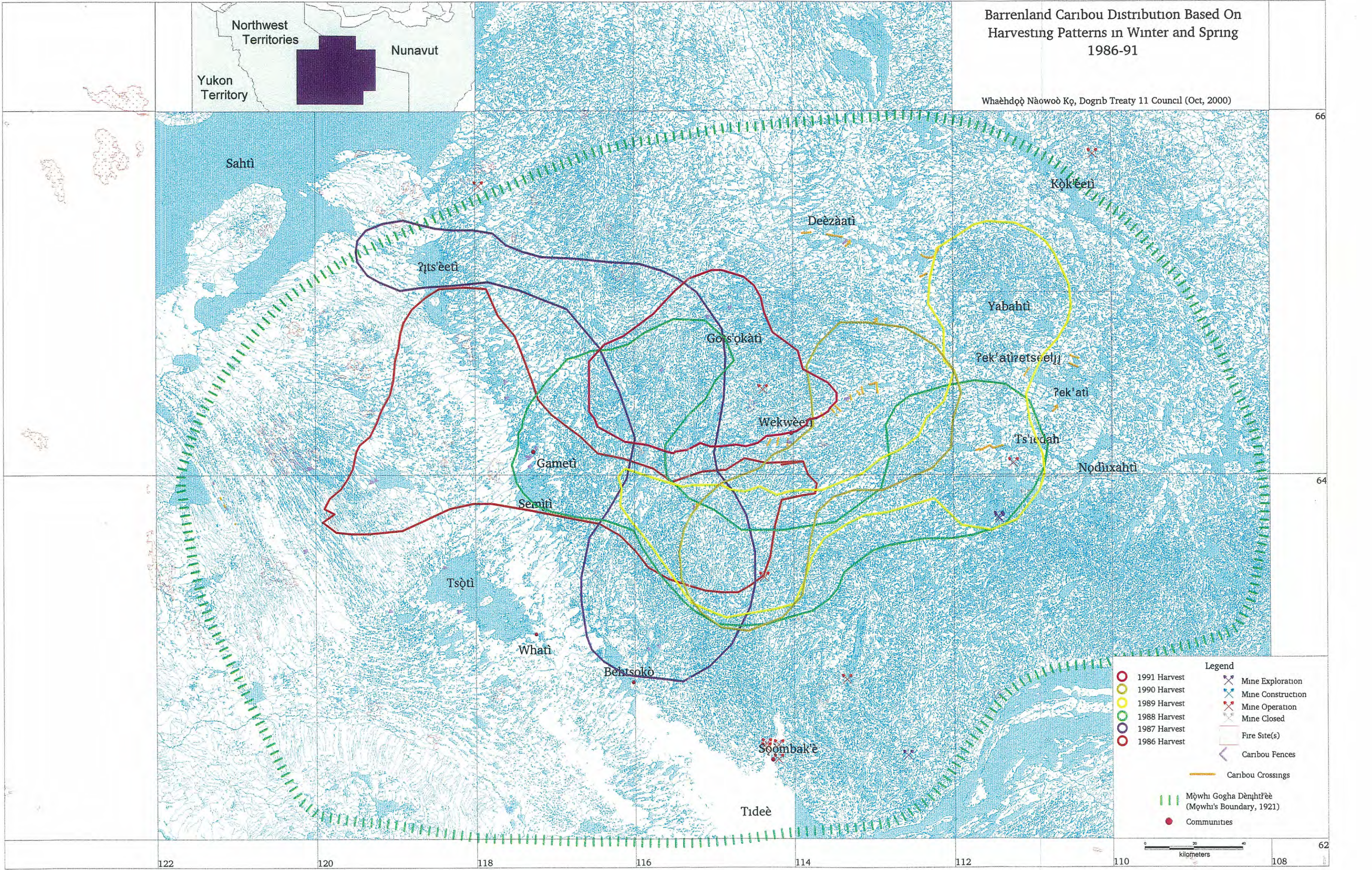








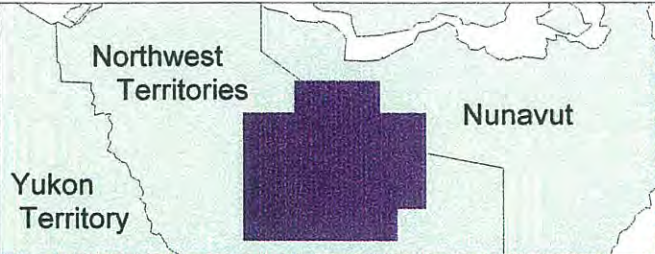






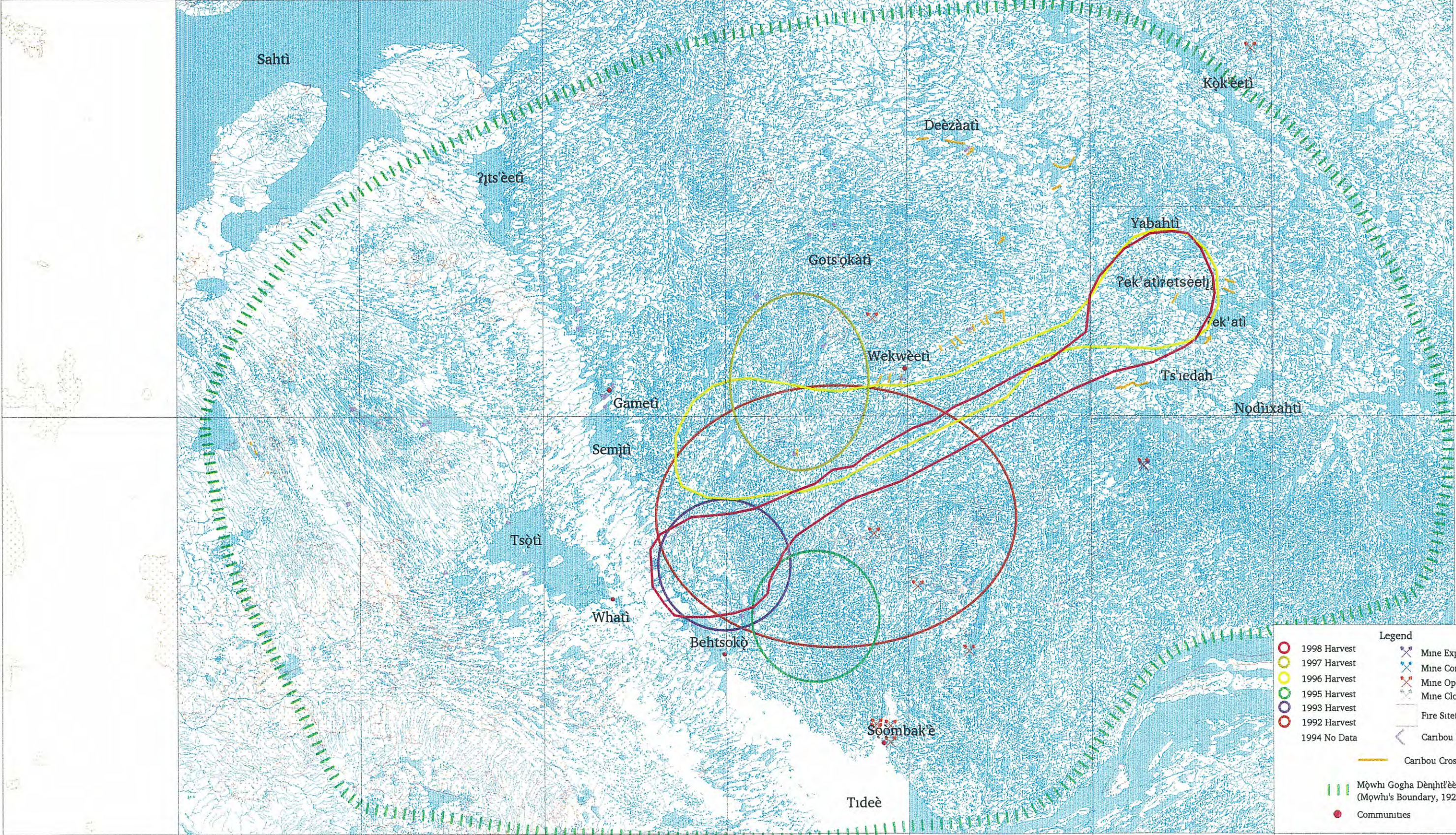






Barrenland Caribou Distribution Based On  
Harvesting Patterns in Winter and Spring  
1992-98 (No Data for 1994)

Whaèhdqò Nàowòò Kq, Dognb Treaty 11 Council (Oct, 2000)



- Legend
- 1998 Harvest
  - 1997 Harvest
  - 1996 Harvest
  - 1995 Harvest
  - 1993 Harvest
  - 1992 Harvest
  - 1994 No Data
  - Mine Exploration
  - Mine Construction
  - Mine Operation
  - Mine Closed
  - Fire Site(s)
  - Caribou Fences
  - Caribou Crossings
  - Mòwhtì Gogha Dèñhtì'èè (Mòwhtì's Boundary, 1921)
  - Communities







