

FEB 08 2010

Mr. Grant Pryznyk  
Interim Chair  
Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board  
102A, 4504 - 49TH AVENUE  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1X7

Dear Mr. Pryznyk:

**Information about Consultations Conducted by the Department  
in Relation to Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions in  
Wek'èezhii - Consultation Issues Raised by North Slave Métis Alliance**

I am writing in response to your letters of November 23, 2009 and November 24, 2009 requesting information respecting consultation on the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Tłı̨chǫ Government Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions in the Wek'èezhii (Joint Proposal). For your request for information related to consultations with First Nations on the Joint Proposal, please refer to our responses in IR 2.101 and supplemental information request from the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB).

The workshop on the Decline and Recovery of the Bathurst Caribou Herd held in October 2009 included attendees from various Aboriginal groups, including the North Slave Métis Alliance. The workshop participants' list and workshop report is attached. This forum was used to inform the development of the Joint Proposal.

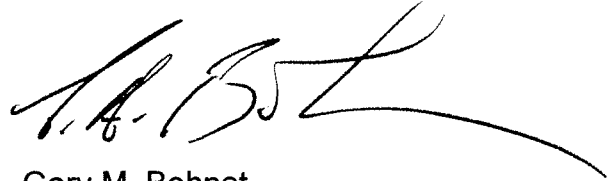
Since submitting the Joint Proposal, the approach of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is to continue to consult with Aboriginal governments, organizations and other groups. The results of consultation will be provided to the WRRB for the public hearing in February 2010.

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To address your specific interest in your November 24, 2009 letter on consultation with Métis organizations information is provided in Attachment B, I trust this demonstrates ENR's concerted effort to consult with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. M. Bohnet", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary M. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister

Attachments

**Attachment A**

**Decline and Recovery of the Bathurst Caribou Herd  
Workshop**

**October 1-2, 5-6, 2009**



<b>DATE:</b> October 1-2, 5-6, 2009	<b>TIME:</b>
<b>NAME:</b>	<b>COMPANY:</b> Decline and Recovery of the Bathurst Caribou Herd Workshop
	<b>PROJECT:</b> Bathurst Caribou
<b>ENR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:</b> Bruno Croft, Jan Adamczewski, Danny Beaulieu, Ernie Campbell, Susan Fleck, Alicia Kelly, Lance Schmidt, Cate Sills	<b>PROGRAM TIME FRAME:</b>
<b>NOTES:</b> The goal of the workshop was to review the critical decline in the Bathurst herd and to explore possible management options for recovery.	
<b>ENR PRESENTATIONS \ COMMENTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-ENR gave a presentation on caribou population cycles during the past 120, as well as showed results from a survey done in June 2009 on the Bathurst calving ground. ENR also presented a graph and information about annual surveys of wolf dens at the south end of the Bathurst summer range from data collected since 1996.</li> <li>-There are many factors affecting numbers of Barren-Ground caribou; weather, green-up, and plants caribou eat, hunter harvest, mining and industrial development, wolves and other predators, and fire on the winter range.</li> <li>- ENR pointed out that the department's fire program was due for a review and there would be community meetings that people could participate in.</li> <li>- Asked participants if they had alternatives if they were unable to hunt caribou.</li> <li>- Final words "We are the descendents of the caribou. They caribou once helped our people to recover- now it's our turn to help them." – Danny Beaulieu</li> </ul>	
<b>AUDIENCE COMMENTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human impacts on caribou can be managed, hunting used to be different- hunting today is less respectful of caribou</li> <li>- Exploration and mining have had negative effects- helicopters used during exploration, transport trucks servicing mines, blasting.</li> <li>- Caribou avoid the mines and further research is needed to understand mining effects.</li> <li>- Need to protect calving grounds in the NWT and Nunavut.</li> <li>- Concerned the small caribou population size, predation by wolves and bears could have stronger negative impact on Bathurst herd- measures be taken to control wolf population. (Others support the conservation of wolves given wolf numbers have declined in response to decline of caribou.)</li> <li>- Large wildfires in recent years have destroyed areas of important caribou winter habitat- remaining corridors of habitat through burned areas should be given increased fire protection for migration and feeding purposes in the winter. (Others thought fire was a natural part of landscape and controlling fires could lead to larger, more destructive ones.)</li> <li>- We need to "walk together" to work collaboratively to conserve the caribou.</li> <li>- Times of scarce caribou have happened before and other animals were hunted during these times. – several alternative sources of meat for most communities.</li> <li>- Difficult situation for communities such as Lutsel K'e and the TliCho- would need help</li> <li>- We can help, but the GNWT and partners need to get every community to share information.</li> </ul>	

- Communities that will have real hardship if they cannot hunt caribou need to be addressed.
  - Public education is very important- hunters can change what they do, but need the information to do so.
  - Action needs to be taken sooner, for the sake of future generations- what will they say about us and what we did at this critical time?
  - Hunter harvest needs to be managed, but we need to protect calving grounds and winter ranges.
  - Predators may need to be managed.
-

## Decline and Recovery of the Bathurst Caribou Herd:

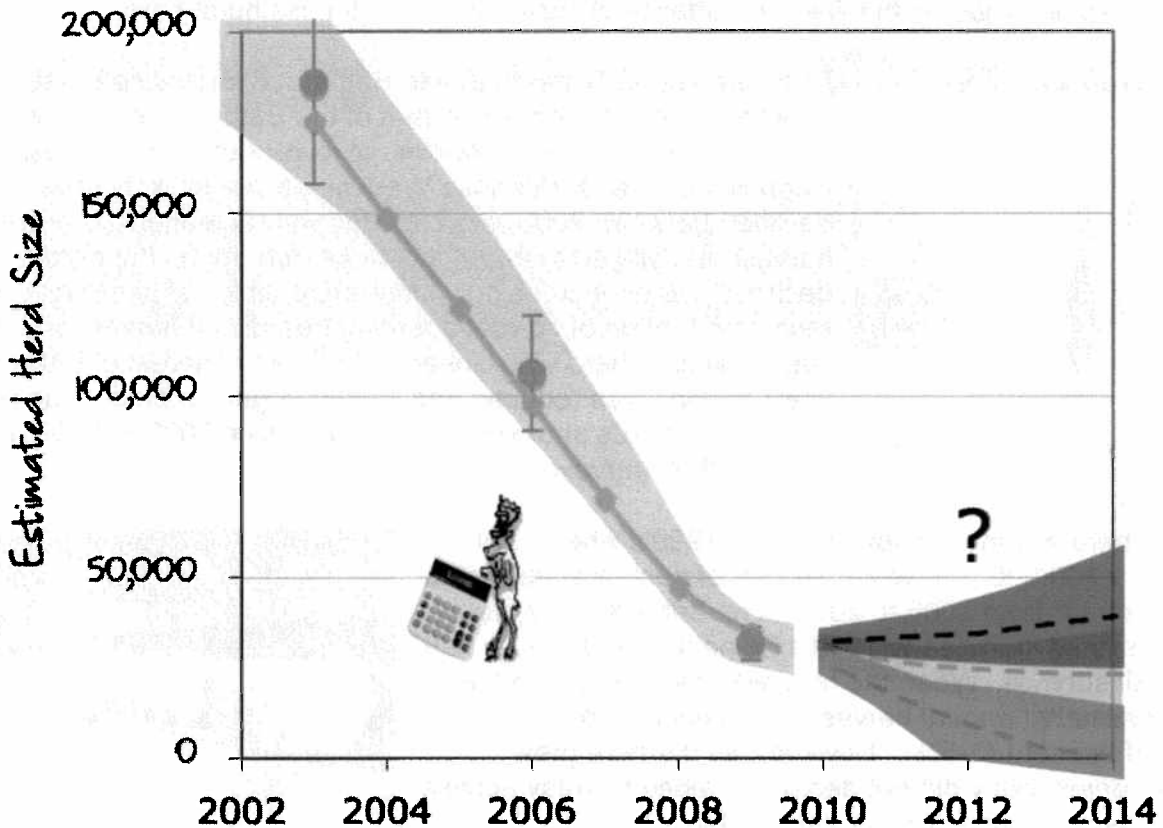
*Workshops Oct. 1 & 2 and 5 & 6 in Yellowknife*

Summary Report by Lorien Nesbitt and Jan Adamczewski, November 12, 2009

Drawings and Cartoons by Doug Urquhart

Workshop photos by Archana Bali

Other photos by GNWT staff

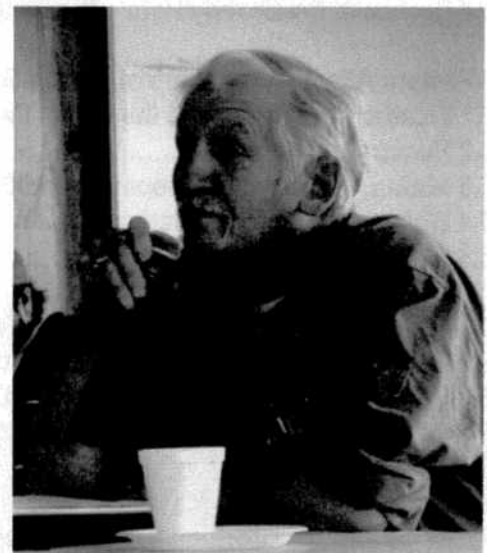
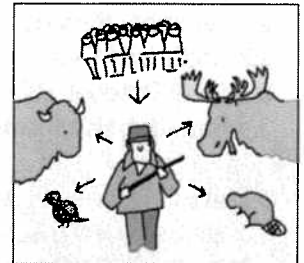






A harvest of 5000-7000 caribou/year, mostly cows, would by 2009 result in an annual harvest rate of 15-22% of the herd. The Bathurst Caribou Calculator, a population model, indicates that if the herd continues to decline at its current rate and the harvest continues at the same level, the herd could disappear in 4-5 years. All workshop participants recognized the urgency of taking management actions to allow the herd to recover. The importance of reducing harvest was recognized but action on other factors (e.g. fire on the winter range) was also recommended by participants.

Workshop participants discussed how various communities and groups might cope with hardships resulting from a reduction of the Bathurst hunt. Some communities south of Great Slave Lake have a variety of country food sources such as moose, muskoxen, bison, or fish. Other communities, particularly Lutsel K'e and the off-road Tłı̨chǫ communities, have higher food costs and have few alternatives to caribou, and management will need to address alternatives for these communities.

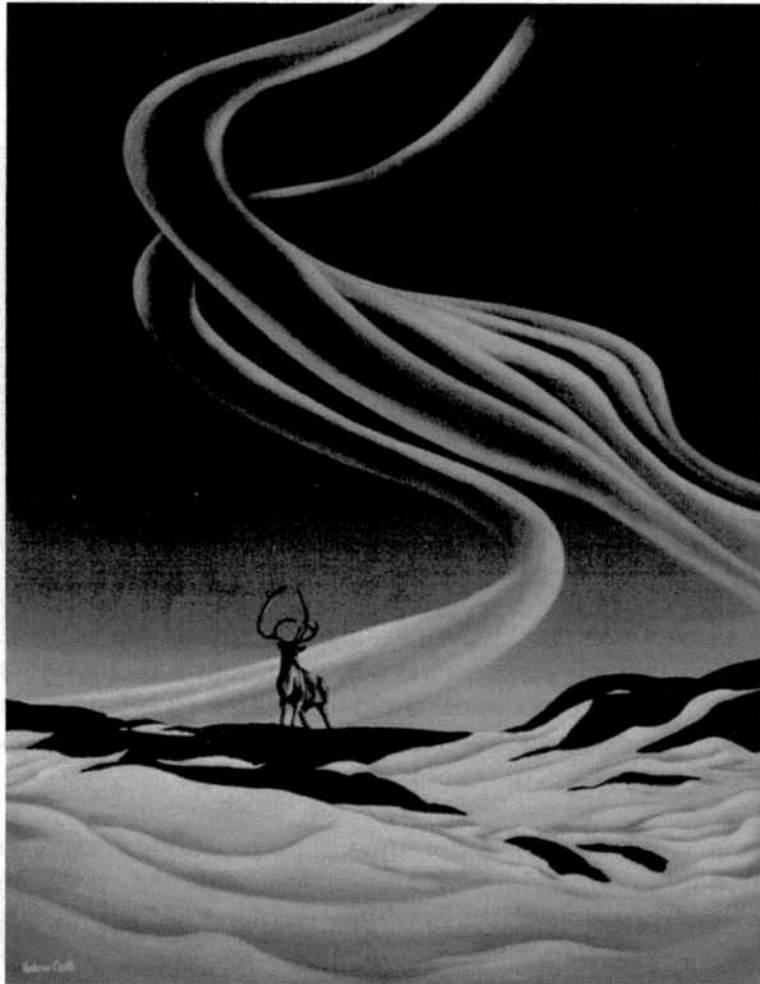


Many participants stressed the need for further meetings in all the communities. Formally, management actions for the Bathurst herd are likely to be recommended by the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board in early 2010. Everyone will have opportunities to help the Bathurst herd recover its numbers.



