

Mr. Grant Pryznyk
Interim Chair
Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
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**Environment and Natural Resources Response to
Caribou Management Plan Information Requests Part 3**

In response to the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) November 16, 2009 information request letter, please find attached the following supplemental documents and answers to information requests on the attached CD.

- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) answers to the WRRB, Information Requests dated November 16, 2009.
- In the interest of releasing as much info as possible for the WRRB's consideration, we have included a DRAFT technical report:
 - *Decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 2006-2009; a Technical Evaluation of Field Data and Modeling Report*, Adamczewski J., J. Boulanger, B. Croft, D. Cluff, D. Elkin, J. Nishi, A. Kelly, and C. Nicolson, ENR, December 2009.

As this report is still undergoing an internal review, we will provide the WRRB with a more refined draft on December 18, 2009, that is suitable for posting on the public registry.

- Report on 2009 Bathurst calving grounds census or presentation / posters used to provide survey results to communities:
 - The attached report entitled *Decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 2006-2009; a Technical Evaluation of Field Data and Modeling Report*, contains an overview of the 2009 Bathurst calving grounds census.
- Report on Bluenose east 2009 photo censuses attempt or presentation / posters used to provide survey information to communities:
 - Due to weather conditions ENR staff were unable to conduct this census, and there have been no posters, presentations or reports prepared.

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- Report on Bluenose east 2006 photo censuses:
 - The attached PowerPoint entitled *Caribou Forever – Our Heritage, Our Responsibility*, ENR, November 2007, includes this information.
- Reports on Bluenose east 2000 photo censuses:
 - The attached PowerPoint entitled *Caribou Forever – Our Heritage, Our Responsibility*, ENR, November 2007, includes this information.
- Reports on Bluenose east surveys back to 1996:
 - The attached PowerPoint entitled *Caribou Forever – Our Heritage, Our Responsibility*, ENR, November 2007, includes this information.
- Report on Ahiak 1996 survey:
 - *Abundance and Distribution of the Queen Maud Gulf Caribou Herd, 1986-98*, Gunn A., B. Fournier, and J. Nishi, 2000, ENR (Manuscript Report 126).
- Report on Ahiak reconnaissance surveys or presentations/posters used to provide survey information to communities including estimates of cow numbers and how they were determined:
 - The attached report entitled *Decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 2006-2009; a Technical Evaluation of Field Data and Modeling Report*, includes this information.
- Preliminary trend analysis conducted by John Boulanger:
 - The attached report entitled *Decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 2006-2009; a Technical Evaluation of Field Data and Modeling Report*, includes this information.
- Report(s) on spring composition counts on Bathurst, Bluenose East and Ahiak herds since 1996:
 - The attached report entitled *Decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 2006-2009; a Technical Evaluation of Field Data and Modeling Report*, includes this information.
- Report(s) on fall composition counts on Bathurst, Bluenose East and Ahiak herds since 1996:
 - The attached report entitled *Decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 2006-2009; a Technical Evaluation of Field Data and Modeling Report*, includes this information.

- Report(s) on wolf den site occupancy and pup survival since 2000 or presentations/posters used to provide survey information to communities:
 - The attached report entitled *Decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 2006-2009; a Technical Evaluation of Field Data and Modeling Report*, includes this information.
- Report(s) on assessment of cumulative effects of mining activities (including any outputs from Cumulative Effects Demonstration project):
 - The attached report entitled *Decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 2006-2009; a Technical Evaluation of Field Data and Modeling Report*, includes this information.
- Current Regulations under the NWT *Wildlife Act* pertaining to caribou harvesting in Wek'èezhìi:
 - *Big Game Hunting Regulations*
 - *Certification and Disposal of Wildlife*
 - *Sale of Wildlife Regulations*
 - *Wildlife Business Regulations*
 - *Wildlife Export Regulations*
 - *Wildlife General Regulations*
 - *Wildlife Licences and Permits Regulations*
 - *Wildlife Management Barren-Ground Caribou Areas Regulations*
 - *Wildlife Management Units Regulations*
- Summary of consultation with Government of Nunavut and /or Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Sahtu Renewable Resources Board:
 - No consultation has been undertaken with any of these agencies, however ENR has shared information with these agencies including:
 - A number of letters from the Minister of ENR to the Government of Nunavut over the last two years.
 - A presentation to the Nunavut Land and Water Board entitled *Status of Shared NWT/Nunavut Barren-ground Caribou Herds*, December 3, 2009.
- Listing of all community meetings hosted by ENR or Tłıchǫ Government to discuss caribou status since 2003 (include summary of results of meeting where available):
 - Please find attached a list of all community consultations since June, 2009. *North Slave Region Consultation Log*, ENR, 2009.
 - The ENR has not had other meetings specific to the Caribou Management Plan, however ENR has held annual workshops in 2006-2008 to which communities were invited to send representatives.

- Summary of residential harvest information since 1996 including hunter numbers, tags sold, estimated harvest by sex, and timing of harvest:
 - *Summary of the Sex and Age Ratio for BG Caribou Hunted for Years 1995-96 to 2007-08 per Hunting Zones R and U, ENR, November 2009.*
- Summary of number of active collars on each herd since 1996 (graph monthly or quarterly). Please include fate of collars where possible and calving ground assignment:
 - *No of collars Graph Sept 09, ENR, November 2009.*
- Map of collared caribou distribution by herd affiliation (Bathurst, Bluenose East, Ahiak or unknown) during winter hunting season (December through end of March) for each year since 2000. Include winter roads on map:
 - Please find a number of attached maps, Winter 2000-2009.
- Map of collared caribou distribution by herd affiliation (Bathurst, Bluenose East, Ahiak or unknown) during fall hunting season (August/September) for each year since 2000. Include locations of outfitter camps and mines:
 - Please find a number of attached maps, Fall 2000-2009.

If you have any additional questions regarding this information please contact Mr. Jason McNeill, Senior Policy Advisor, Aboriginal Relations at (867) 920 3298.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Campbell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ernie Campbell
Associate Deputy Minister

Attachments