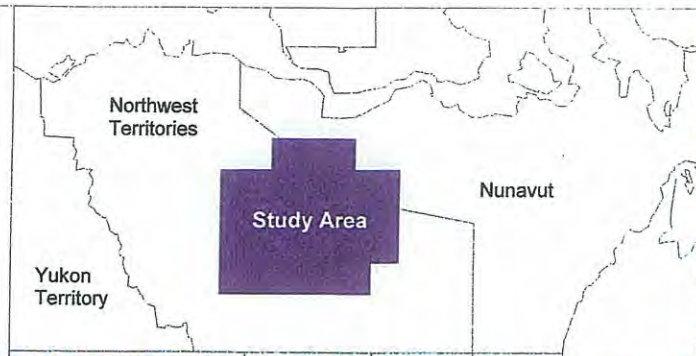
### APPENDIX III

Tḥchọ and ʔekwò



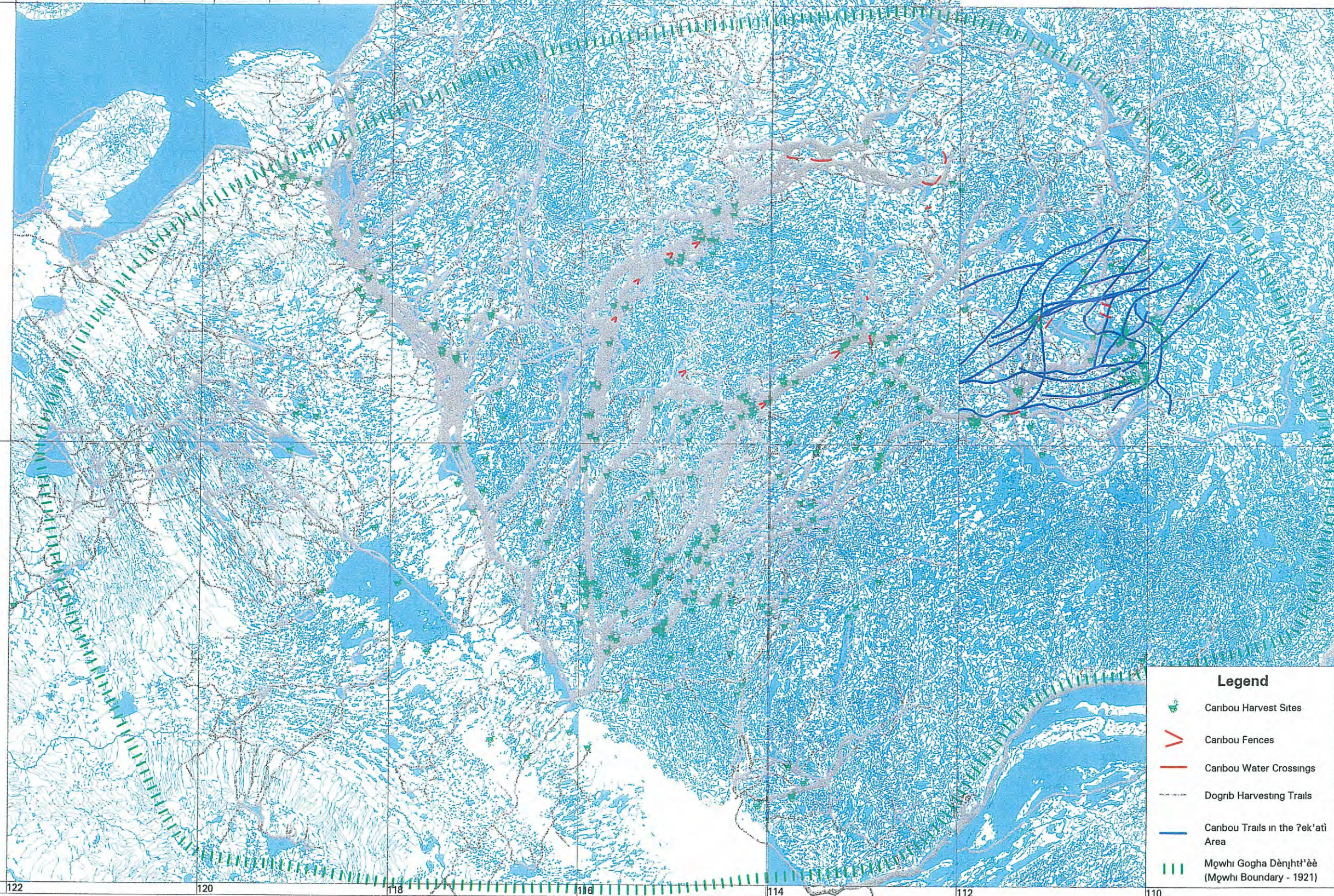






## Ṭḥcḥo and ʔekẉò

(Credit: Whaèhḍò Nàowòd K'ò, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council)



### Legend

-  Caribou Harvest Sites
-  Caribou Fences
-  Caribou Water Crossings
-  Dogrib Harvesting Trails
-  Caribou Trails in the ʔek'aṭi Area
-  Ṃowhi Gogha Dèṇhṭ'èè (Ṃowhi Boundary - 1921)







## **APPENDIX IV**

**Areas Used by Satellite-collared Bathurst Caribou  
During Winter, 1996 to 2000 (Draft)**

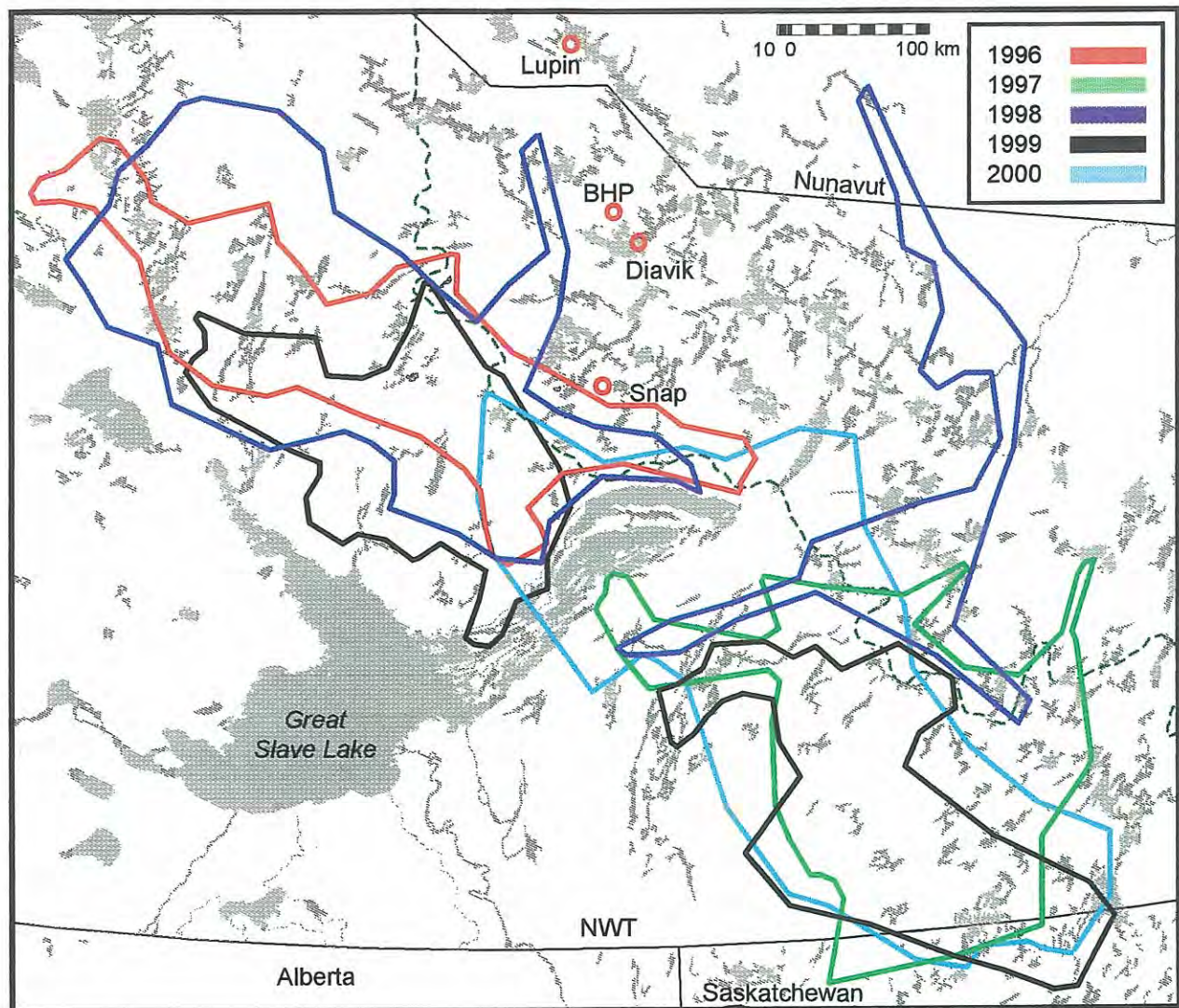
**Spring Migration of Collared Bathurst Caribou Cows,  
19 April – 29 May 1996  
27 April – 29 May 1997  
20 April – 22 May 1998  
29 April – 30 May 1999  
3 April – 28 May 2000**

**Route of One Radio Collared Caribou 1996-2000**









Areas used by collared Bathurst cows during winter (Nov to Feb), 1996 - 2000.

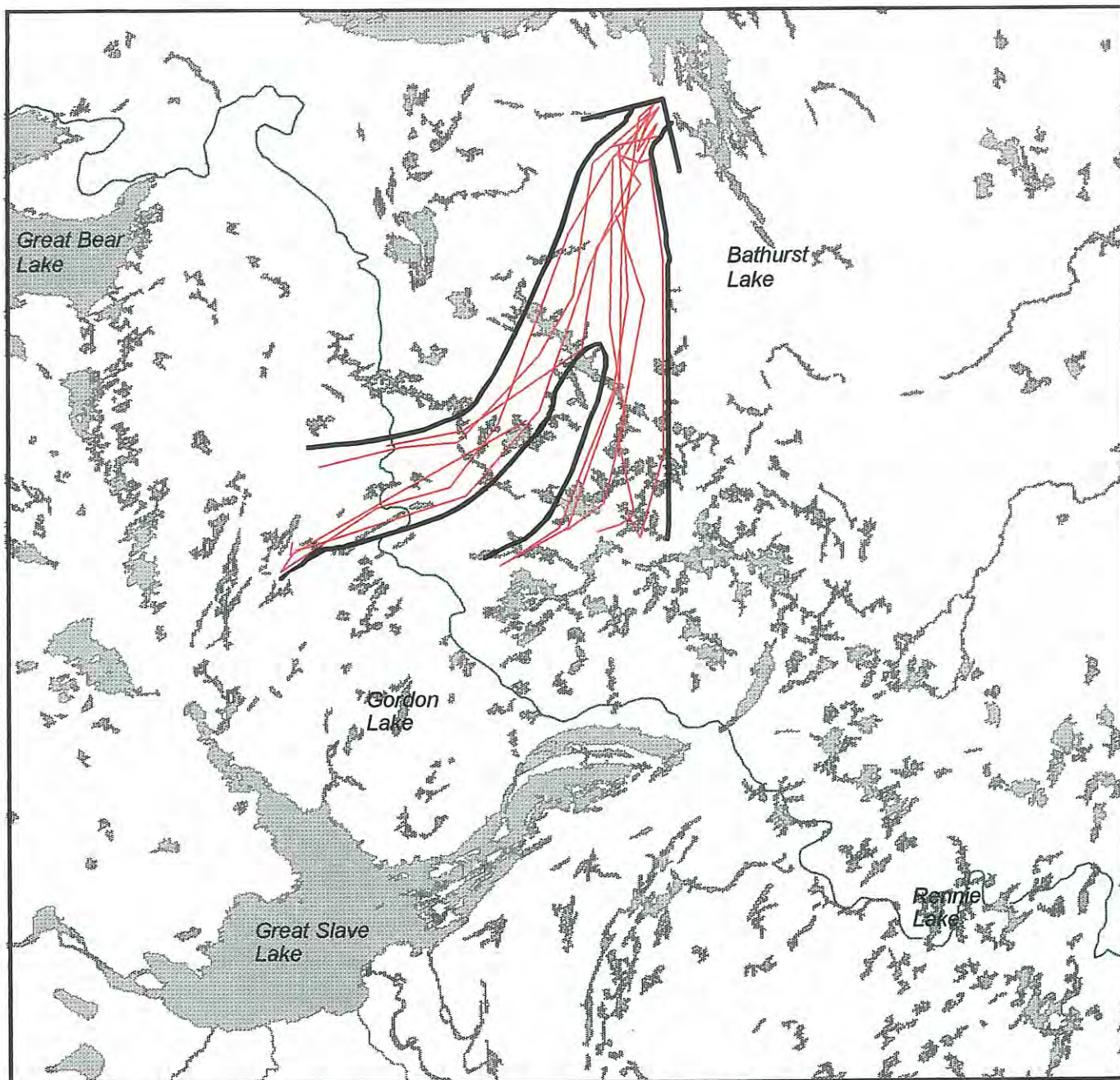
Renewable, Wildlife and Economic Development

DRAFT









Spring migration of collared Bathurst caribou cows, 19 April - 29 May 1996.