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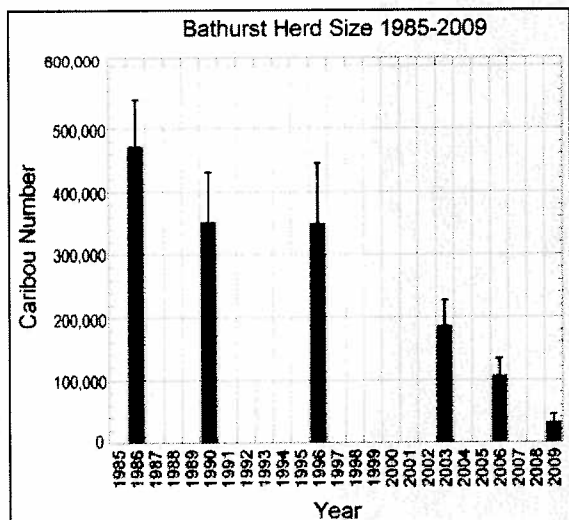
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### **3.0 INTRODUCTION**

A story from Danny Beaulieu: A long time ago, when caribou could speak, a bull caribou came down from the tundra. When he reached the tree line he saw a tent. The caribou was curious so he approached the tent. As he drew near, he could hear a woman crying inside. The caribou wanted to know what was wrong, so he changed himself into a man and entered the tent. He asked the woman why she was crying. The woman said that her whole tribe had died and all that was left was she and the children; they were all alone. The caribou said that he would stay and live with her and help her build up her people and teach them how to live. But there were two conditions, that nobody could hunt with him and that some day he would have to leave. So the caribou stayed with her and over time her people became strong again and learned how to hunt. Then the day came when the caribou told the woman that he had to leave. She accepted what he said and he left in the night. But the woman changed her mind and decided to follow him to try to bring him back. She followed his tracks down to the ice. When they reached the ice, the tracks changed to hoof prints and went off across the lake.

***We are the descendants of the caribou. The caribou once helped our people to recover – now it's our turn to help them.***

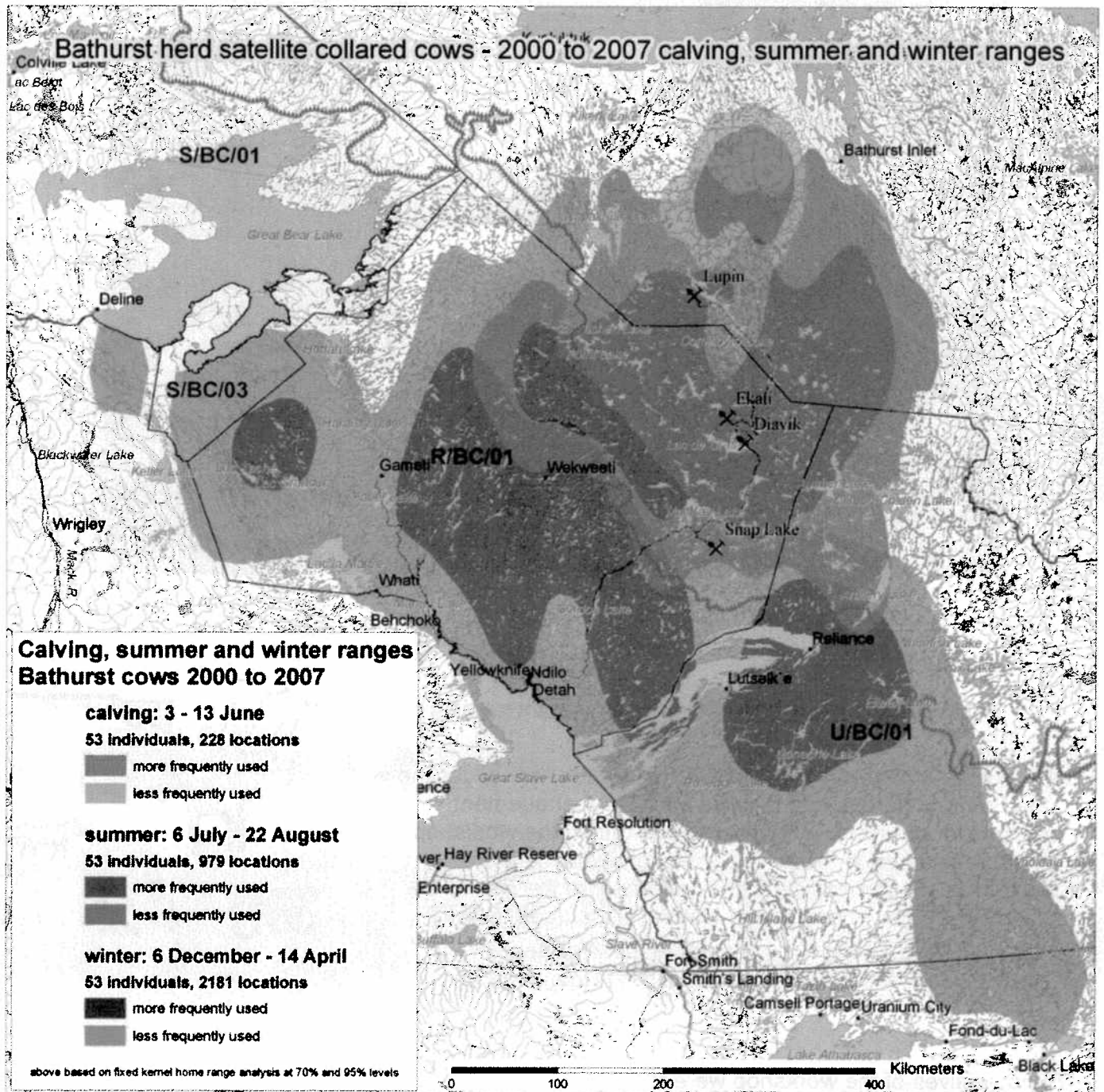


The Bathurst caribou herd has declined rapidly over the past six years to a current population of about 31,900, based on a survey in June 2009 on the calving grounds. Although caribou populations increase and decrease according to natural cycles, the decline since 1996 has accelerated steeply in recent years and suggests that management actions need to be taken swiftly to give the Bathurst caribou herd the best chance to recover its numbers.

The Bathurst herd has economic and cultural importance to many northern communities. Two communities in Nunavut harvest the herd when the herd is nearby during spring migrations or post-calving. Communities in the Tłı̄chǫ and North Slave region harvest the herd in the fall and particularly in winter when the herd is on its wintering grounds. Aboriginal hunters from the South Slave and Dehcho regions harvest Bathurst caribou during the winter when their wintering grounds are accessible by ice road. The aboriginal harvest is not well documented and varies from year to year.

Since 2006, resident hunters may harvest up to two barren-ground bull caribou each year. Non-resident hunters may harvest up to two bull caribou per year but must use the services of a licensed outfitter. In the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement Areas, resident and outfitted hunting has been closed in response to declines in other herds.

Because of the low numbers recorded during the 2009 Bathurst survey and the herd's rapid decline, ENR held two workshops over four days, October 1-2 and 5-6, 2009, to review the information on this decline and consider management actions. As the two workshops were similar and were organized to discuss the same issues, they are treated as one workshop in this report. Participants were communities and groups with an interest in the Bathurst caribou herd.



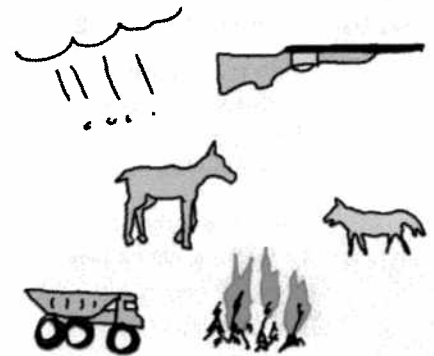
### 3.1 SEASONAL RANGES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE BATHURST CARIBOU HERD

The combined calving, summer and winter ranges of the Bathurst caribou herd include nearly 350,000 km<sup>2</sup>, based on satellite radio-collar locations from 2000 to 2007 (above). The calving grounds have been southwest of Bathurst Inlet (in Nunavut) since 1996. The summer range is mostly north of tree-line on the tundra, and presently has 3 active diamond mines (Ekati, Diavik and Snap Lake). Most of the hunter harvest is in winter when the herd is accessible by all-weather and winter roads. In some winters Bathurst caribou have ranged into northern Saskatchewan.



### **3.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOPS**

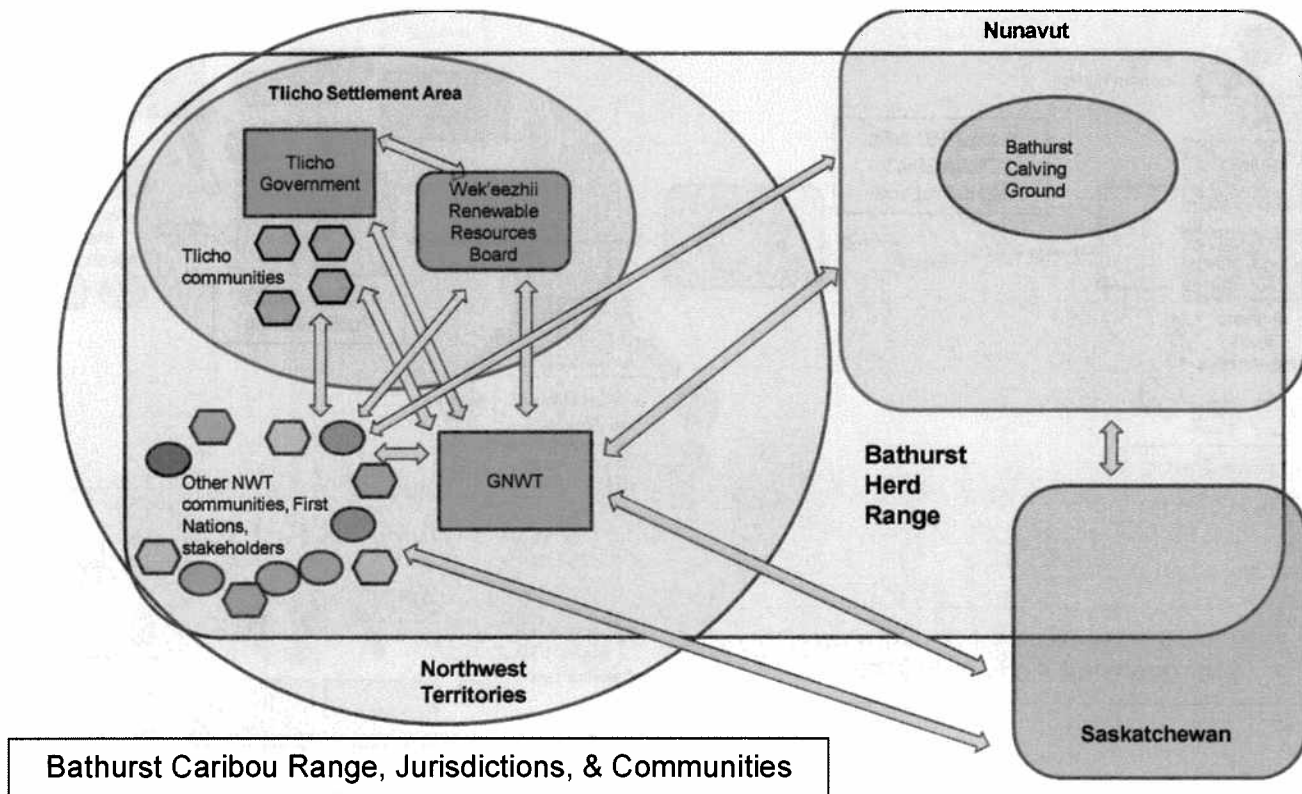
The goals of the workshop were to review the critical decline in the Bathurst herd and to discuss possible management options for recovery. The discussions during the workshop were considered in the development of a joint caribou management proposal by the Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR) and the Tłı̨chǫ Government to the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) in Nov. 2009.



The objectives of the workshop were to:

- i) share information on the status of the Bathurst caribou herd and other herds;
- ii) discuss factors that may be contributing to the decline of the Bathurst herd; and
- iii) consider management options to prevent further declines, including harvest management.

The order of presentations at the workshops varied somewhat between the two workshop sessions; the material has been re-arranged slightly in this report to follow a logical sequence.