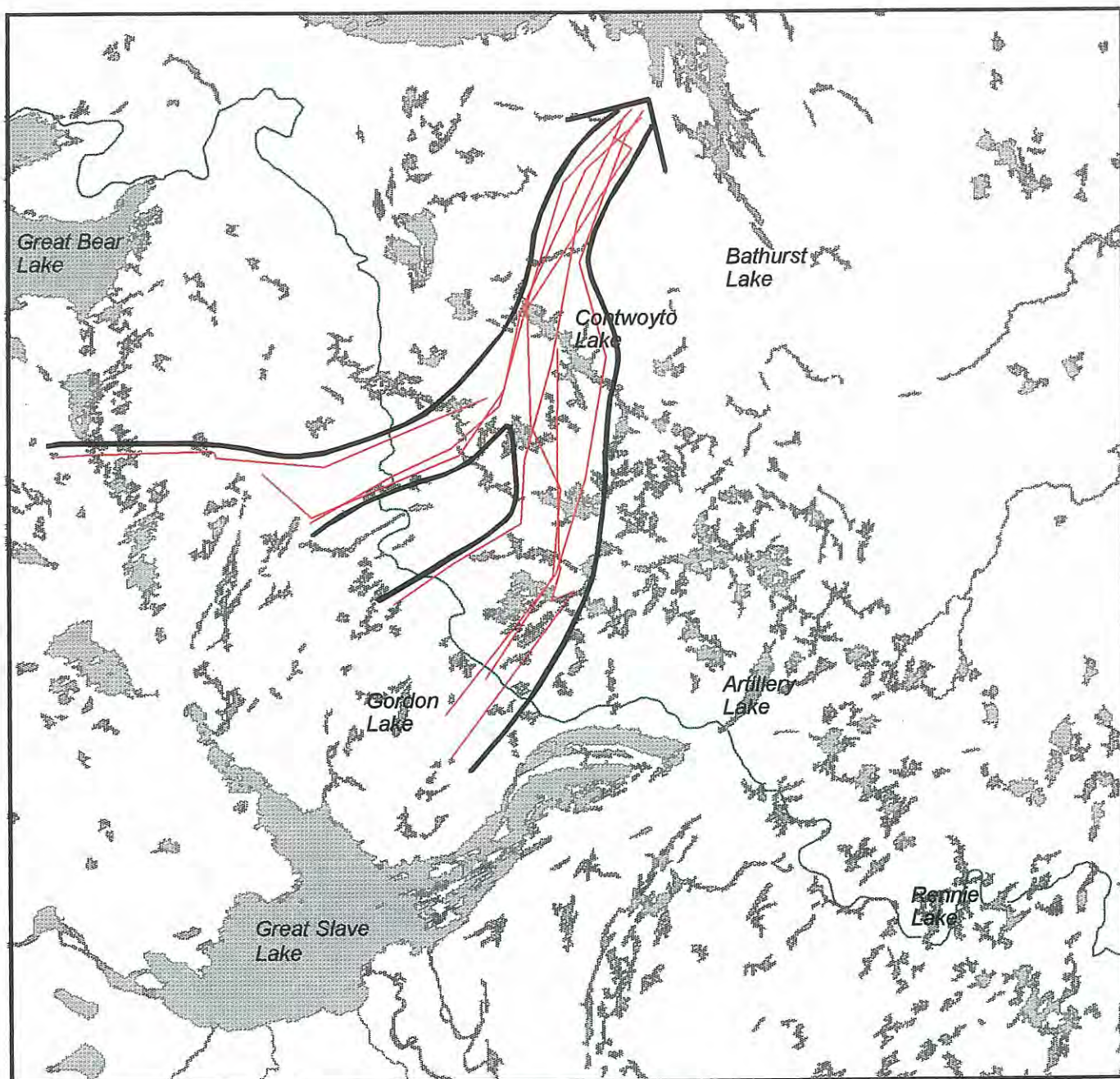
Renewable, Wildlife and Economic Development

DRAFT









Spring migration of collared Bathurst caribou cows, 27 April - 29 May, 1997.

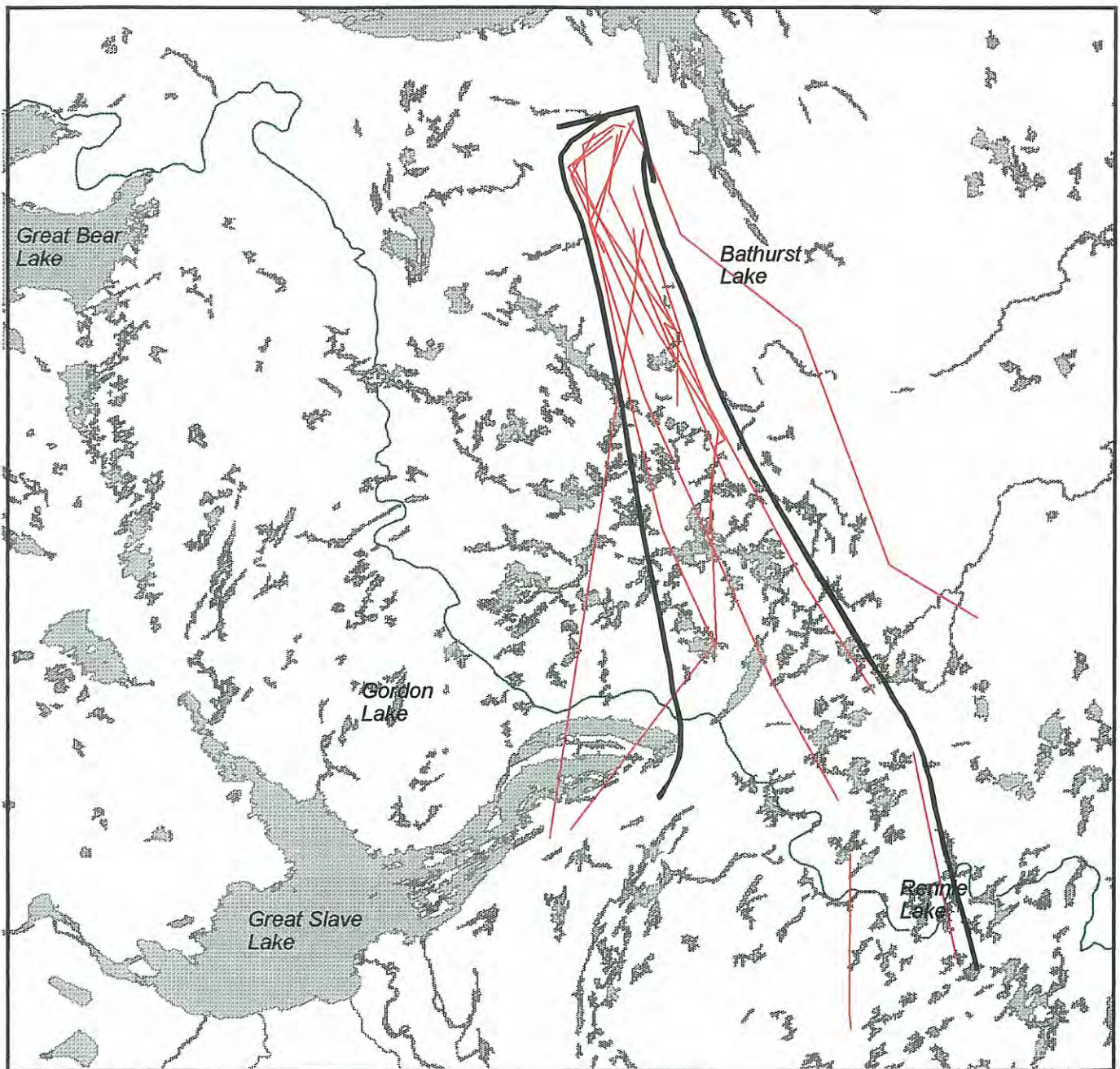
Renewable, Wildlife and Economic Development

DRAFT









Spring migration of collared Bathurst caribou cows, 20 April - 22 May 1998.

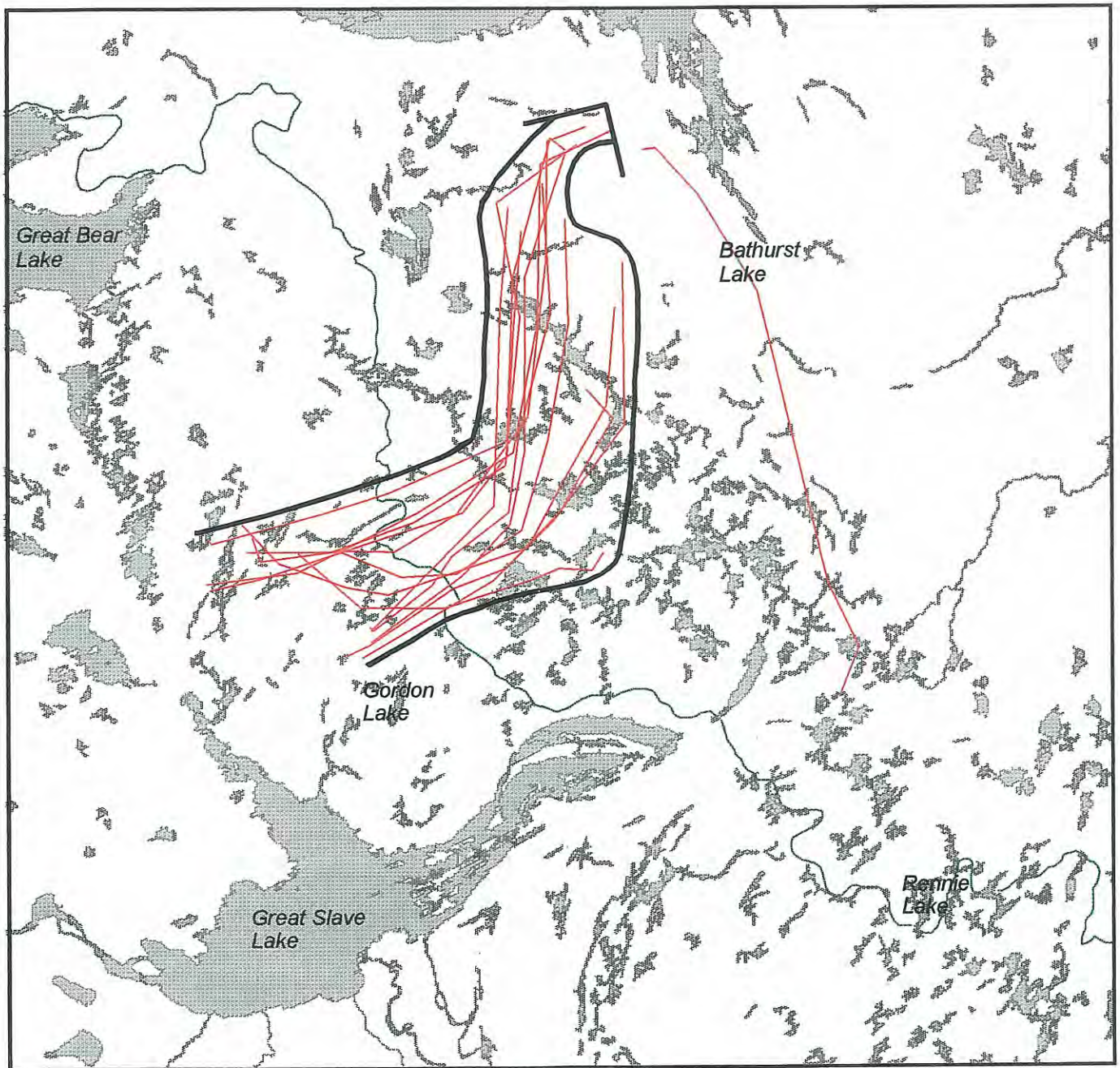
Renewable, Wildlife and Economic Development

DRAFT









Spring migration of collared Bathurst caribou cows, 29 April - 30 May, 1999.