### 3.3 EARLY OCTOBER 2009 BATHURST CARIBOU WORKSHOPS – WHERE DO THEY FIT IN?

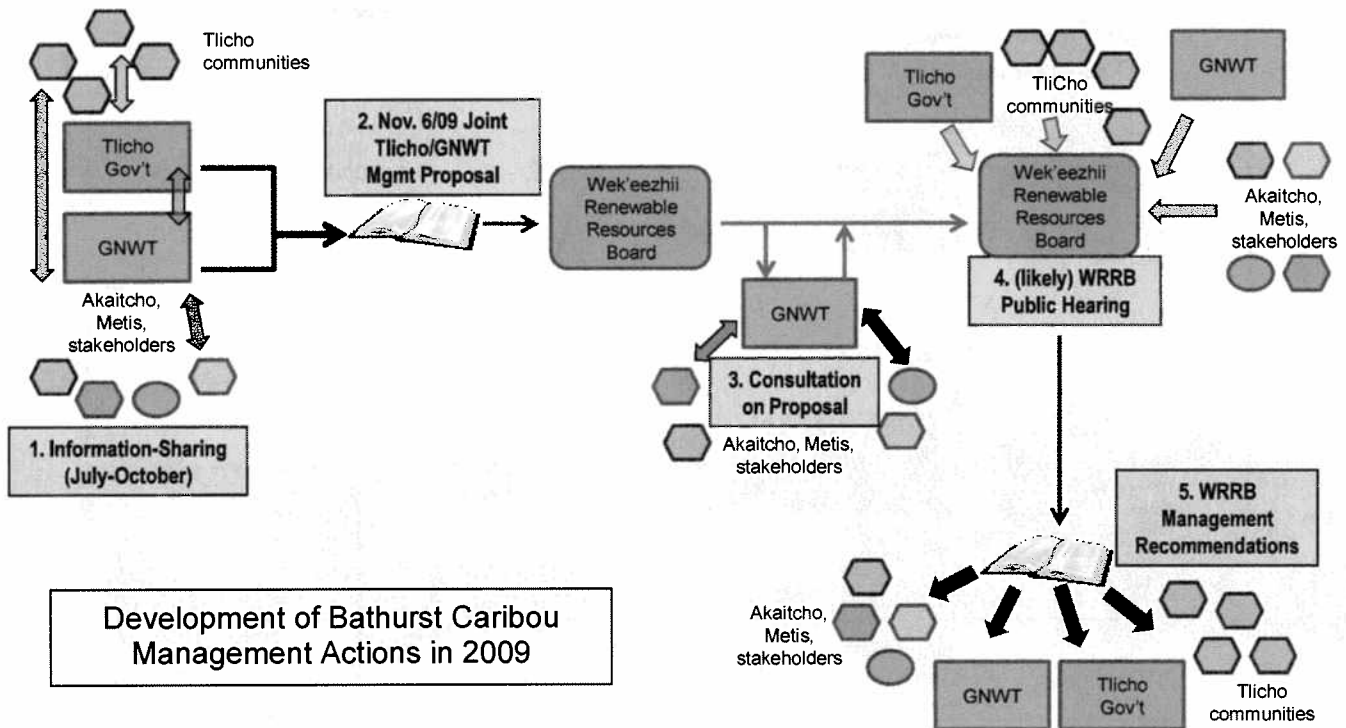
The Bathurst caribou range covers a vast range, with its calving ground and part of its summer range in Nunavut, a large part of its summer, fall and winter range in the NWT, and occasionally a portion of its winter range in Saskatchewan. Management of the herd must take into account all this range and the various jurisdictions within which the range falls.

Within the North Slave region, the Tłı̨chǫ government implements the Tłı̨chǫ agreement within the Tłı̨chǫ Settlement Area. The Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board is the co-management board responsible for natural resource management within Wek'èezhii, which is the majority of the settlement area.

The GNWT remains ultimately accountable for wildlife management in the NWT, and is responsible for consulting with the other communities and aboriginal organizations, with and without settled land claims (e.g. Metis Nation, Lutsel K'e, Yellowknives Dene) that hunt the Bathurst caribou herd.

The Bathurst caribou workshops on Oct. 1 & 2 and 5 & 6 were set up primarily to share information among all parties and discuss management options to assist in the recovery of the Bathurst caribou herd. There has been a series of meetings and other workshops in the Tłı̨chǫ and other communities since the June survey of the herd, and these will continue into winter. Representatives from all affected communities were invited to the workshops, as well as representatives from Nunavut and Saskatchewan.

There is also a more formal process to determine management for the herd, as described on the following page.



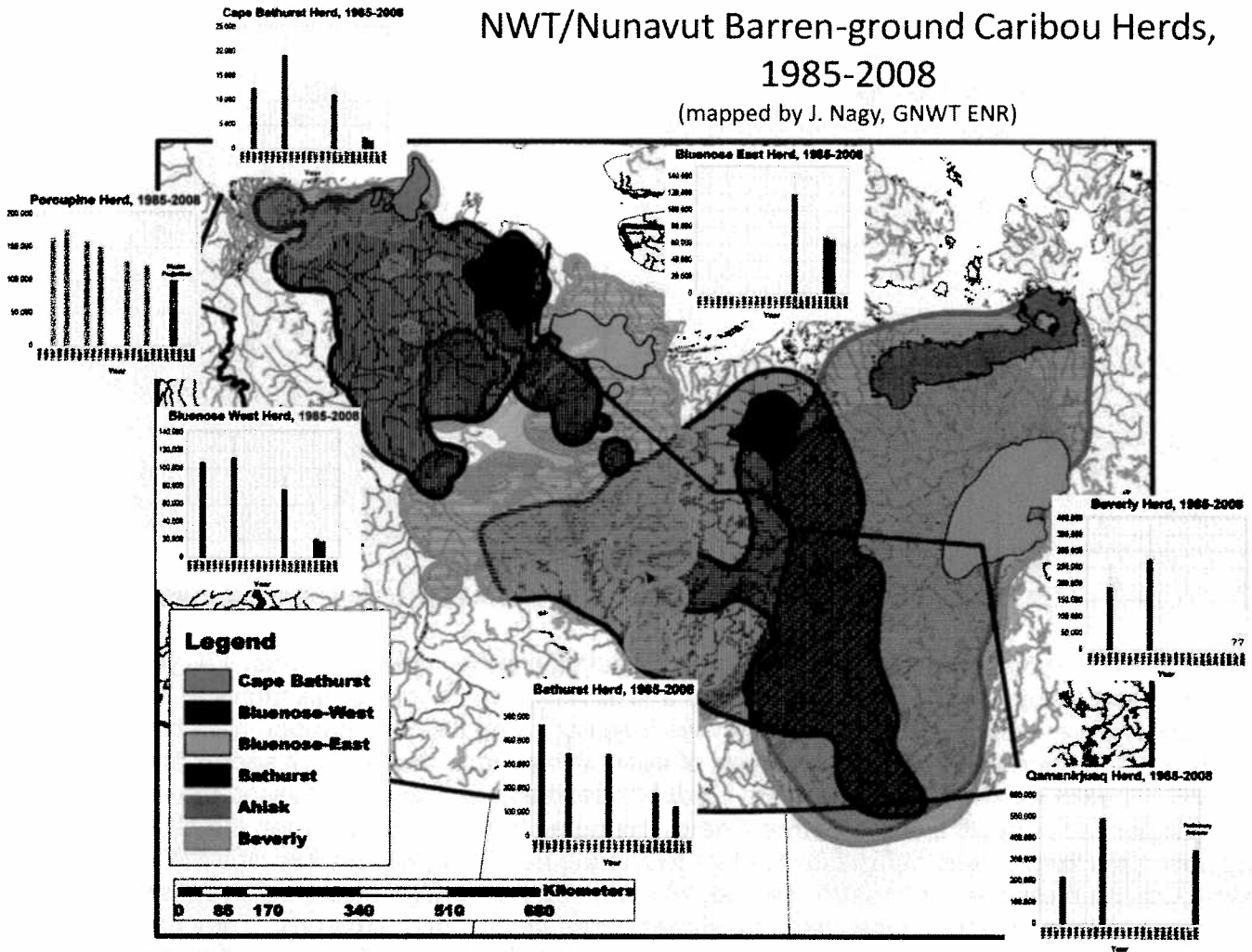
### 3.4 BATHURST MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL, WRRB HEARINGS & CONSULTATION

The diagram above shows how management actions for the Bathurst herd are being developed in 2009.

1. The workshops described in this report are part of information sharing (meetings, workshops) between all parties in summer and fall (top left corner).
2. The Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has asked the Tłı̨chų government and GNWT to prepare a joint caribou management proposal.
3. GNWT will consult with other communities and stakeholders on the joint proposal in November-December 2009.
4. The WRRB will hold a hearing to obtain public input on the proposal, as required by the TliCho Agreement (top right corner). All organizations and individuals may submit information and make presentations at this hearing.
5. The WRRB will then provide a set of management recommendations to both the Tłı̨chų government and GNWT (bottom right corner). The GNWT and Tłı̨chų government will then consult on the implementation of these recommendations.

## NWT/Nunavut Barren-ground Caribou Herds, 1985-2008

(mapped by J. Nagy, GNWT ENR)

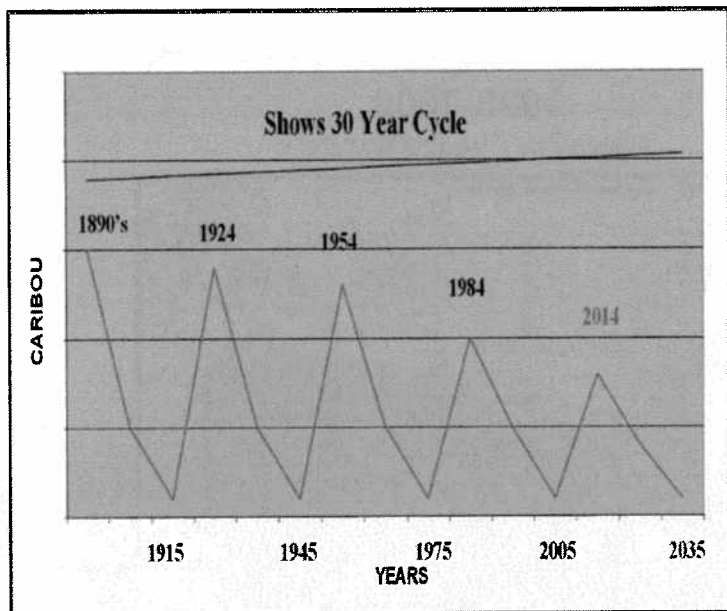


### 4.0 STATUS OF CARIBOU HERDS AND CARIBOU CYCLES

#### 4.1 STATUS OF NWT/NUNAVUT BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU HERDS

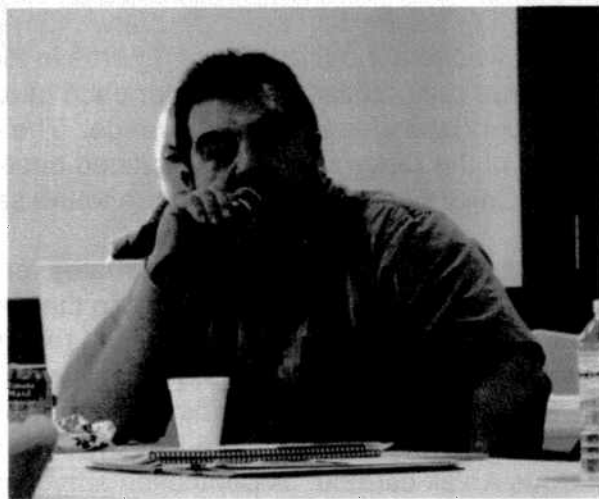
The workshop began with a review of the status of the NWT barren-ground caribou herds. The map above shows the annual ranges of 6 herds in the NWT and Nunavut. These are based on accumulated radio-collar locations for each herd over time. A computer program is used to draw outside boundaries for each herd's range. The calving ground for each herd is the solid shape at the north end of the range. Herds are defined based on the fidelity of radio-collared cows to calving grounds. Collared cows typically return to the same calving ground 96-98% of the time.