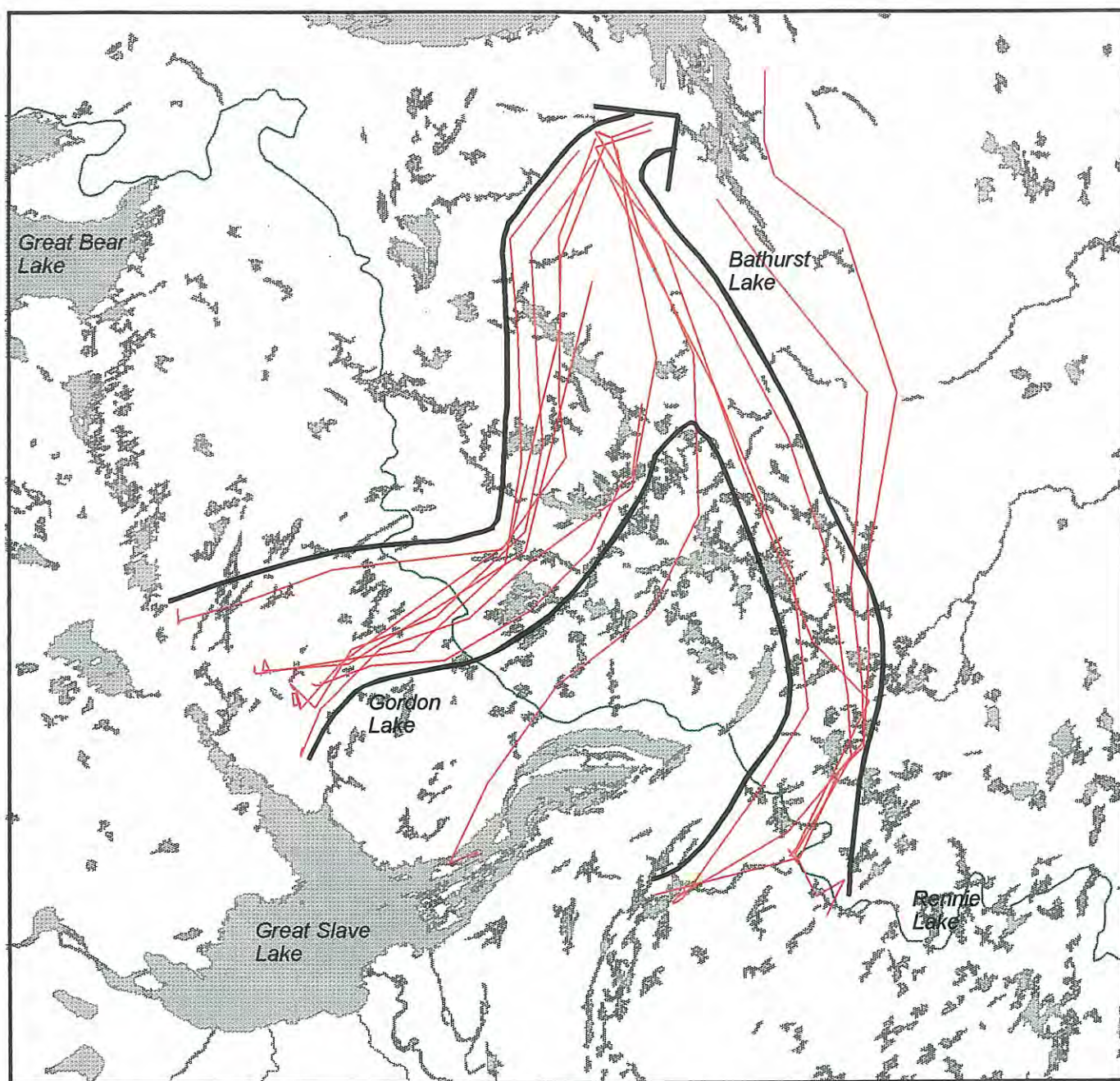
Renewable, Wildlife and Economic Development

DRAFT









Spring migration of collared Bathurst caribou cows, 3 April - 28 May, 2000.

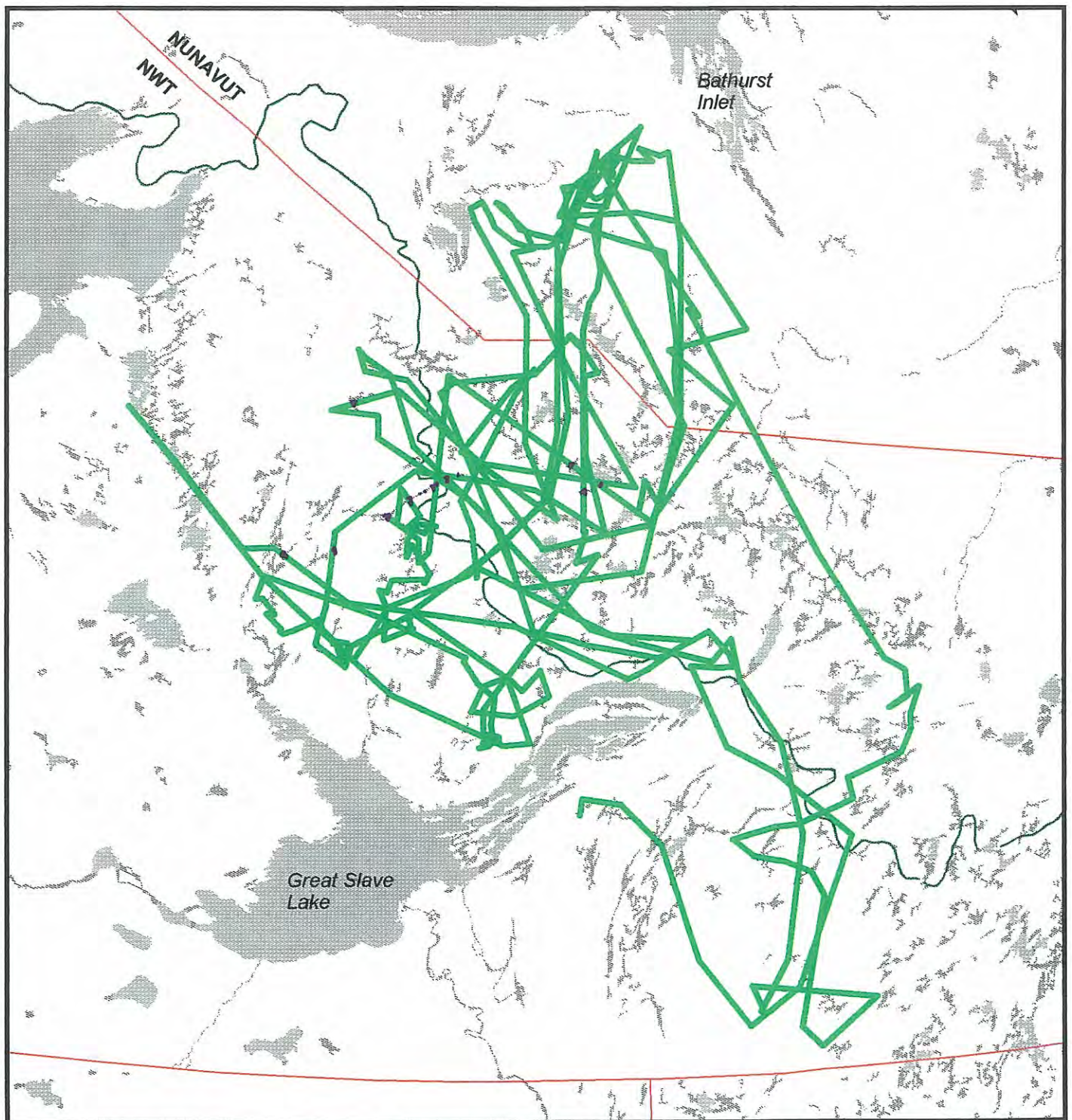
Renewable, Wildlife and Economic Development

DRAFT









Movements of collared Bathurst caribou cow #60, April 1996 to December 2000.

- Location of ?ekwò water crossing and traditional ?ekwò fences







## **APPENDIX V**

### **Mining and Caribou Distribution Within the Monfwi Territory: A Historical Look**

**By  
Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott, 1998**



**MINING AND CARIBOU DISTRIBUTION  
WITHIN THE MONFWI TERRITORY:  
A HISTORICAL LOOK**

**Prepared by:  
Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott 1998**

**Submitted to:  
Caribou Distribution and the State of the Habitat  
Dogrib Treaty 11 Council**

**March 1998**



*Monfwi Territory:*

*Monfwi: "Many of my people are scattered across this country, some at Lac La Martre (Whati), Snare Lake (Wekeèti), Contwoyto Lake, many of whom are still in the bush yet. The size of the land has to be large enough for all my people."*

*Monfwi declared the boundary as: "from Fort Providence, all along the Mackenzie River right up to Great Bear Lake, then across to Contwoyto Lake, Seymour (Alymer) River to Snowdrift, along Great Slave Lake and back to Fort Providence"<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Fumoleau, Rene, As Long As This Land Shall Last p192



## Background:

Prospecting in the Monfwi Territory goes back as far as 1770 when Samuel Hearne who was employed by the Hudson's Bay Company travelled to the vicinity of Great Slave Lake and north past Artillery and Clinton-Colden Lake to the Coppermine River.

In 1930, silver and pitchblende were discovered by Gilbert LaBine on the east shore of Great Bear Lake. By 1932 there were between 200 and 300 men in the Great Bear Lake prospecting. Between 2,500 and 3,000 claims were recorded up to the end of the year. Considerable prospecting was done near Great Bear Lake in 1933. However between 1936 and 1939 the prospecting centred in the area between Great Bear Lake and Indin Lake and very little was occurring near Great Slave Lake. In 1938 about 3500 claims were recorded between Indin Lake and Great Slave Lake. It's estimated there were between 300 and 400 prospectors who had moved into and begun working in this region during the summer of 1938.

In 1939 about 1,400 claims were recorded with approximately 125 men prospecting during the summer. Six months later, by the end of the year, there were about 7,700 claims in good standing in the Northwest Territories. About 5000 of these were between Great Slave Lake and Indin Lake.<sup>2</sup> Many of the properties that were successfully staked and explored, remain undeveloped and have been restaked since the early rush.

As I conducted this research, I read about the uranium rush during early 30's and gold rush in the mid 30's, and now in the 90's the diamond rush has occurred, all within the Dogrib Monfwi territory. It was reported in the December 93/January 94 issue of Up Here that the two years following the 1991 rush, 21,089 claims were recorded, covering over 45 million acres of land. In 1997 the Mining Recorder office reports that 2,291 claims were staked in the Northwest Territories.

For the Dogrib people the migration of the caribou was critical to their survival. For generations as a nomadic people, the livelihood of the Tlicho (Dogrib) depended on the caribou as their main source of food, clothing and shelter. Historically recorded observations of caribou were made by early explorers, anthropologists, traders, prospectors, bush pilots, surveyors, the Canadian wildlife service, the RCMP, game wardens and renewable resource officers.

One of the earliest recordings was made by Samuel Hearne in the 1770's. During his travels through the Dogrib Nation (1770-1772), he noted in his diary on September 3, 1771 that as they arrived at a small river on Point Lake the "the deer (caribou) were so plentiful."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Lord, C.S, Mineral Industry of the Northwest Territories, Geological Survey Memoir 230, Printer of the King's Most Excellency, 1941, pp 9.

<sup>3</sup> Hearne, Samuel, A Journey from Prince of Wales's Fort in Hudson's Bay to the Northern Ocean, M.G. Hurtig Ltd, 1971 pp201



According to A.W.F. Banfield in his report "The Barren Ground Caribou" anthropologist Frank Russell notes in the late 1800's the caribou had largely forsaken the crossing point at Fort Rae. In the book "The Settlement of the Great Slave Lake Frontier, NWT Canada from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century" George Ramsay Rae writes extensively on the migration of caribou at Rae Point, the sight of what is now known as Old Fort Rae. He says Rae Point bordered on the migration route of great herds of barren land caribou. "In the fall of each year with the commencement of the heavy storms in August, thousands of caribou began leaving the country between Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake and moved southward in a broad arc that impinged on the upper shore of the North Arm and crossed the outlying quarter of the east arm. A reverse surge northward took place in the spring and again millions of caribou passed Rae Point."<sup>4</sup>

He goes on to say that after Fort Rae was established in 1852 the Dogrib people would bring in eight to ten thousand caribou each year and exchange them at the trading post, in the same way trappers bartered fur at other trading posts. He says the traders used the caribou as provisions for the York boat crews. "Caribou meat from Fort Rae, until the arrival of the steamboat, was the 'fuel' on which the transport facilities on the Great Slave Lake – Mackenzie River trade route were operated."<sup>5</sup>

The objective of this report is to locate and determine mines within the Monfwi region and their length of operation; where possible define the construction phase of each mine and finally determine where the caribou migrated during the construction phase of the mine.

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<sup>4</sup> Rae, George Ramsay, "The Historical Geography of Fort Rae 1852 – 1956", The Settlement of the Great Slave Lake Frontier, NWT Canada from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century, 1963 pp 191

<sup>5</sup> Rae, George Ramsay, pp191.



## Mines Developed in Monfwi Territory:

### Early 1900's

#### 1. Aurous Gold Mining Company [ Gold ]

**Location:** 90 KM SE of Yellowknife on Wilson Island in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake. Its west end is 46 miles north 20 degrees east of Fort Resolution.

**Mine History:** The claim, named the Big Moose, was stake in September 1916 by R.H. Wilson three quarters of a mile from the west end of Wilson Island. Another claim called the Big Bear, adjoins the Big Moose on the east. This claim was staked by C.P. McTavish in September 1916 as well. During 1921 and 1922 trenches and shafts were dug. A cabin was constructed in Safety Cove, 2 miles from the west end of the island. The Big Moose claim consisted of two shafts about 100 feet from the south shore. The mine was abandoned after 1922. The both claims remained in good standing through to June of 1931.<sup>6</sup>

In 1993, an environmental assessment recommended mine the unmarked mine shafts be backfilled as they posed a potential risk to wildlife.<sup>7</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data was found regarding caribou migration at time of construction. However, during the summer of 1923 Guy Blanchet reports that during a canoe trip with Sousi Beaulieu and Black Basile, they sighted a herd of caribou moving southward on Thonokied Lake.<sup>8</sup>

It may be worth noting that in 1910 when the RCMP made their first patrol to Fort Rae, it was reported that people were starving because of entire absence of caribou. The priest, a Father Roure, told the police it was the first time the caribou had failed to arrive during his forty-two years as a missionary at Fort Rae.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Lord, C.S., GSC Memoir 230 p124

<sup>7</sup> Acres International Ltd., "Environmental Assessment and Remedial Options for Abandoned Mines of the Northwest Territories," March 1993, pp 44-46

<sup>8</sup> The Beaver Magazine, Fall 1964

<sup>9</sup> Rae, George Ramsey, pp199



1930's

## 2. Eldorado Gold Mines Ltd [Radium and Uranium, Silver]

**Location:** Port Radium, Great Bear Lake Latitude 66° 05' 05"

Longitude 118° 02' 10"

**History of Mine:** In May 1930 Gilbert LaBine and Charles St Paul staked claims for silver and radium. Subsequently some ore was sent to the Mine Branch in Ottawa where a method was found for extracting radium (1931-32). By July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1931 a cookhouse and bunkhouse had been built. Workers had **mined and hand picked** seven tons of high grade ore. the main source of food for the camp was caribou, whitefish and trout provided by local Indians.<sup>10</sup> In 1932 diesel power was installed at the property and underground work began. The first commercial shipment of silver -radium ores occurred. In 1933 a processing plant designed to mill 25 tons of ore concentrate a day began operating in December. By 1933 there were about 300 people living in and around Port Radium. Many were prospectors. Between 1934-1939 Eldorado produced radium and uranium products. The mine temporarily closed June 18, 1940 and re-opened two years later in April 1942. By early 1943 concentrate was being shipped again. Operations continued until 1960 when its ore was exhausted. In the 1970's and early 80's the mine was reactivated to extract silver and copper. It was finally closed down in 1982.<sup>11</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** J.P. Kelsall writes that caribou frequently wintered on Caribou Point between Dease and McTavish arms of Great Bear Lake. He says the lake discourages the caribou from moving further once migration is over in early winter. Kelsall says Yellowknife geologist, W. Macdonald and bush pilot E.J. Boffa report a marked and progressive reduction in the number of caribou wintering between Yellowknife and Port Radium after 1945.<sup>12</sup>

## 3. El-Bonanza[Silver, Copper, Uranium]

**Location:** The mine is situation on the Dowdell Peninsula about 6 miles south-southwest of Port Radium. Latitude: 66° 00'10"

Longitude: 118° 04' 30"

**Mine History:** First stake in 1931, it was first mined for the high grade silver found. Surface work and some underground work on the eastern arm began in 1934. Work ceased in 1936 on this part of the property. Some work was done

<sup>10</sup> Peet, Fred J., *Miners and Moonshiners*, Sono Nis Press, Victoria, 1983, p106

<sup>11</sup> McGlynn, J.C., *Geological Survey of Canada, Paper 70-17, Metallic Mineral Industry, District of MacKenzie*, 1971, pp117-118

Pitt Publishing Company, "Historical Highlights of Canadian Mining"

"Our Northern Legacy 1989", NWT Chamber of Mines

<sup>12</sup> Kelsall, JP, *The Caribou*, Queen's Printer, 1968 p134



underground on the western arm of the property in 1938 by Eldorado Mines and the ore was milled in its Labine Point mill. In 1956 an old incline shaft was repaired and deepened. However the property was closed down in late 1956 before work was completed.

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found.

#### 4. Contact Lake [Uranium]

**Location:** This mine is located 330 KM northwest of Yellowknife on the northeast shore of Contact Lake, - (NTS 86F-13) Latitude 65° 59' 40";  
Longitude 117° 48' 00"

It is about 9 miles southeast of Port Radium.

**Mine History:** Staking occurred in 1931. Between 1936 and 1939 a mill was operated. However, a fire destroyed the mill in 1944. Exploration at the site continued from 1944 through to 1949. Exploration resumed in 1969 and continued through to 1975 when the mine was finally abandoned.<sup>13</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found

#### 5. Burwash Yellowknife Mines Ltd [Gold]

**Location:** (Mineral Claim Sheet 85J-8) East shore of Yellowknife Bay, Great Slave Lake, southeast of the Yellowknife townsite.

**Mine History:** Geological Survey Canada conducted mapping of Yellowknife Bay and the east arm of Great Slave Lake, Yellowknife River and the barren grounds north of the east arm of the lake. This was available in 1933 to the public. In September 1934 24 claims were staked for Yellowknife Gold Mines on the east shore of Yellowknife Bay opposite Yellowknife, by CJ Baker and H Muir. Burwash Mines Limited was formed to take over these claims the same year. In the summer of 1935 exploration work continued and a vertical shaft to a depth of 125 feet was started. Early the next year (1936) exploration work continued and by the summer more than 2000 feet of diamond drilling and 300 feet of trenching were done on the discovery and on adjacent veins. Work halted in September. It closed in 1937. In 1945 the Rich Group Yellowknife Mines was incorporated, acquired the Rich claims and completed about 9,200 feet of diamond drilling that year.<sup>14</sup> This was Yellowknife's first mine.

**Caribou Migration:** No data acquired regarding caribou migration at this location.

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<sup>13</sup> Environmental assessment and Remedial Options pp 77-80

<sup>14</sup> Lord, C.S., GSC Memoir 261, pp 103-104



**6. Miramir Con Mine Ltd. (Nerco Con, Con and Rycon Mines)[Gold, Silver]**

**Location:** At Yellowknife on the shores of Great Slave Lake.

Latitude: 63° 26' 22"

Longitude: 114° 22' 08"

**Mine History:** The discovery of visible gold was made by a government geologist, Norman Jennejohn in 1934 on the west side of Yellowknife Bay. The Con Group of claims were staked in September and October of 1935 for Consolidated Mining and Smelting. Almost a year later, in August 1936 the P&G Group of claims were staked by G. Latham and Tom Payne and development work was begun by Rycon Mines, with diamond drilling on the Consolidated property. Construction of the first shaft and the mill began in 1937. By August of 1937, Consolidated had gained control of the P&G Group. The first gold was produced in September 5, 1938. ( It has produced over 5.4 million ounces of gold since then.) In December a shaft was started at the Rycon Mine and the extracted ore was put through the Con Mill. By year end 6,794 ounces of gold had been produced. By the end of 1939 almost 54 thousand tons had been mined to produce 33, 750 ounces of gold. In 1996 414,113 tons of ore were milled to produce 111,021 ounces of gold.<sup>15</sup>

The mine has been in continuous operation since it opened, except in 1942 and 1943 when it closed because of WWII.

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found

**7. Giant Mines Yellowknife Ltd [ Gold, Silver ]**

**Location:** situated on the west side of the north end of Yellowknife Bay

(NTS 85 J-9) Latitude 62° 30' 10"

Longitude 114° 21' 25"

Supercrest {Akaitcho} (NTS 85J-9) Latitude 62° 31' 30"

Longitude 114° 21'

**Mine History:** Staking occurred in 1935 by C.J. Baker and H.M. Muir for Burwash Yellowknife Mine Ltd. Between 1936 and 1938 some work was done on the claims by several companies, including Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Ltd and Anglo-Huronian Ltd. Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines Ltd was incorporated and acquired the property in 1937. In 1938 D. W. Cameron discovered an outcrop of a gold bearing shear zone near the southeast boundary of the property. Between April 1939 and June 1940 Giant maintained a continuous exploration program. 74 tons of ore were shipped to Trail BC for processing. This ore contained gold and a little silver. During 1941 the southeast boundary of the property was re-examined. In 1943 the Frobisher Exploration Co Ltd acquired

<sup>15</sup> Heath, Brad, "Mining Update", Mining North Magazine, 1996, p8.  
McGlynn, GSC paper 70-17, p58-64.



operating control of Giant. In the summer a geological examination by A.S. Davidson led to the concept that the drift filled Baker Creek Valley, an area neglected by previous exploration, was underlain by a major system of gold-bearing shear zones. Diamond drilling continued in 1944 in Baker Creek Valley area resulting in the largest tonnage of gold ore known in the NWT. Construction of Shaft No.1 began September 24th 1945 and was completed the by January of 1946. In April, 1946 work was started on Shaft No. 2. In November equipment for 500 ton mill had been ordered and construction of the Snare River hydro-electric power plant had begun. Although the company began work on the dam, the project was taken over by the Department of Mines and Resources. In the summer of 1947 excavations for the crushing milling and roasting plants were completed. Work on Shaft No 3 near the crushing plant was initiated. In 1948 shaft No 2 was deepened to 780 feet. Milling operations commenced on May 12th but much of the gold remained in floatation concentrates, so further processing could be done pending the completion of the roaster early in 1949. June 3, 1948, the first gold brick was produced and on July 31st the 90 mile transmission line connecting the mine to the Snare River dam was completed. October 4th transmission of electricity began.

In 1949 a new roaster referred to as the Edwards type was installed. Then in 1952 a two stage Fluosolids roaster was put into service. Five years later a kiln roaster was installed for high temperature treatment and a new two stage fluosolids roaster was installed to increase the efficiency to 80 %.<sup>16</sup>

By 1960 it was the largest mine in the Northwest Territories. There were 26 claims in the Giant property. A number of other mines have been associated to Giant Yellowknife Mine. Varying amounts of information is available on them. Their name location and any data found is listed below:

#### **8 Supercrest (Akaitcho)[Gold, Silver]**

**Location:** Lat. 62° 31 '30"; Long. 114° 21'

This property is on the north edge of the Giant property and includes 8 claims.