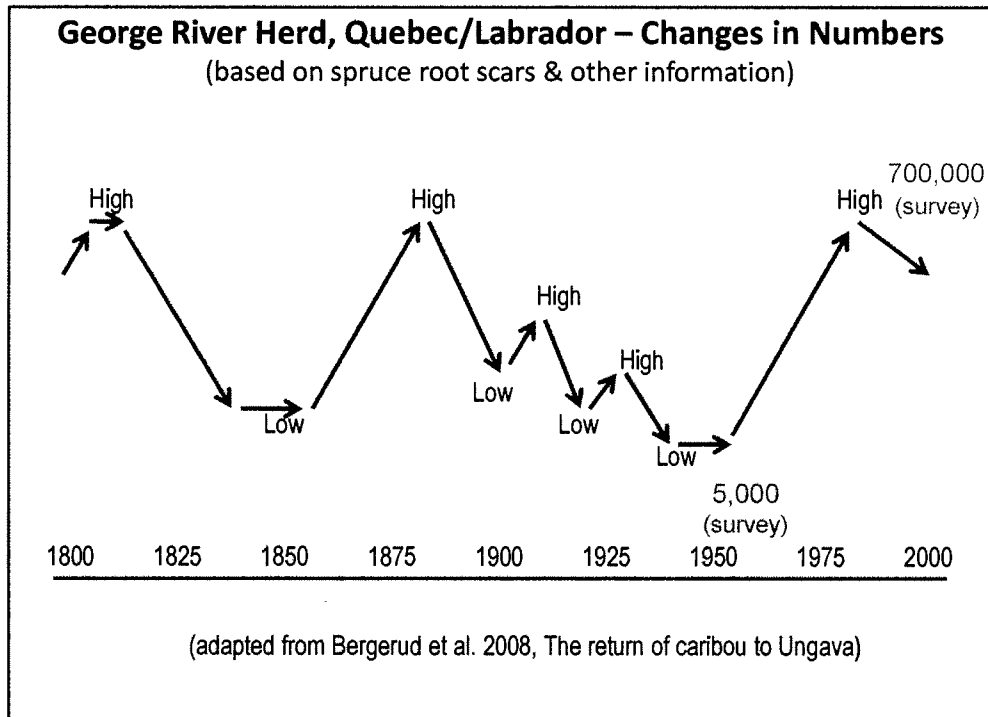
The map also includes population estimates for each herd between 1985 and 2008 and for 2 herds not on this map – the Porcupine range to the west and the Qamanirjuaq herd to the east. All the herds on the map have shown declines in recent years, some more rapidly than others. The greatest decline has happened in the Beverly herd, with extremely low numbers found in 2007, 2008 and 2009, and limited evidence of radio-collared cows shifting to the calving grounds of the Ahiak herd to the north. The few radio-collared Beverly cows appear to now be mixed with the much more numerous Ahiak caribou. A population survey of the Ahiak caribou has not been done but is planned for June 2010 as a joint effort between Nunavut and NWT.



#### 4.2 CYCLES IN CARIBOU NUMBERS – TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE (graph & photos D. Beaulieu)

Danny Beaulieu gave a presentation on caribou population cycles during the past 120 years, using traditional knowledge from Chipewyan elders and several generations of his family to recreate times when caribou were abundant and when they were scarce. The Bathurst caribou herd has been increasing and decreasing in size on a cycle of about thirty years. However, it seems that the population peaks reached by the herd are gradually decreasing. Danny discussed the role of new technologies in the decline of the Bathurst herd. He noted that in the past, when the caribou population declined, it was difficult for hunters to find the herd. Hunters walked or traveled by dog-team. Communities used alternative sources of meat and the caribou herd was given time to recover from low numbers. Hunters today use fast snowmobiles, trucks, and airplanes. They have access to the herd along the winter road. Today, hunters can always find the herd because they have the ability to travel long distances in search of caribou. The harvest pressure on the herd has thus increased in recent years and is likely a factor causing the steep decline in the herd. If hunting is not decreased, the next peak may be very low.





#### 4.3 CYCLES IN CARIBOU NUMBERS – THE GEORGE RIVER HERD, QUEBEC/LABRADOR

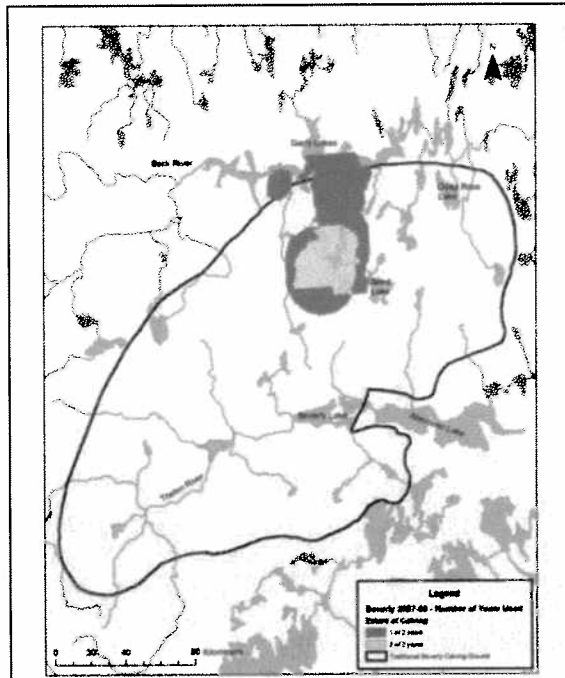
Long-time caribou biologist Tom Bergerud used a variety of methods to re-construct periods of high and low numbers in the George River herd in Quebec/Labrador. Surveys began around 1960 when the herd was estimated at 5,000. The herd then grew to about 700,000 in the early 1990's and has been decreasing since then. Bergerud used various sources of information: knowledge of the Innu and Inuit people of this region, trading post records, and records from river crossings where people hunted caribou. In earlier days there were periods of starvation when hunters could not find caribou.

Biologists in Quebec found that the roots of old spruce trees along caribou migration trails would show scars from caribou hooves on annual tree growth rings. In years when there were many caribou, they found many scars on the spruce roots in that year's ring. Over the period for which there was survey information, they found that spruce root scars tracked the overall herd's numbers. With very old trees, they could then go back to about 1800 and estimate periods of low and high numbers in this caribou herd. This added to the other information from Innu and Inuit people.

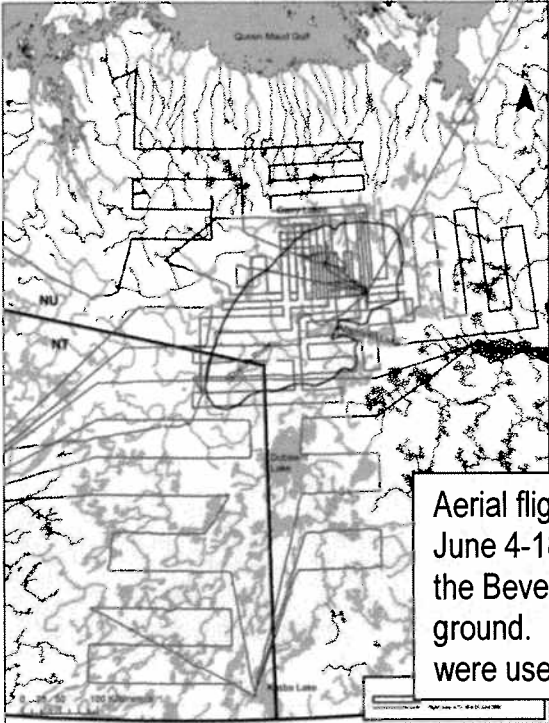
The re-construction of the George River herd's numbers indicates that this herd has gone through large changes in numbers several times over 200 years. Sometimes the herd declined to low numbers, then did not recover for quite a few years. The cycles did not always have the same length, and the peaks were not always as high, and the low points also varied.

Information from Traditional Knowledge, government surveys and other sources all tell us that barren-ground caribou have gone through big changes in numbers for a long time. Conditions for neighbouring herds are not always the same: while the George River herd declined in the 1990's and 2000's, its neighbor the Leaf River herd was increasing.

(Reference: Bergerud, A. T., S. N. Luttich, and L. Camps. The return of caribou to Ungava. McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston, Ontario)



Beverly Traditional Calving Ground (outline) and area used in 2007-2008 (yellow-green)



Aerial flight lines June 4-18, 2008 over the Beverly calving ground. Two aircraft were used.

#### 4.4 DECLINE IN THE BEVERLY HERD – THE DANGERS OF REACHING VERY LOW NUMBERS

It is worth looking at the decline of the Beverly herd, a herd once estimated at 276,000 in 1994. Our understanding of what happened to this herd is limited because there were no surveys between 1994 and 2002, and there were no radio-collars on this herd until 2006.

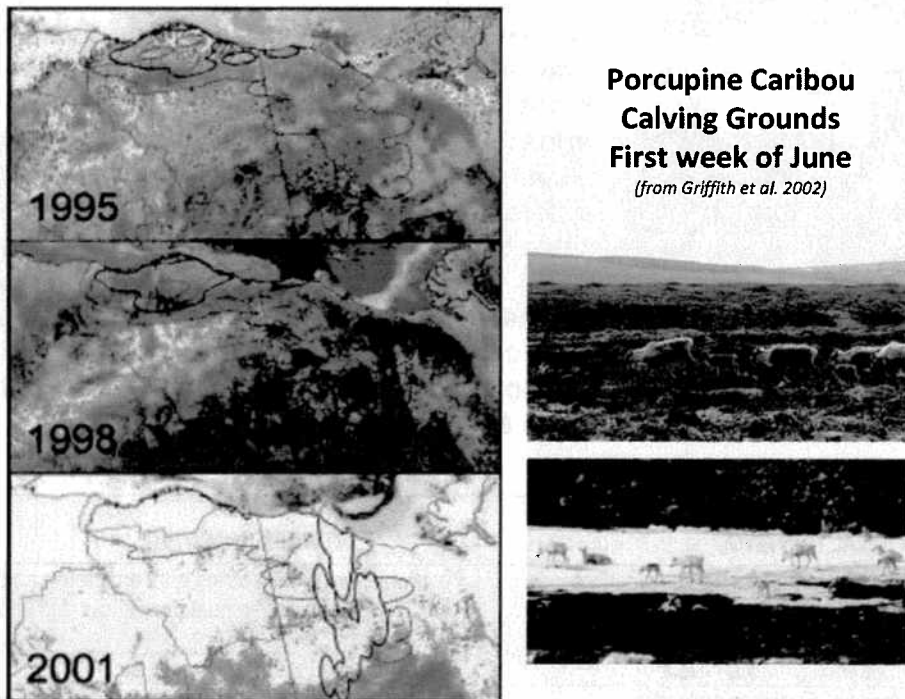
What we can do is look at the numbers of caribou seen during systematic reconnaissance surveys on the calving grounds. These are visual surveys where observers record every caribou they see along flight lines 10 km apart. These surveys are not meant to give a precise population estimate, but because the methods are consistent, they can give an index of caribou numbers on the calving grounds over time.

The last full population survey for the Beverly herd was in June 1994, when the herd was estimated at 276,000. That year about 5,700 caribou (excluding newborn calves) were seen on the systematic reconnaissance survey. Less than half that number were seen 8 years later in 2002. Surveys in 2007, 2008 and 2009 showed that the number of cows using this calving ground was at most 1% of the number in 1994 and indicated a catastrophic decline from 2002 to 2007. In addition, very few calves were seen on the Beverly calving ground, and radio-collared Beverly cows have had exceptionally high mortality rates. There is limited evidence from radio-collared Beverly cows of a shift to the calving grounds of the much larger Ahiak herd to the north. Outside of the calving period, the few remaining Beverly collared cows are now mixed with Ahiak caribou and no longer have their own separate seasonal ranges.

We may never fully know what happened to the Beverly herd, but we should recognize that caribou declines may not always be followed by increases. Unpredictable things can happen if caribou herds reach very low numbers.

## 5.0 FACTORS AFFECTING NUMBERS OF BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU

We know that barren-ground caribou herds go through cycles or large changes in numbers, but the cycles are complex. Two herds will not always have the same population trend and the same conditions affecting them. As noted earlier, the George River herd declined over the 1990's and 2000's while its neighbour in Labrador, the Leaf River herd, was increasing. Participants at the workshops raised a number of issues that could be contributing to the decline of the Bathurst herd and other caribou herds. This section of the report presents some of the material used at the workshops, and a summary of key points from participants.



## 5.1 WEATHER, GREEN-UP AND THE PLANTS CARIBOU EAT

The 3 maps above are images of the Porcupine Herd's calving grounds on the Alaskan north slope. Each of them was taken by a satellite in the first week of June when most of the calves in this herd are born. When spring came early, as in 1998, the snow had melted and there was abundant fresh green food for cows nursing calves. The coastal calving ground also has fewer predators than areas to the south. In such years summer calf survival was good. In other years, as in 2001, the preferred coastal calving grounds were still under snow and cows gave birth in the mountains while still on the spring migration. In such years summer calf survival was poor.

This study illustrates one way in which weather can affect caribou: many years with a late spring could result in a decline. Weather can also affect growth and quality of the plants that caribou eat in the summer, hot weather can result in interference in feeding from insects, and fire on the winter range may burn the slow-growing lichens caribou eat in the winter. We can study these patterns but we have little control over the weather.

(Reference: Griffith, B., D. C. Douglas, N. E. Walsh, D. D. Young, T. R. McCabe, D. E. Russell, R. G. White, R. D. Cameron, and K. R. Whitten. 2002. Section 3: the Porcupine Caribou Herd. USGS/BRD 2002-0001 Biological Science Report)



**5.2 HUNTER HARVEST** (photos above D. Beaulieu)

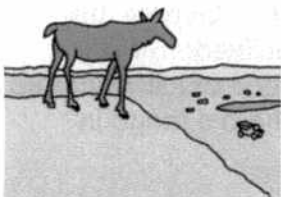


Hunter harvest was discussed more than other factors affecting caribou because human impacts on caribou can be managed, and because the hunter harvest can have major impacts on declining caribou, especially at low numbers. Several people, including Danny Beaulieu, spoke about how different hunting was today compared to earlier times. The table below was compiled at an earlier workshop in May 2009, where several aboriginal leaders, including Walter Bayha and Joe Rabesca, spoke on this subject. Overall, their comments show that hunting today is less respectful of caribou and it has become much easier to hunt caribou, even at very low numbers.

<b>TRADITIONAL HUNTING</b>	<b>CURRENT HUNTING</b>
Done with snowshoes / dog-team / slower snowmobiles with small wooden toboggans	Fast, widetrack snowmobiles with large teflon and fiberglass toboggans. People even hunt from trucks and vans on the winter roads.
Good organization / Community / Social event	Many small groups / often strangers
Open scope. Less accuracy. Fewer animals taken	High powered rifles with scopes – shoot from a distance; shoot many quickly
Taking your time	Done quickly
Part of the lifestyle	Done for sport
Selecting healthy animals from herd	No selection of healthy animals
Leaving most of group / herd alive	Killing all of a group.
Letting the leaders pass	Killing the first animals through
Conservation education built into lifestyle	No awareness of conservation ethic
Selecting sex based on use/need	Killing indiscriminately
Taking only what was needed	Killing more than is needed
Sharing meat	Selling meat. Stories of dumptrucks coming from other communities to take caribou away.
Using all of the animal	Wasting meat
Taking elders along	Not practiced as much now
Asking permission to use the land	People coming from everywhere
Easy to track how many animals taken	Very difficult to track number of animals taken
Leaving the bones / remains to rest on the land	Carcasses at the dump or left on ice roads
Caribou weren't always accessible. Successful harvest depended on their migration route	Hunters access caribou wherever they are – regardless of migration pattern. Airplanes, roads, fast snowmachines, etc.
People lived with / followed caribou population cycles - harvest decreased when numbers were low	Even during low population cycles, harvest stays high because people can always access the animals.



### 5.3 MINING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CARIBOU

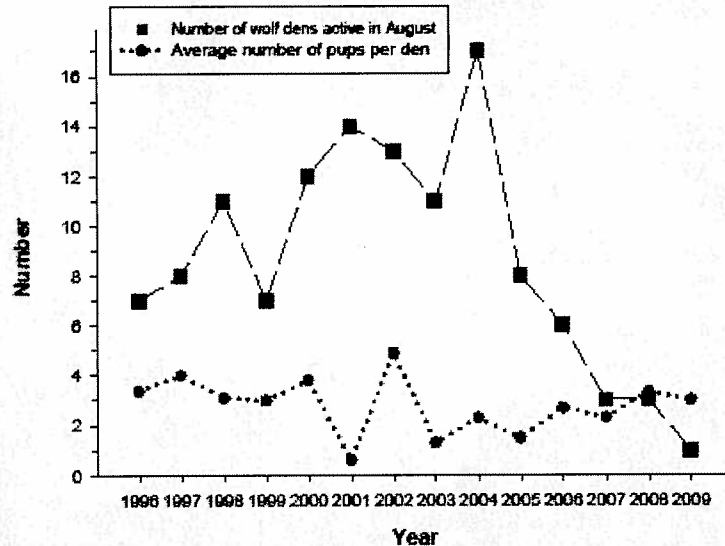


The map above shows the calving (green), post-calving (purple) and summer (yellow) ranges of the Bathurst herd, based on radio-collar caribou locations from 1996 to 2005. Darker areas had greater use by caribou. The Ekati and Diavik diamond mines are in the summer range and the Snap Lake mine is on the edge of the summer range.

Studies of the effects of the diamond mines on Bathurst caribou, based on collars and aerial surveys within 30 km of the mines, have confirmed that there is partial avoidance by caribou to a distance of 15-23 km from each active mine. Dust and noise (e.g. blasting) may account for this reduced use by caribou. However, this only affects about 3-4% of the current summer range. Caribou that come near the mine may also be disturbed by traffic, but numbers of caribou seen near the mine have tended to be low. Overall, these studies suggest that the diamond mines have some effects on caribou, but to date the effects have been limited and are not the main driver in the herd's decline.

Most workshop participants felt that exploration and mining have had negative effects on the Bathurst caribou herd. Several participants expressed their concern about helicopters used during exploration, about the many transport trucks servicing the mine along the ice road, and that blasting at the mine site could cause contamination in the surrounding areas. The ice roads also provide more access in winter for hunters to the Bathurst winter range. Participants agreed that caribou avoid the mines and that further research is needed to understand the effects of mining and exploration on caribou. Several participants spoke about the need to protect calving grounds in NWT and Nunavut. To date there has not been any exploration or development activity on the Bathurst calving ground during calving.

Average pup counts for wolf den sites active in August on the central arctic tundra, Northwest Territories

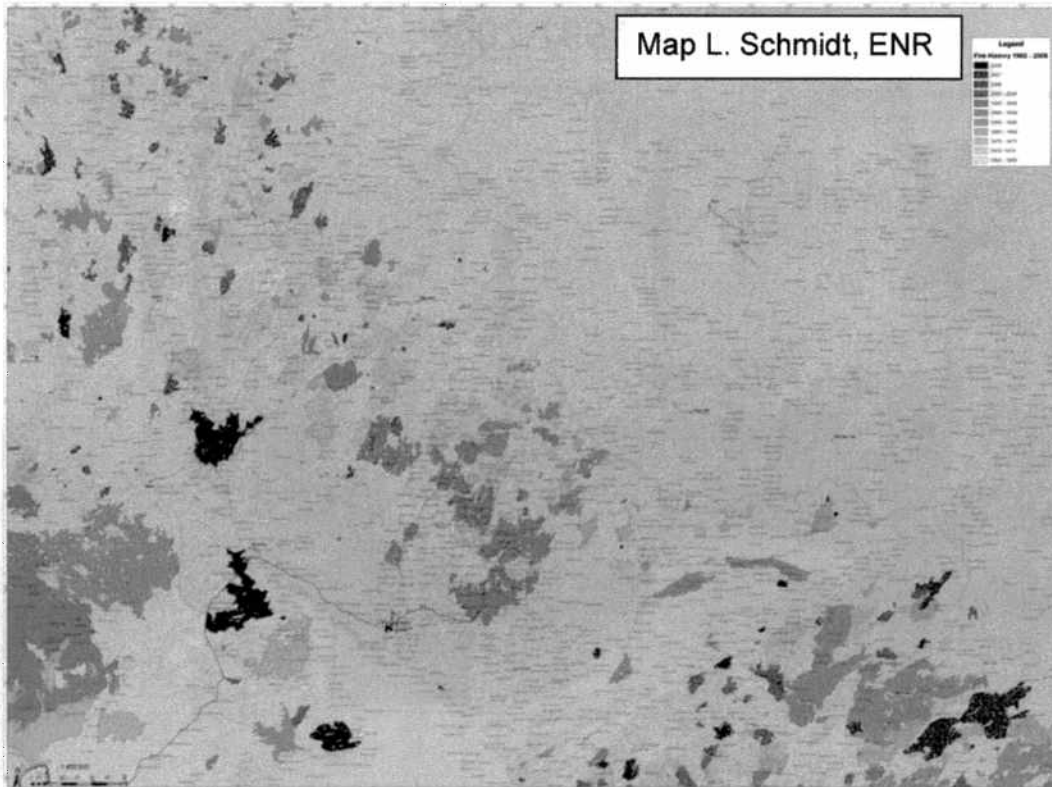


#### 5.4 WOLVES AND OTHER PREDATORS

Bruno Croft presented the graph above with information about annual surveys of wolf dens at the south end of the Bathurst summer range. Biologist Dean Cluff (GNWT ENR) has collected this information annually since 1996. Over the last 5 years the number of wolf dens actively being used in August has dropped from 17 to 1. On the June 2009 Bathurst calving ground survey, there were a total of 4 wolf sightings and 8 bear sightings in about 15,000 km of survey flight lines. Overall, this information suggests that wolf numbers have dropped as the Bathurst herd has declined. Similar patterns were noted by biologist Tom Bergerud during the George River herd's period of low numbers in the 1940's; with no other prey to rely on, wolves essentially disappeared in this herd's range in Quebec/Labrador.

Some workshop participants were concerned that given the small caribou population size, predation by wolves and bears could have a strong negative impact on the Bathurst herd. They suggested that measures be taken to control the wolf population, particularly along the tree-line. Other participants supported the conservation of wolves as being part of nature, given that wolf numbers have declined in response to the decline of the caribou herd. They believed that wolf population control was unnecessary and generally ineffectual. Participants did not reach consensus on the management of predation by wolves.

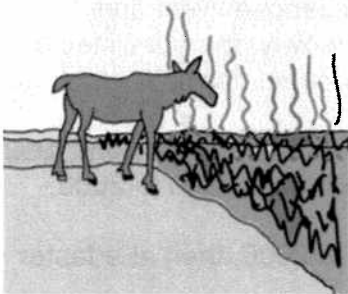




## 5.5 FIRE ON THE WINTER RANGE

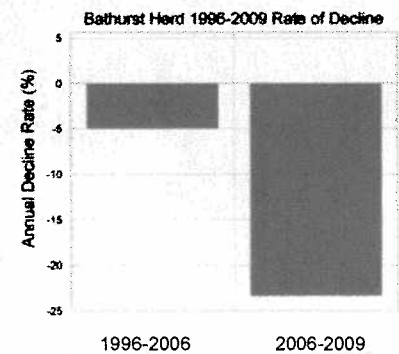
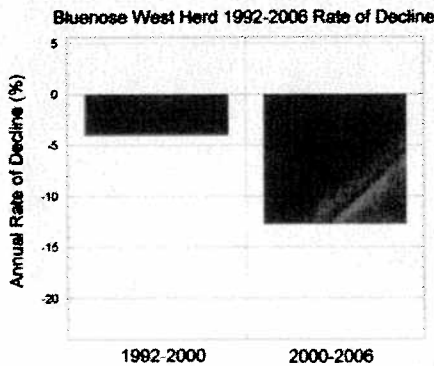
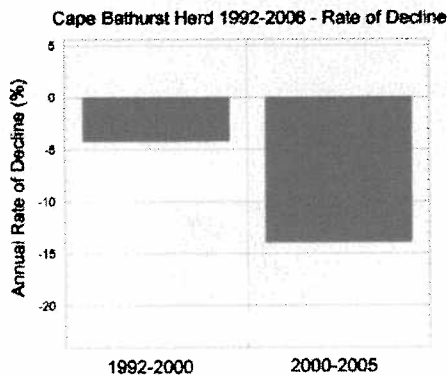
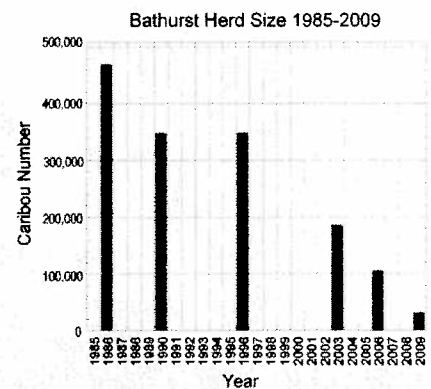
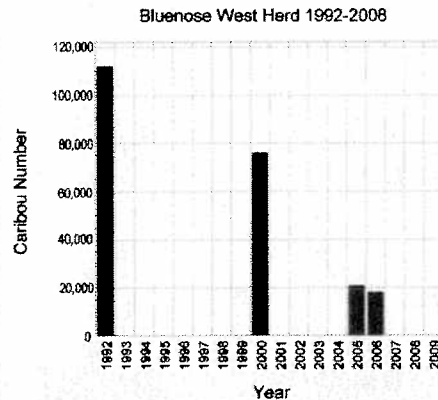
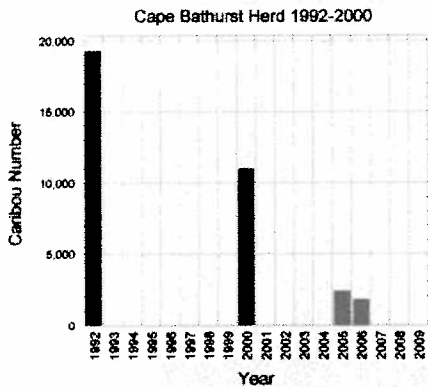
The map above shows fire history in the North Slave region, with different colours for burns from different years. Relations between caribou and fire on their forested winter range are complex. Fire is a normal part of the boreal forest ecosystem, and caribou have co-existed with fire for a long time.

Some fires burn everything down to the mineral soil; others leave wetter areas unburned and extensive islands of unburned forest may be left in some burns. Caribou generally use regenerating burns little until they are at least 50-60 years old, because the lichens they eat in winter are very slow-growing. Complete fire suppression on a large landscape is not practical in the NWT. In some southern regions, prolonged fire suppression may be counter-productive because fuel build-up encourages very large fires that may be difficult to stop.