#### **9. Salimata [Gold]**

**Location:** Lat 64° 04'; Long 111° 14'

This property was staked in first stake in 1945. It's located 150 miles northeast of Yellowknife on the east side of Matthews Lake between Mackay and

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<sup>16</sup> McGlynn, J.C., GSC Paper 70-17  
Lord, C.S., Memoir 261 pp155-171  
Memoir 230 pp 99-102



**Courageous Lake.**

Between 1945 and 1953 about 90 diamond drill test holes were sunk and four main zones were trenched. In 1952 a building for a gravity mill was partially constructed as where a number of other buildings. The property was closed in 1953. Between then and 1971 there was no activity. However, Giant Yellowknife put the mine back into production and in 1982 .14 million tons of ore were extracted. Production continued until 1987.

**10. Tundra Gold Mine (formerly Bulldog)1963[Gold]**

**Location:** Lat 64° 02'12", Long. 111 11'36"

The property consists of 54 claims at the south end of Matthews Lake. It was staked in 1945 by Jack Matthews. Between 1945 and 1951 the property was explored on the surface and by drilling. Rock trenches of 1500 feet were used to open the vein. In 1951 underground work began and in late 1952 a headframe, powerhouse, garage and a hoist building were constructed. The mine was closed and not re-opened until 1957. In 1957 and 58 worked ceased during the winter months. Construction on a steel frame two storey building, 200ft by 32ft, started in 1959. In subsequent years buildings were winterized so it could become a year round operation. A 4000 ft. airstrip was built on an esker about 8 miles from camp. Production of gold was continuous between 1964 and 1968.<sup>17</sup> No date was found on when it was acquired by Giant Mines.

**Caribou Migration:** Prior to the development of Giant Mine, in the late 1920s, Walsh Lake was known as a crossing point for caribou. The author of *Prospector North of 60*, notes "beyond the Yellowknife settlement and about 25 miles south of Walsh Lake my guide (Indian) had built his cabin at a place renowned as a caribou crossing place and although the winter had been a hard one his place was one of the best provisioned on Yellowknife Bay."<sup>18</sup> It was reported by JP Kelsall that caribou shifted calving areas in 1952-53 and again in 1955-56 when they wintered on the north shore of Great Slave Lake. He says the caribou moved south into a triangle formed by Yellowknife, Gros Cap and Thompson Landing on the north shore of the lake. As fall approached the herds moved into the forest at the headwaters of the Taltson and Snowdrift Rivers. "In 1952-53 some animals

<sup>17</sup> McGlynn, J.C., GSC Paper 70-17, pp58-64

<sup>18</sup> Nagle, Ted, & Zinovich, Jordan, the Prospector North of Sixty, Lone Pine, 1989 p181.



crossed the North Arm of Great Slave Lake to the west and spent time in the Gypsum Point area before rejoining the main herd to the east.....the herd numbered about 25,000 animals"<sup>19</sup>

11. **Negus Mines Ltd [Gold]**

**Location:** Negus is 2 miles south of Yellowknife on the west side of Yellowknife Bay.  
Latitude: 62° 02' 12"  
Longitude: 111° 10' 55"

**Mine History:** The property was staked in 1936 by O. Hagen and other unnamed prospectors. Prospecting activity continued through the summer of 1937 and diamond was commenced with winter. The diamond drill work continued through the winter of 1937-1938. In March a prospecting shaft was opened and the main shaft was started in September. The mill began operating February 5, 1939, with the first gold brick being poured February 21st. By year end, almost six thousand ounces of gold had been recovered. Work continued at the mine until September 1952 when the mine closed. It did not operate from October 1944 to July 1945 because of a labour shortage. In 1953 COMINCO bought the mineral rights, one claim, the headframe and some buildings. In 1957 the mill, roaster, buildings and surface rights were sold to Rayrock Mines.<sup>20</sup>

12. **Pensive Yellowknife Mines [Gold]**

**Location:** The mine is located on the east side of the upper Pensive Lake, 68 KM NE of Yellowknife, about 41 KM from the Thompson Lundmark Mine.

Latitude: 64° 44' 10"

Longitude: 113° 20"

**Mine History:** The property was staked in 1938. Development work began in 1939 when a prospect shaft and small amalgamation mill were constructed. A headframe was erected in the spring of 1941. The property has not seen activity since 1947.<sup>21</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found.

<sup>19</sup> Kelsall, J.P., The Caribou, Queens Printer, Ottawa, 1968, p121

<sup>20</sup> Lord, C.S., GSC Memoir 230, pp112-118

McGlynn, J.C., GSC Paper 70-17, pp 40

<sup>21</sup> Environmental Assessment and remedial options pp27-30



### 13 Philmore Yellowknife Mines [ Gold, Copper, Tungsten ]

**Location:** The mine is located on the Outpost Islands in the east arm of Great Slave Lake about 88 KM SE of Yellowknife.

**Mine History:** This property was staked in July 1935 for the Athabasca Syndicate. Sometime after Slave Lake Gold Mines bought the claims. Exploration work was carried out on the property from November 1935 through to March 1938. During this period, a 450 foot shaft and 1700 feet of drifts were developed. The mine was abandon and then re-opened in September 5, 1940. A 50 ton mill was constructed and milling began May 1, 1941. The mill shut down in August of 1942 and the property was closed in October the same year. The mill resumed operations in 1950 but was abandon a second time in 1952. Three years later a fire completely destroyed all buildings at the site.<sup>22</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found.

#### **Caribou Data 1930's:**

##### **Reports of C.H.H. Clarke:**

##### **1936**

In late July and through August caribou were seen passing in waves through the sanctuary and the south barrens as far as Thekulthill Lake. The numbers of animals began to decrease in late August. During the first two weeks of august a small herd moved in over the whole region of Hanbury, Artillery Clinton-Colden and Aylmer Lakes.

August 1<sup>st</sup> – small herd of caribou sighted travelling the Taltson River between King and Taltson lakes.

August 11<sup>th</sup> – caribou spotted 18 miles southwest of Taltson Lake

August 16<sup>th</sup> – caribou seen at the southwest end of Thekulthill Lake

August 18<sup>th</sup> – caribou travelling on Nonacho Lake

August 19<sup>th</sup> – a large herd seen migrating northward between Hanbury and Clinton-Colden Lakes. The migration lasted all day.

During a search and rescue operation Flight Lieut. L.E. Wray observed a herd he estimated to be several thousand moving rapidly south, in a long line six or seven animals abreast. The column was led by a buck about 100 yards in front of the column.

As well it was reported by a Mr Eric Fry, that the upper back River Valley was full of caribou. He notes these caribou were part of a second swing that moves into the Reliance region around freezeup every year. Reports indicate that in the autumn and winter of 1935-36 caribou had been plentiful at Reliance. In 1936-37 fewer caribou were in the

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<sup>22</sup> Lord C.S. Memoir 261 p236  
Environmental assessment and Remedial Options p22



Reliance region but were plentiful at Snowdrift.

Clarke reports that on June 1937 a few stragglers were spotted at Hess Lake. But while making a portage at Grove Rapids on July 3<sup>rd</sup> a band was seen near the shore. He says the foot of Hanbury Lake was a moving mass. He estimated the herd to be about 20 thousand animals. He says the herd stretched through to Lac du Bois. In total, the whole herd was estimated to be least 100 thousand animals.

1940's

#### 14 Ptarmigan Mines/Tom Mines(Tremenco Mines) [ Gold]

**Location:** The mine is located approximately 15 miles east of Yellowknife on the Ingraham Trail. Latitude: 62° 31' 10"  
Longitude: 114° 11' 50"

**Mine History:** The first staking by J.A. Morie occurred 1936 and was part of the Jack Group of six claims. In 1938 the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co did some trenching and diamond drilling. Ptarmigan Mines was incorporated in October 1938. A 100 ton mill was constructed and milling operations commenced November 27th 1941. The first gold brick was poured Jan. 3 1942. In August of that year the mine closed because of WWII. Tremenco Resources developed a decline on the Tom property in 1985. In 1987 Tremenco purchased all the Ptarmigan property and extracted ore was taken to the mill at Giant Mine for processing. In 1989 it opened its own mill which ran at a capacity of 250 tons per day. Work continued through to August 1997 when operations were 'temporarily' suspended.<sup>23</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data was found.

#### 15 Thompson Lundmark[ Gold ]

**Location:** This property is located 48 KM NE of Yellowknife on the south shore of Thompson Lake.

**Mine History:** Staking first occurred in 1938. In 1941 a mill was constructed. A 55 mile winter road was used to access the site. The route crossed Jennejohn, Reid and Hidden lakes. The mill was operated for two years then shut down because of the lack of labour until 1947. Milling continued at the mine until May 1949 when operations ceased. Gold recovery was by chemical means. There was an 85 man camp which included a two storey bunkhouse, a small hospital and a curling rink as well as warehouses, headframes, shops and offices. Power was attained from

<sup>23</sup> Heath, Brad, Mining North Magazine 1997 p13  
Lord C.S., GSC Memoir 261 pp247-249  
Mining, Our Northern Legacy, p35



the hydro plant at Prosperous Lake. It should be noted that some discussions have occurred on developing the mine site as a historical tourist attraction.<sup>24</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** In his book *Miners and Moonshiners*, Fred J. Peet says that at the time the powerline was being constructed to the mine site, he was located in a camp about forty miles from the barrens. "During the first week of October, the lake started freezing over... and the barren land caribou passed by seeking protection and refuge afforded by the trees growing in the valleys."<sup>25</sup> It is also worth noting that the winter road location was in area of the normal path of caribou winter migration.

#### 16. Discovery Mines [ Gold ]

**Location:** The property is located on the west end of Giauque Lake 100 KM N.N.E of Yellowknife. (NTS 85P-4) Latitude: 63° 11' 12"  
Longitude: 113° 53' 30"

**Mine History:** The claim was staked in the summer of 1944 by A.V. Giauque and subsequently acquired by Jakeway Prospecting Syndicate. Discovery Yellowknife Mines was formed in 1945. Prior to August diamond drilling was initiated. In November the north vein was discovered by one of the employees, Bert Wagenitz. Between January and September of 1946 extensive diamond drilling was conducted on the North vein and the adjacent area. In June underground development started and mining and plant supplies were ordered. A small plant had been flown into the site by October. In November a shaft was started. Work continued on the shaft until March 1947 when the first units of a permanent plant were installed. Underground work was continuous throughout 1947. Permanent buildings were erected in 1947. Milling commenced January 1 1950. A power line was built to the site in 1953 and an airstrip was constructed in 1956. The mill burned down in 1960. Discovery Mine closed down in 1968 after 19 years of production. It was reactivated in 1994 by GMD Resources Corp.<sup>26</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found.

#### 17 DeStaffany Tantalum Beryllium Mines Ltd [ Tantalite - columbite, Beryl ]

**Location:** The mine is on the north shore of Great Slave Lake, 117 KM E.S.E of Yellowknife. (Mineral Claim Sheet 851-1)

<sup>24</sup> Lord C.S., GSC Memoir 261 pp279  
Environmental Assessment and Remedial Options pp18-21  
<sup>25</sup> Peet, Fred J., *Miners and Moonshiners* p180  
<sup>26</sup> Our Northern Legacy 1989  
Lord C.S., GSC Memoir 261 pp124-131  
McGlynn, J.C., GSC Paper 70-17 pp 44-49



**Mine History:** Staked in 1942 as Moose No 1 and 2 on behalf of De Staffany Tungsten Gold Mines Ltd. Three tantalite claims were staked in July and August 1943. The next year a claim called the Best Bet No 1 was registered. In 1945 DeStaffany T. (tantalum) B. (beryllium) Mines Ltd was incorporated. Their property also included the Bill No 2 claim. In 1946 a crew of six men were employed. A 5 1/2 foot by 7 foot shaft was sunk to a depth of 40 foot on Moose No 11 or No 12 claim. A mill was erected on Moose 11 claim at the shore of Great Slave but did not operate until 1947 during the months of September and October. It remained in operation until 1954. Unrefined concentrates were produced. However a fire destroyed the mill and the mine was abandoned shortly afterwards.<sup>27</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found.