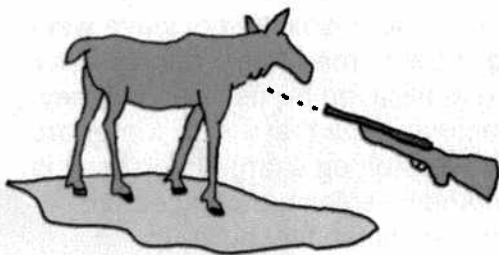


Several workshop participants expressed their concern that large wildfires in recent years have destroyed areas of important caribou winter habitat, particularly east and south of Great Slave Lake. They suggested that the remaining corridors of habitat through burned areas be given increased fire protection to allow the caribou to move through the landscape during their migration and to feed in during winter. Other participants felt that fire was a natural part of the landscape and that controlling fire across the range could lead to large, more destructive fires due to fuel loading. Workshop participants did not reach consensus on the management of fire, but most participants felt that key caribou winter ranges should be protected. Ernie Campbell explained that the department's fire program was due for review and there would be community meetings in which people could participate.

## Declines in the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West & Bathurst herds 1992-2009



### 6.0 DECLINES & HUNTER HARVEST IN THREE NWT CARIBOU HERDS



Three NWT barren-ground caribou herds have experienced similar declines in recent years, and comparisons between the herds show the significance of hunter harvest and harvest management. The Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bathurst herds all declined relatively slowly, then declined at an accelerated rate as their numbers came down.

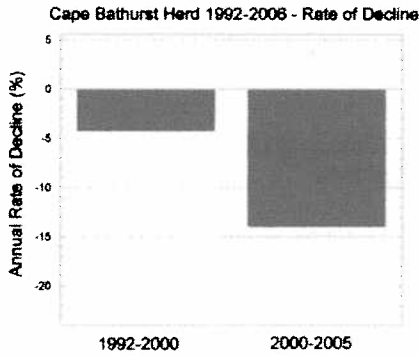
The Cape Bathurst herd declined at about 4%/year from 1992 to 2000, then at a rate of 14% per year from 2000 to 2006.

The Bluenose West herd similarly declined by about 4% per year from 1992 to 2000, then at a faster 13% per year from 2000 to 2006.

The Bathurst herd declined at about 5% per year from 1996 to 2006, then by 22-23% per year from 2006 to 2009.

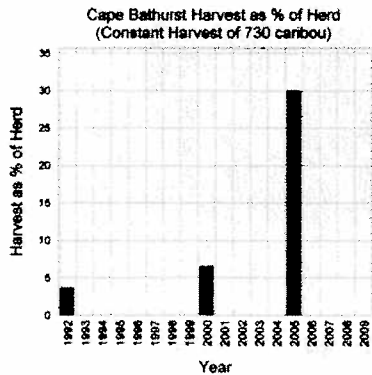
In the next pages the declines of these three herds are considered in more detail.

*Decline and Recovery of the Bathurst Caribou Herd: Workshops Oct. 1 & 2, 5 & 6, 2009*



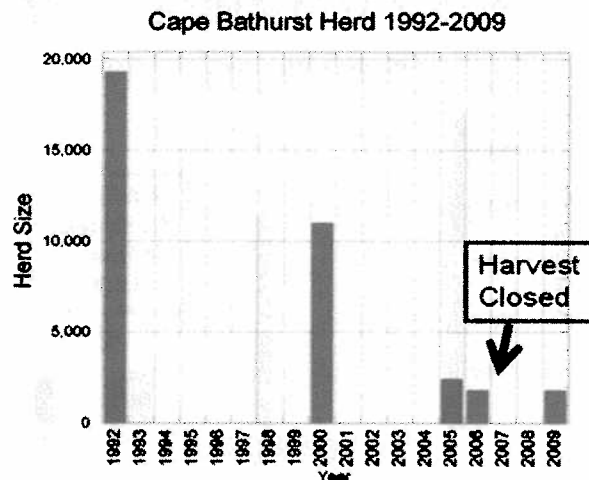
**Cape Bathurst Herd 2000-2006:**

- Late calving
- Low cow:calf ratios on calving ground
- Likely declining natural trend
- Estimated harvest 730 caribou (2005) (mostly cows)

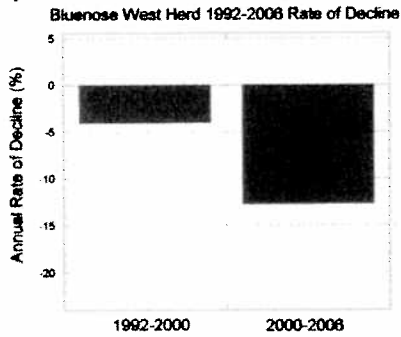


**6.1 DECLINE AND HARVEST MANAGEMENT IN THE CAPE BATHURST HERD**

In the early 2000's, late calving and low calf:cow ratios were recorded on the calving grounds of the Cape Bathurst herd. These observations would indicate that the caribou were nutritionally limited, and likely would have been declining naturally without hunting. The estimated hunter harvest for the Cape Bathurst herd was around 730 caribou in 2005 (primarily cows). If this harvest was about the same in earlier years, then 730 caribou would be about 3% of the herd in 1992, about 7% in 2000, and about 30% in 2005. No caribou herd could survive long at this level of harvest (30%), especially if it was already declining. By recommendation of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) (WMAC-NWT) and implemented by GNWT, all harvest on this herd was closed in 2007. A July 2009 survey of this herd indicates a stable trend from 2006 to 2009. This result suggests that the harvest contributed significantly to the herd's earlier decline.

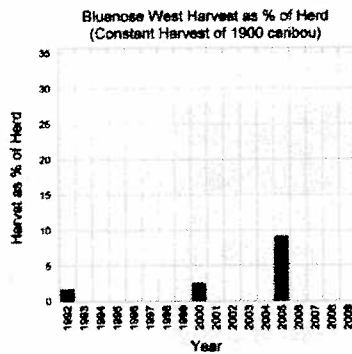


*Decline and Recovery of the Bathurst Caribou Herd: Workshops Oct. 1 & 2, 5 & 6, 2009*



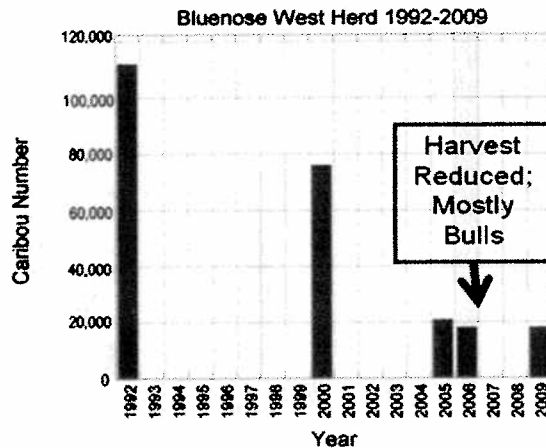
**Bluenose West Herd 2000-2006:**

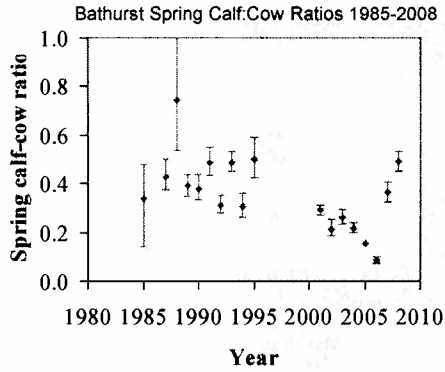
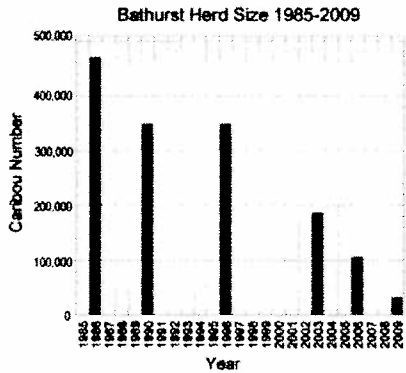
- Late calving
- Low cow:calf ratios on calving ground
- Likely declining natural trend
- Estimated harvest 1900 caribou (2005) (mostly cows)



**6.2 DECLINE AND HARVEST MANAGEMENT IN THE BLUENOSE WEST HERD**

Patterns of decline in the Bluenose West herd in the early 2000's were similar to those in the Cape Bathurst herd. Late calving and low cow:calf ratios on the calving ground indicate that the caribou were nutritionally limited, and likely would have been declining naturally without hunting. The estimated hunter harvest for the Bluenose West herd was around 1900 caribou in 2005 (primarily cows). If this harvest was about the same in earlier years, then this harvest would be about 2% of the herd in 1992, about 3% in 2000, and about 9% in 2005. Evaluation of the decline by C. Nicolson suggests that the harvest may have been higher than 1900/year in the 2000's. By recommendation of WMAC-NWT and the Gwich'in and Sahtu Renewable Resource Boards, a Total Allowable Harvest was set at 720 caribou (4% of the herd), with at least 80% bulls. A July 2009 survey of this herd indicates a stable trend from 2006 to 2009. As with the Cape Bathurst herd, this change suggests that the harvest had contributed significantly to the decline in the early 2000's. The Bluenose West and Cape Bathurst herds are presently the only barren-ground herds monitored by GNWT with a stable trend.



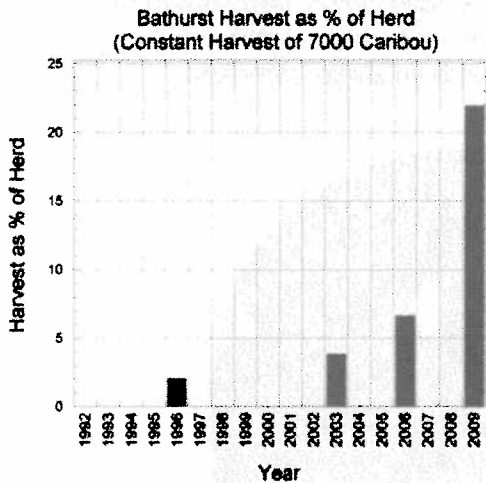
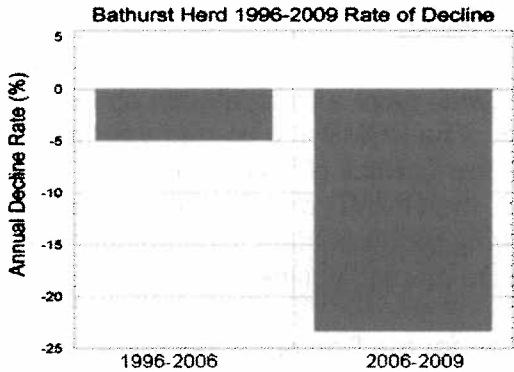


**2000-2006 trends:**

- Late calving
- Low calf survival
- Low bull:cow ratios
- Likely declining natural trend
- Estimated harvest 5000-7000 caribou (2008) (>50% cows)

**Bathurst Caribou Herd Trends 2000-2008**

(Estimated harvest 16,000 caribou/year  
Dogrib Harvest Study, early 1990's)

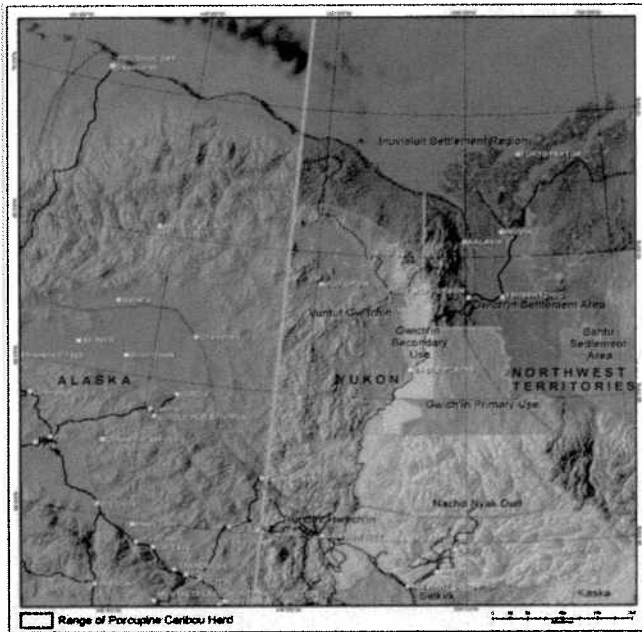


**6.3 DECLINE AND HARVEST IN THE BATHURST HERD**

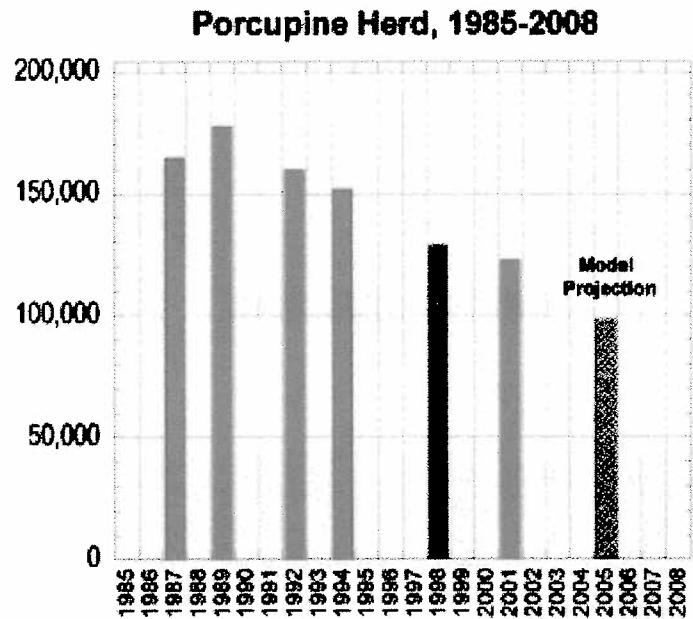
An evaluation of the decline of the Bathurst herd shows similarities to the declines of the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose West herds. Between 1996 and 2006 the herd declined at an average rate of 5% per year. After 2006 the herd declined at a staggering 22-23% per year. Spring calf:cow ratios in the early 2000's were low, indicating that the herd was most likely nutritionally limited and would have declined naturally, without hunting, over this period.

The hunter harvest has not been well documented for the Bathurst herd, but an estimate of 7000 caribou/year is well below the 16,000/year for this herd estimated by the Dogrib Harvest Study in the early 1990's. As with the other two herds, this harvest would have been barely 2% of the herd in 1996, increasing to 4% in 2003, 7% in 2006, and 22% in 2009. A lower harvest of 5000 caribou produces a similar result, with 15.6% of the herd taken in 2009. The winter harvest is mostly cows and the fall harvest is mostly bulls, and likely varies somewhat from year to year.

The Bathurst herd has been hunted by more communities in the NWT than any other. With winter roads have come increased access and greater hunter numbers. No caribou herd could survive a harvest of 15-22% per year (mostly cows) for any amount of time.



Range of the Porcupine Herd in Alaska, Yukon & NWT



## 7.0 HARVEST MANAGEMENT FOR THE PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD

Joe Tetlich, chair of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) gave a presentation on the experiences of the PCMB in managing the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The PCMB is a co-management board made up of representatives from the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Government of the Yukon, the GNWT, and the Government of Canada. Recently, the PCMB has focused on protecting the calving grounds of the Porcupine herd in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and managing hunting on the Dempster Highway.

The PCMB has recently completed a draft Harvest Management Plan for the Porcupine Herd and is currently working on a Native User Agreement among the various groups that use the herd. The Harvest Management Plan sets population ranges within which harvesting rules change and a minimum population size below which all harvest will be closed. The most important lesson learned by the PCMB during the development of the Harvest Management Plan is the need to “walk together”, to work collaboratively to conserve the caribou. The plan took about 5 years to complete.

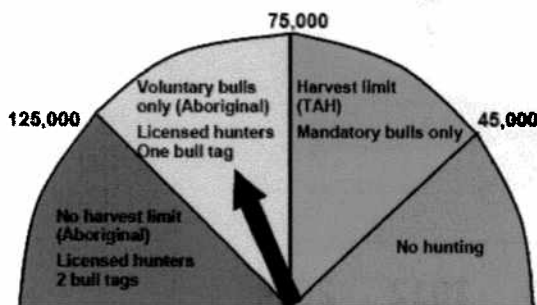
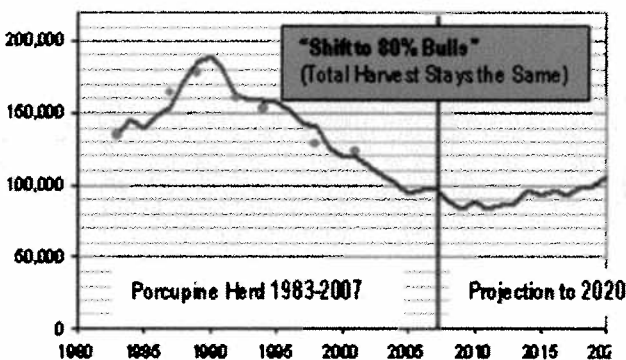
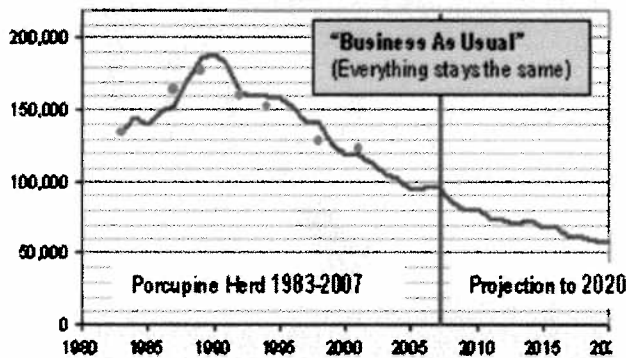


## 7.1 THE PORCUPINE CARIBOU CALCULATOR AND HARVEST MANAGEMENT

The PCMB found that one of their management challenges was a lack of survey data. Poor weather conditions have prevented population surveys of the herd since 2001 (7 years in a row), but there was good information on harvest, calf:cow ratios, and other indicators. Craig Nicolson from the University of Massachusetts helped develop a “Caribou Calculator” to model population size and try to understand how various factors influence the population. This model is essentially a balance sheet where numbers of caribou added and lost every year are tracked. The calculator can be used to:

- estimate likely herd size without a recent population survey;
- look ahead to evaluate likely future trends of the herd;
- consider how the size and sex ratio of the harvest is likely to affect the herd’s future; and
- identify areas where better information is needed.

It is important to remember that this model cannot predict the future; it can only project what is likely to happen under a certain set of conditions. Unexpected weather effects, for example, can still occur, and these are unpredictable.

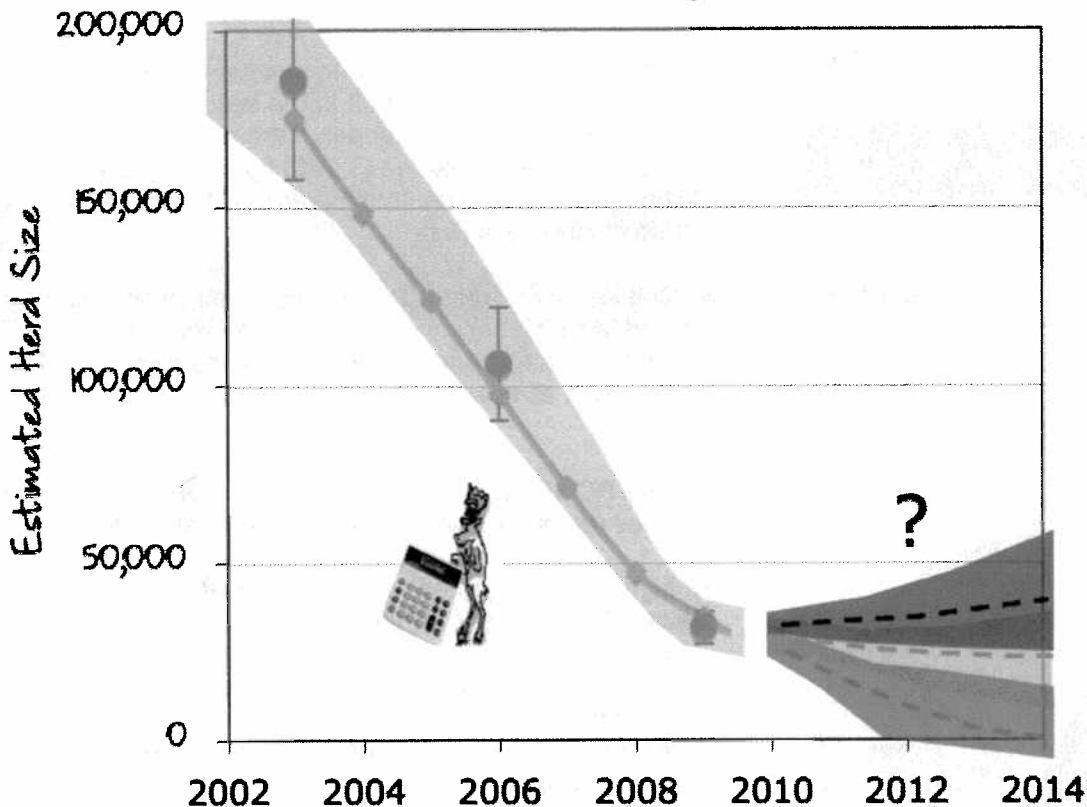
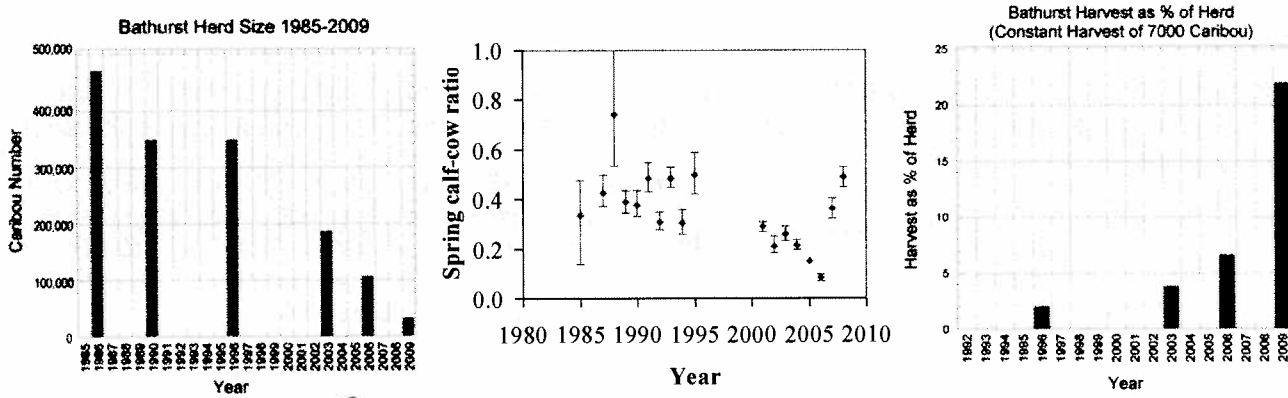


1. The first step with the model was to make sure it was faithful to the real world – the model produced the blue line (seen in the graph to the left) from 1983 to 2001, and the red dots were actual survey numbers. Thus the model fit the survey numbers well.
2. The next step was to project into the future: what happens if everything, including harvest, stays the same? The model indicated that a continued decline was likely. The harvest was estimated at 3,000 caribou/year, 61% of them cows.
3. The model was then used to ask “what if” questions. For example, the projection in the second graph on the left shows what might happen if the number of harvested caribou stayed the same (3,000) but shifted to 80% bulls. The model suggested that this fairly simple change could help the herd stabilize.
4. One key point from the modeling was that population trend is highly sensitive to the rate at which cows die (mortality rate). Anything that increases their mortality rate, such as cow harvest, has a large impact on the herd.
5. The PCMB used the model to help develop the coloured zones (at left) in their Harvest Management Plan.

At high numbers (green), the harvest would be unrestricted. Below 125,000 (yellow), the harvest would be voluntary bulls only. Below 75,000 (orange) the harvest would be mandatory bulls only. Below 45,000 (red) all harvest would be closed to allow the herd to recover.

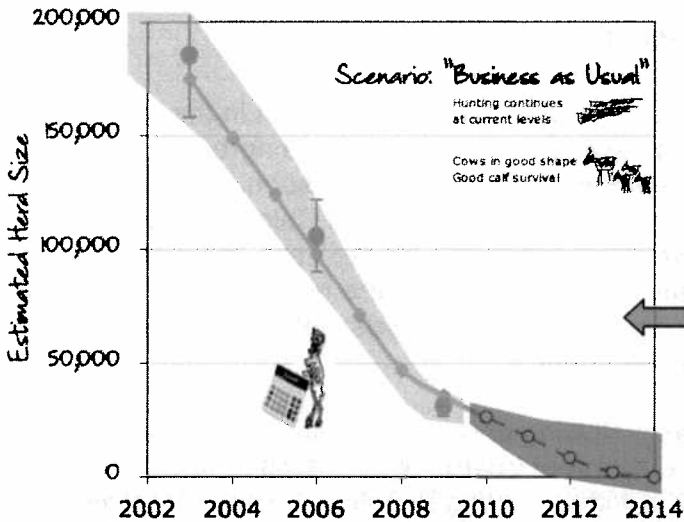
## 8.0 THE BATHURST CARIBOU CALCULATOR AND HARVEST MANAGEMENT

In 2007 the co-management boards recommended that ENR develop a population model for NWT herds. In 2008 and 2009, GNWT contracted Craig Nicolson to adapt the Caribou Calculator developed for the Porcupine herd to the Bathurst herd, and to use it to look at possible futures for the herd. Craig used information on Bathurst calf survival, herd size, condition, pregnancy rate and harvest, and tried to project what the herd's trend might be over the next 5 years (2009-2014). Given the herd's recent rapid decline, it is difficult to try to look ahead more than 5 years.