### 18 Peg Tantalum [Tantalum]

**Location:** The mine is located 71 KM ENE of Yellowknife between the upper Ross Lake. Redout Lake. Latitude: 62° 43' 40"

Longitude: 113° 06'50"

The mill is 1.7 km east of the upper Ross.

**Mine History:** The property was staked in 1943 by J.R. Saunders and acquired by Peg in 1944. Nine men were employed in the summer of 1945 and pegamite was stock piled. In the spring of 1946 mill machinery was brought as far Reid Lake then flown from there into the mill site at Upper Ross Lake. By September 21 men were employed and mill was under construction. Beginning in October of 1946 the mill operated intermittently for five weeks until mechanical problems forced a shutdown. Milling resumed in April of 1947 and operations continued on an intermittent basis through the summer. Most of the ore was taken from one surface mine. Work was never resumed after 1947.<sup>28</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found

### 19 Ruth Mines[Gold]

**Location:** This gold mine is located 90 KM east of Yellowknife on the west side of Tam Lake. It's about 56 km from the Ingraham trail. Latitude: 62° 27' 45"  
Longitude: 112° 34' 15"

**Mine History:** The property was staked originally in the summer 1940 by J. Michelson. In 1941 12 men were employed to sink a shaft. In the winter a 25 ton mill was brought in tractor train. In the summer of 1942 the mine operated for two months and the mill operated for 12 days from August 1st and 186.8 tons of

<sup>27</sup> Environmental Assessment and Remedial Options pp14-17

<sup>28</sup> Environmental assessment and Remedial Options p9  
Lord C.S., GSC Memoir 261 pp231



ore were processed. The buildings constructed included a cottage, a two storey bunk house and a shop, a office/staff house, hoist and mill. About 90 surface trenches were dug. Work halted until 1959 when mining and milling resumed for another season. Work at the site ceased again until 1973 when extensive diamond drilling occurred and then from 1982 to 1988 sampling and exploration were undertaken.<sup>29</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No Specific data was found

## 20 West Bay Mine [Gold]

**Location:** This mine is located on the southeast shore of Gordon Lake, about 77 KM NE of Yellowknife.

**Mine History:** The property was first staked in 1946. The mine went into operation in 1947 and worked continued through the fall of 1948 when it was shut down. In 1983 work was reactivated at the site with an extensive drilling, trenching and reworking of the original pit. The claim remained active over the next ten years.<sup>30</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found.

## 21. Liten [Gold]

**Location:** It is situated 53 KM NE of Yellowknife on the southwest shore of Little Sproule Lake.

**Mine History:** The property was staked in 1947. Gold was recovered by hand until 1964, at which time a mill, using mercury amalgamation, was installed. It operated for only 1 year. The 3 buildings on site remain intact. The mine was abandoned in 1972.<sup>31</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found

## 22. Beaulieu Yellowknife Mines Ltd [ Gold]

**Location:** 74 KM east of Yellowknife between Hansen Lake and John Lake, about 3 miles north of Campbell Lake.

**Mine History:** The claim was first staked in 1939 by S. Hanson and Associates of Yellowknife. A mill was constructed 1947. The mine was abandoned after two

<sup>29</sup> Lord, C.S. GSC Memoir 261 pp251

Environmental and Remedial Options p65

<sup>30</sup> Lord, C.S. GSC Memoir 261, pp 279-290

Environmental Assessment and Remedial Options pp39-43

<sup>31</sup> Environmental assessment and remedial Options pp34-38



seasons of milling, using mercury amalgamation to extract gold. In 1982 and then again in 1987 different companies different companies acquired the property but allowed the claims to lapse. In January 1992 a new claim was stake over the mine site.<sup>32</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No data found in reference to caribou migration passing this site during construction phase.

## 1950's

### 23. Indore Gold Uranium Mine [Uranium]

**Location:** The mine is located south end of Hottah lake about 225 KM NE of Yellowknife

**Mine History:** The mine was staked in 1950. By 1952 underground work had commenced and a mill was in operation. However, by 1955 work had ceased and the mine was abandoned. The property was closed in 1956. Five wood frame buildings remain on the site and both entrances to the mine, an adit and a mine shaft have been left open<sup>33</sup>.

**Caribou Migration:** J.P. Kelsall forwarded a brief report to the chief of the Canadian Wildlife service, Dr Lewis, on December 21, 1950. In it he says caribou are spread over a large area along the Arctic coast and the adjacent area. He says he believes the Lac La Martre herd is currently near Wrigley, although he hadn't visited the area yet. He also notes that the small herd which moves from the Coppermine River to east shore of Great Bear Lake, was moving northward in the area where he had seen them the previous April.<sup>34</sup>

In a letter the on January 11, 1951 J.P. Kelsall writes after a ground patrol on the Lac La Martre Caribou herd, "We located the Lac la Martre herd without difficulty. Although scattered, animals from the herd extended within 35 miles of the southeast end of Lac La Martre. The main body which we discovered is only a few miles east of Fish Lake, within 50 miles of Wrigley. In this area, the heavy bush is literally crawling with caribou."<sup>35</sup>

In October 1951 R. Douglas reports that while on patrol to Lac La Martre on the evening of October 26<sup>th</sup> a scattered herds of caribou in groups of 4 tot 20 were in the vicinity of the village at latitude 63° 08' N, longitude 117° 16' W. Within two

<sup>32</sup> Lord, C.S., GSC Memoir 261 pp 70-84

<sup>33</sup> Environmental and Remedial Options p73  
McGlynn, J.C., GSC Paper 70-17 pp115

<sup>34</sup> Kelsall, J.P. Northern Administration Ref. #G79.003 110.5

<sup>35</sup> Kelsall, J.P., Northern Administration Ref.#G79.003



days in a six mile radius about 200 animals were killed. Douglas says the small herds extended as far south as James Lake. He says there were reports of caribou at Russell Lake as well.<sup>36</sup>

In another report, which Kelsall wrote to Dr Lewis on January 2, 1952, he refers to efforts to locate the Lac La Martre herd. " Warden Bulmer and myself accompanied the regular supply flight to Hottah Lake, Contact Lake, Eldorado, Sawmill Bay, and the lumber camp at McVicar Arm.... There were small scattered bands of caribou along McVicar Arm. Most of the animals were the forest and we only saw about 24. I have now covered a great deal of the usual winter range...without finding the herd. I might add we are not the only people having trouble finding this herd. The Rae Indians have not found it either and one group lost all their dogs and nearly starved themselves before they made it back to Rae on foot."

A report filed by J.P. Richards on January 29<sup>th</sup> 1952, quoting A.G. Loughrey indicates that the Rae herd wintered in the Blackwater /Fish Lake area.<sup>37</sup>

In another letter dated November 13, 1952, Chelae writing to a Mr. F. A. McCall says, "the movement of caribou on to their winter range, as it is presently shaping, is quite different from the patterns displayed during the past four or five years. The Hanbury herd which should be in the country between the east arm of Great Slave Lake and Lake Athabasca is massed about Drybones Lake some 100 miles northeast of Yellowknife. The Rae herd is also far from its usual position for this season. "

On January 17<sup>th</sup> 1952, F.A. McCall writes in a letter to Kelsall caribou have been reported about 20 miles northeast of Fort Smith. He says very few have been brought in by hunters but while on flight from Fort Resolution a few small herds and a lot of tracks were seen on the east side of the Slave River.

In his book, *The Caribou*, Kelsall writes in the winter of 1952-53 several thousand caribou moved along the south side of Great Bear Lake and wintered around Fort Franklin. "In the spring of 1953, instead of taking the usual routes eastward toward Bathurst Inlet, all the animals moved northward to find calving areas and summer pastures north of Great Bear Lake."<sup>38</sup>

#### 24. Rayrock Mine [Uranium]

**Location:** The Rayrock property is located on the Marion River system at Sherman Lake about 100 miles northwest of Yellowknife. Latitude: 63° 26' 54"  
Longitude: 116° 32'18"

<sup>36</sup> Douglas, R., Caribou report File 70, Ref. # G79.003

<sup>37</sup> Richards, J.P., File #3769 Northern Administration Branch Ref. #G79 003.112.4

<sup>38</sup> Kelsall, John P. *The Migratory Barren-Ground Caribou of Canada*, Queens Printer 1968



**Mine History:** A team from the Geological Survey of Canada first found uranium in this area in 1934. A.W. Joliffe investigated the property in 1944 but it wasn't until 1948 when a claim was staked by A.V. Giauque and Associates. In 1953 Rayrock Mines was formed by American Yellowknife and Lodge Uranium in order to finance further exploration. In the spring of 1954 test drilling was done on the best showings. In 1955 the drill program was used to outline the ore body and underground work began. The next year the mine went into production. A mill and treatment plant were constructed and the first uranium concentrates were produced in 1957. The mine closed July 31, 1959. A number of buildings were constructed, including a powerhouse, carpenter and electrical shops office - warehouse and three two storey bunkhouses to accommodate 100 men, 9 residences, a staff house for 14 and a cookhouse.<sup>39</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** A report to the commanding officer of RCMP Police for the Fort Smith Sub Division in July 1955 states very few caribou were shot in comparison to the previous year. He notes 10 families from the Coppermine area who normally camp and hunt caribou at Contwoyto Lake stayed on the coast.

"Around the middle of October 1954, a herd of caribou was located approximately 50 miles southwest of Coppermine in the Rae River District. It is believed that approximately 1000 caribou would be in this herd."<sup>40</sup> In another report sent from Port Radium on June 23, 1955 the officer notes that herd of about 200 stayed for most of the winter between Hottah Lake and Cameron Bay. He says the caribou returned north early in the year, though no large herds were noticed in the area. According to reports from local Indians plenty of caribou were killed to meet their needs for meat and skins and the officer reports that the caribou were considered to be in better shape than the previous year.<sup>41</sup>

Two officials from the Canadian Wildlife Service, John P. Kelsall (1955) and A.G. Loughrey (1952) estimated the winter herd at Caribou Point to be over 10 thousand each year since 1950. However in 1954-1955 the winter population dropped to the lowest on record of around 500.<sup>42</sup>

The area between Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake, wildlife officer Banfield estimated 1954 the herd to be about 219,000. In 1948-49 Banfield estimated the herd at 219,000. In 1950-51 Kelsall estimated the herd had dropped to 147,000. Kelsall continued to report a further drop in 1952-53 to 51,000. However he reported a slight increase in 1954-55 to 59,500. Officials would not attribute the decrease either to hunting pressures or disease. In this period Rae people took an average of 9000 animals a winter. Wildlife officer expressed concern that continued hunting may result in a disaster for the herd.

<sup>39</sup> McGlynn, J.C., GSC Paper 70-17 p88

<sup>40</sup> Northern Administration Lands Branch, Dept. of Resources and Development "G" Division, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Ref. #G79.003.3 July 1, 1955.

<sup>41</sup> Northern Administration Lands Branch, #G70.003 100.3 June 23, 1955.

<sup>42</sup> Northern Administration Branch #79.003 112.5



A herd of 7,000 is reported to winter regular at Lever Lake. In March 1955, it was estimated the herd in the Fort Franklin area to be about 26,100. The herd arrived near Fort Franklin late in 1954. Over 130 wolves were taken using poison bait traps. Another 25 wolves were spotted during the census flying. Officials believed the high number of wolves in the area resulted in a high caribou kill by predators. it was also estimated the people of fort Franklin and Fort Norman took between 1500 and 2000 animals.

Another small herd of 3000 was reported to have wintered at Lac Grandin. A census flight late in the winter over Gordon Lake estimated that herd to be about 3,900. On March 30 a herd of about 16,600 animals was spotted at Indian Mountain Lake moving north. It was believed this herd had come from south of Great Slave Lake. During the arial surveys only 144 animals were seen in the Artillery –MacKay Lake area. It was estimated about 2,900 caribou would have been in the area.<sup>43</sup>

An extensive arial survey was conducted in 1955. Over 38 thousand miles where flown in the sector alone. In a confidential report of July 15, 1955, the results showed a steady decline since 1948-49. The reports were as follows:

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1955</u>
North of Great Bear Lake	35,000	4,928
Between Great Bear and Great Slave Lakes	219,000	55,952
Between Athabasca and Great Slave Lakes	315,000	79,534

Kelsall believed the decline in the Rae herd began in 1951. He also speculated the Rae herd had moved because of the unusual numbers of caribou reported from Bathurst and east.<sup>44</sup>

A RCMP report dated July 1, 1959 from the Port Radium detachment states that local Indians reported that caribou had been shot between Port Radium and Fort Franklin. Cst G.H. Johnson reports that no caribou migrated through this area during the period from July 1958 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1959.<sup>45</sup>

## 25. Hidden Lake [ Gold]

**Location:** The mine site is located 45 KM NE of Yellowknife on the west shore of Hidden Lake.

<sup>43</sup> Northern Administration Branch #G79.003 112.5

<sup>44</sup> Northern Administration Branch Ref. #G79.003 110.5

<sup>45</sup> Northern Administration Branch #G79.003 100.6



**Mine History:** The site was first staked in 1938. Activity has been intermittent with most activity occurring between 1959 and 1969. There are nine buildings at the site. Several tons of ore were milled in 1968. The site is accessible by an 11 kilometer winter road and is located in a recreational area.<sup>46</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** Caribou migrate usually on an annual basis through this region.

1960's

26. Echo Bay Mine [Silver, Copper]

**Location:**(NTS 86L-1;K-4) Latitude 66° 06'

Longitudes: 118° 00'

Leased the former radium producing property, Port Radium and adjoining Cominco property

**Mine History:** This property was in operation 1964 to 1976. It is adjacent to what is known as the El-Bonanza Property. It was staked in 1930 with some diamond drilling occurring in 1932.<sup>47</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** A report dated October 18, 1963 provides some information regarding caribou movement early in the winter. L. Skov writes from Yellowknife, that ten days previously no caribou were sighted on trip to Pellatt Lake. He says visibility was poor. However he says on October 5<sup>th</sup>, reports of massive herds just milling around on Contwoyto and Pellatt Lake were received. As well, he says on October 11<sup>th</sup> Gus d'Aoust said caribou had been in the Reliance area most of the summer. Also the Chief at Snare Lake, Pierre Wedzin said caribou were only a days journey from the settlement in the Winter Lake area.

27. Terra Silver Mine [Silver, Lead, Copper, Zinc]

**Location:** The mine is located between Ho-Hum Lake and the south shore of the Camsell River about 280 KM NW of Yellowknife. Latitude: 65° 36' 15"

Longitude: 118° 06' 55"

**Mine History:** The mine began producing silver in 1969. The site includes a mill, service buildings and a camp. There are five underground entrances. Tailings from the mill were deposited on the shore and in Ho-Hum Lake. There are also three large tanks farms at the site. Operations ceased in 1985 and the mine was abandoned.

<sup>46</sup> Environmental Assessment and Remedial Options p 27

<sup>47</sup> McGlynn, J.C., GSC Paper 70-17 p118



1970's

28. Smallwood Silver Mine [Silver, Lead, Zinc & Copper]

**Location:** The site is situated on the northwest shore of Smallwood Lake about 270 KM NW of Yellowknife. Latitude: 65° 35' 15"  
Longitude: 117° 57' 25"

**Mine History:** There has been very little activity at the site since it was first staked in 1930. In the 1970's exploration and surface diamond drilling occurred. In the early 80's some underground activity occurred. Ore from the mine was hauled on an 18km road to the mill at Terra Mines for milling and processing. Only five small service buildings were constructed on the site.<sup>48</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found.

29. Northrim Silver Mine [Silver]

**Location:** The mine is located on the north shore of the Camsell River 270 KM NW of Yellowknife.

**Mine History:** The property was first staked in 1932. Between 1934 and 1970 intermittent drilling and a little underground mining took place. A mill, which operated for two years, was installed in 1971. The mill was reactivated in 1976 and continued operations in 1977. In 1978 the mine ceased operations after a fire destroyed the mill. The sight remains silent but requires cleanup of fuel storage tanks, remaining buildings and processing chemicals.<sup>49</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data found

30. Norex Mine [ Silver ]

**Location:** 270 KM NE of Yellowknife, 1KM south  
of Camsell River. Latitude: 65° 35' 15"  
Longitude: 117° 57' 25"

**Mine History:** The property was staked in 1950. This mine was developed as a satellite mine to Terra Mines. There are only three buildings and a small two container tank farm at the site. The mine was abandoned in 1985.

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<sup>48</sup> Environmental and remedial Options p65

<sup>49</sup> Environmental Assessment and Remedial Options p65



## 1980's and 1990's

### 29. Lubin [Gold]

**Location:** The mine is located on the shores of Contwoyto Lake, 90 KM south of the Arctic circle and 400 KM NE of Yellowknife Latitude: 65° 45'52"  
Longitude: 110° 13'35"

**Mine History:** Initial production at the mine started in May 1982. However, the construction phase of the operation was unique. The only access to the mine was by air. The parent company, Echo Bay Mines, purchased a Hercules and a Convair to fly in everything thing needed to build and put the mine into operation. Up to nine Hercules flights a day were dispatched from Yellowknife, on a 24 hour basis, six days a week. This continued for 20 months. Over 1,600 flights were required during the construction phase. As well the company constructed a 360 mile ice road across the barren lands to haul 3.5 million gallons of fuel and an additional 750 loads of freight during a 10 week ice road season. In 1996, 31 million pounds of freight and 22 million litres of fuel were trucked into the mine. The trip takes about 48 hours with rest stops at two camps, one at Lockhart Lake and one at Lac de Gras. The mine remained in operation, using a 737 for crew changes. According to Mining Update, 1997, it cost \$299 US to produce an ounce of gold. The mine was shutdown in early winter of 1997.<sup>50</sup>

### 30. Colomac Mine [Gold]

**Location:** 220 kilometres north of Yellowknife

**History of Mine:** Colomac began production in May 1990. The mine ~~was~~ initially owned Neptune Resources but due to financial difficulties was sold and then resold to Royal Oak Mine. The ore was considered low grade but open pit mining, new technology, and higher gold prices made it economical. The mine was closed in October 1997 after producing half a million ounces of gold.<sup>51</sup>

**Caribou Migration:** No specific data, however winter roads were used to access the mine site during construction and operation. Parts of these winter roads were in the migration paths of the caribou. They also provided increased access by hunters to caribou.

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<sup>50</sup> Our Northern Legacy, 1989  
Mining North, 1997

<sup>51</sup> Heath, Brad, Mining North 1997 p 8



31. **Ekati Mine [Diamond]** ( originally called Koala)

**Location:** Lac de Gras about 200 Km northeast of Yellowknife

**Mine History:** In 1989 Chuck Fipke staked mineral claims in the Lac de Gras area. In August of 1990 a joint venture agreement was signed between DiaMet and BHP's for the NWT Diamond Project. The NWT diamond rush was sparked by the discovery of diamonds at Point lake by BHP and Diamet in 1991.

The Diamond rush is the largest mineral staking rush in North American mining history. Over 10 million acres were staked. In 1992 BHP carried out a winter drilling program. Their drilling continued in the winter of 1993 at the Leslie, Fox and Koala sites. Bulk sampling was initiated and the company began work on environmental protocols. An office was opened in Yellowknife and a camp was established at the Koala site. As well, underground work started at the Fox site. In the fall of 1994 BHP built an extended runway and the first jet, a 727, landed at the Koala Camp. The winter drilling program continued at Panda Koala, Fox, Leslie and Misery sites. The underground bulk sampling at the Fox site was completed and work was initiated at the Panda pit begins. In 1996 the mine received final approval after an Environmental Review process and construction of a permanent camp was accelerated, with an estimated 1000 workers on site at the height of construction. In April 1997 the main camp was completed , the nine million fuel storage tanks were completed in August and ammonium storage buildings were completed by year end. Production is scheduled to in the summer of 1998.<sup>52</sup>

32. **Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. [Diamonds]**

**Location:** About 200 KM north east of Yellowknife on the eastern edge of Lac de Gras. This is known by the Dogrib people as Ekadi.

**Mine History:** The projected mine life is 16 to 22 years. Licensing process has just begun. The site was staked in 1991. In June 1992 the Diavik partnership was established. In 1993 a Yellowknife office was opened. In March 1994 pipes A154N and A154S were discovered. Work on Environmental Baseline Studies began in October the same year. Two new pipes, A418 and A21 were discovered in February of 1995. Diavik had established a 75 person exploration camp by February 1996. Underground bulk sampling on pipes A 154S and A418 was completed in July 1996. A corporate office was opened in Yellowknife in December 1996. By June of 1997, the Environmental Baseline Study had been completed and a Prefeasibility Study was completed in September.

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<sup>52</sup> Hannock,Lynn, Mining North 97, NWT Chamber of Mines, 1997.



### Caribou Migration:

Studies completed in 1996 indicate the Bathurst caribou herd occupied a range of about 250 thousand square kilometer. The calving ground historically is at the south end of Bathurst Inlet. During the early 80's the area east of the Inlet was used. Most of the cows reach the calving area by late May, while bulls, yearlings, and non-pregnant cows generally do not migrate as far as the calving grounds. The animals regroup with the cows and calves in late June and early July to form large aggregations because of the harassment of insects. Throughout the summer the herd is spread throughout the summer grazing areas of the tundra. By October the herd moves to the treeline for rut then the bulls and cows segregate and return to the forest. "The precise movements of caribou are unpredictable. Only large scale movements such as the movement towards the calving ground in May and June and the movement southward in the fall can be predicted with any degree of certainty. Even timing and routes vary....an area where there were thousands of caribou one year may not have a single animal the next. With few barriers to their movement, with the possible exception of the large lakes such as Contwoyto and Point lakes in the fall, there are no specific migration corridors which are used each year."<sup>53</sup>

From both photo and visual surveys scientists have documented a decline in the herd in the late 1970s which was followed by a substantial recovery after 1980. A 280% increase was observed between 1982 and 1986. It is believed though this large increase was a result of recruitment and immigration.<sup>54</sup>

Biologists indicate that the ratio of adult male to female is difficult to assess because the herd only comes together during the fall rut. Otherwise it is separated by age and sex. The average estimate used throughout North America is 36% male and 64% female.

The Status and Management reports notes numerous mining activities have been conducted in the Bathurst range during the period between 1986 and 1996. It says the only major documented impact on the herd are associated with winter roads. Hunting data indicates that 49% of General Hunting Licence holders and 51% of resident hunters use winter roads. The largest recorded harvest occurred on the Lupin winter road in 1983/84 when 3,744 caribou were taken.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Case, Ray et al, The Status and Management of the Bathurst Caribou Herd, Gov't of NWT, 1996 p2

<sup>54</sup> ibid p6

<sup>55</sup> ibid p22