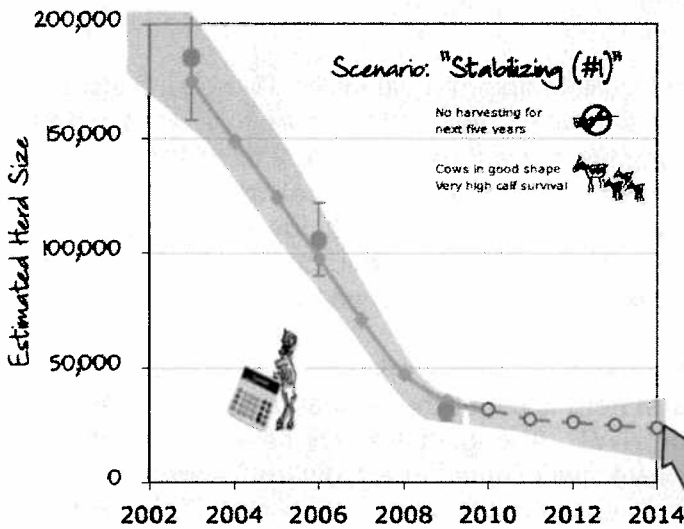


### 8.1 POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR THE BATHURST HERD

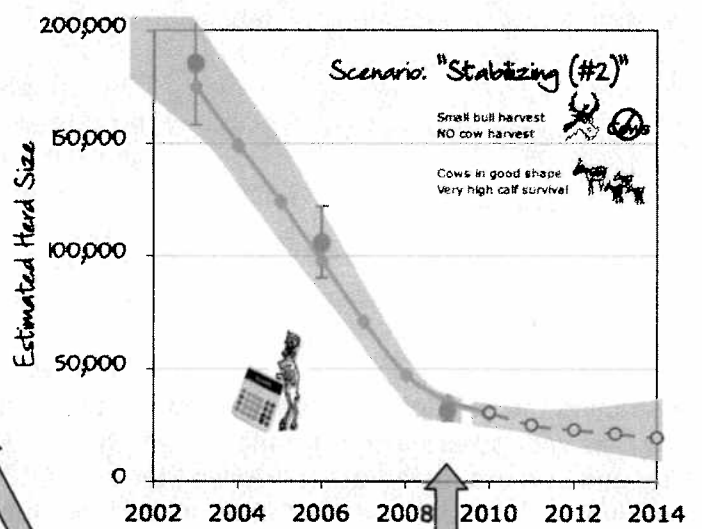
The graphs on this page were generated from the Bathurst Caribou Calculator. They are not exact predictions, but they give some idea of likely trends under various sets of conditions.



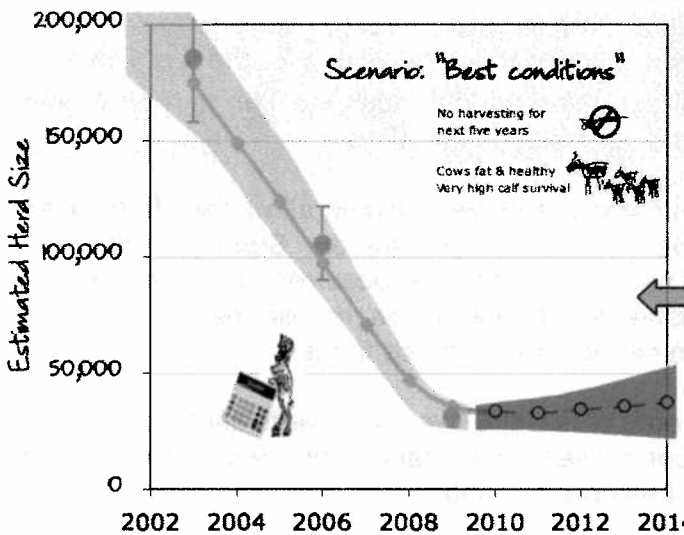
**Business as Usual**  
 If the hunter harvest stays the same, cows stay in good shape, and recent good calf survival continues, the herd will most likely disappear in the next 4-5 years. There is no level of calf production or survival that can compensate for current high cow death rates.



**Stabilizing Scenario #1**  
 If there is no harvest for the next 5 years, cows are in good shape, and calf survival is very good, the decline should slow down and the herd might begin to stabilize.



**Stabilizing Scenario #2**  
 If there is no cow harvest for the next 5 years and a limited small bull harvest, cows are in good shape, and calf survival is very good, the decline should slow down and the herd might begin to stabilize.



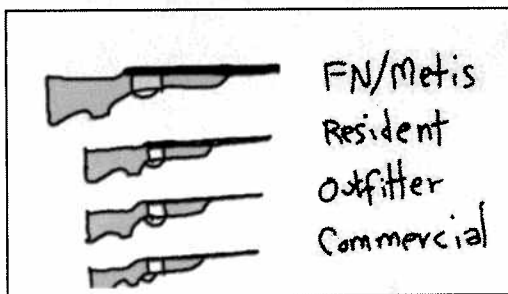
**Best Conditions**  
 If there is no harvest for 5 years, cows stay in very good shape, and calf survival is very good, the herd might stabilize and start to increase.  
  
 Currently the herd has a large proportion of young caribou that are not yet breeding. This is one reason why an increase in the herd can at best be slow under best conditions.



## 8.2. MANAGING THE BATHURST CARIBOU HARVEST

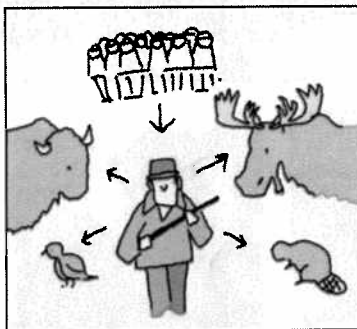
The information on the Bathurst herd's rapid decline and the growing role of harvest in the later stages of the decline was not easy for all participants to accept. However, people agreed that the decline was real and strong management actions would need to be decided on soon, and these would have to include reduced harvest. Projections from the Bathurst Caribou Calculator suggest that even with complete harvest closure and otherwise good conditions for the herd, stabilization and the beginning of a slow recovery are the best that could be expected over the next 5 years. Harvest of the Bathurst and other NWT barren-ground caribou herds falls into 4 classes: commercial tags, guided outfitters, residents and the subsistence/aboriginal hunt.

In the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement Areas, following priorities for allocation of harvest described in those land claim agreements, the co-management boards recommended, and GNWT implemented, closure of all commercial, resident and outfitted hunting in 2006. These actions were taken to assist the recovery of other caribou herds.



The priorities for allocating harvest in the Tlicho land claim agreement are similar to those in the other NWT land claims, and if the aboriginal harvest has to be restricted for conservation reasons, other kinds of hunting must first be restricted. The decision by Moise and Joyce Rabesca to voluntarily close their outfitted caribou hunting for the coming years was applauded by workshop participants.

There was discussion at both workshop sessions about restricting the aboriginal harvest, which for the Bathurst herd is by far the largest proportion of the hunt, as with other barren-ground caribou herds in the NWT. Aboriginal leaders have already taken the lead in announcing actions to limit their hunt: Yellowknives Dene Chief Edward Sangris announced in September that their fall caribou hunt was cancelled this year. Similarly, Dene Nation Chief Bill Erasmus, Tłı̨chǫ Grand Chief Joe Rabesca and the other Tłı̨chǫ chiefs supported GNWT ENR Minister Michael Miltenberger when the June 2009 Bathurst survey results were released to the media in Sept. 2009. The Minister and Chiefs pledged to make tough decisions for the recovery of the caribou herd. Details of harvest management will be determined through the Tłı̨chǫ /GNWT joint proposal, WRRB hearings and recommendations, and consultation meetings.

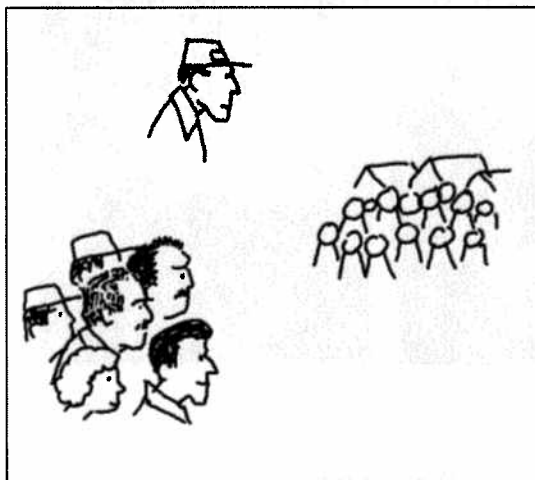


Participants from various communities were asked about the alternatives they might have if they were unable to hunt caribou. Some participants pointed out that times of caribou scarcity had occurred before, and that aboriginal hunters had fished and hunted bison, moose, beaver, muskoxen and woodland caribou during those times.

For most communities south of Great Slave Lake, there seemed to be several alternative sources of meat (especially bison), and some of these communities do not rely heavily on caribou.

The most difficult situation will likely be for the communities such as Lutsel K'e and the Tłı̨chǫ communities, which have few alternatives to caribou, have a high cost of living and in some cases are not on the highway system. These communities will need help finding alternatives.

### 8.3 FINAL THOUGHTS



1. Joe Tetlich stressed the importance of “walking together” in developing the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan. Several participants stressed the need for everyone to work together (communities and governments) for the recovery of the Bathurst herd.
2. Participants found the workshops informative but several participants pointed out the importance of bringing the information to all affected communities. The representatives from the communities who attended the workshops can help with this but GNWT needs to visit all communities.
3. A number of speakers emphasized the need for immediate action, including sacrificing in the present for the sake of future generations.
4. Some communities will experience real hardship if they cannot hunt caribou – this needs to be addressed.
5. The hunter harvest needs to be managed but management of the Bathurst herd needs to be comprehensive and consider both short-term and long-term actions.
6. The final words are from Danny Beaulieu’s story:



***We are the descendants of the caribou. The caribou once helped our people to recover – now it's our turn to help them.***





## **APPENDIX 1. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS**

Facilitator & Cartoonist Doug Urquhart (Whitehorse); Note-taker & Report-writer Lorien Nesbitt (Yellowknife)  
Note: GNWT ENR is Government of the Northwest Territories, Environment and Natural Resources

### **Workshop Participants** (Alphabetic Order)

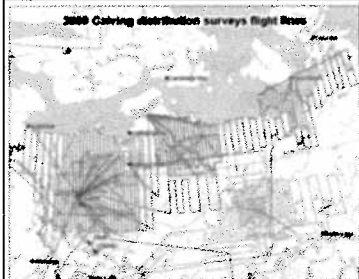
Jan Adamczewski (GNWT ENR)  
Frank Arrowmaker (Gameti)  
Archana Bali (University of Alaska student)  
Danny Beaulieu (GNWT ENR)  
Fred Beaulieu (Salt River First Nation)  
Henry Beaver (Salt River First Nation)  
Arthur Beck (NWT Métis Nation, Ft Resolution)  
Grant Beck (North Slave Métis Alliance)  
Stanley Beck (Deninu K'ue First Nation, Ft. Resolution)  
Joe Black (Behchokö)  
Emie Campbell (GNWT ENR)  
Charlie Catholique (Lutsel K'e First Nation)  
Bruno Croft (GNWT ENR)  
William Chocolate (Gamèti)  
Joe Dryneck (Wekweeti)  
Mathieu Dumond (Government of Nunavut)  
Audrey Enge (North Slave Métis Alliance)  
August Enzo (Lutsel K'e First Nation)  
Earl Evans (NWT Métis Nation, Ft Smith)  
Ron Fatt (Lutsel K'e First Nation)  
Susan Fleck (GNWT ENR)  
Freddie Flunkie (Whati)  
Bruce Football (Wekweeti)  
Kerni Garner (Tlicho Government)  
Tina Giroux (Saskatchewan, Prince Albert Grand Council)  
Gary Jaeb (caribou outfitter)  
Ed Jones (North Slave Métis Alliance)  
Alicia Kelly (GNWT ENR)  
Russell Kenny (Délina Renewable Resources Council)  
Solomon King (Deninu K'ue First Nation, Ft. Resolution)  
George Lafferty (NWT Métis Nation)  
Ray McDonald (Black Lake, Saskatchewan)  
Richard Mercredi (NWT Métis Nation, Ft Smith)  
Michael Miltenberger (GNWT ENR Minister)  
Craig Nicolson (Univ. Massachusetts, Modeler)  
Margaret Peterson (Caribou outfitter)  
Grant Pryzyk (Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board)  
Joyce Rabesca (Behchokö, caribou outfitter)  
Moise Rabesca (Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board)  
Charlie Rabesca (Behchokö)  
Camilla Rabisca (Sahtu Renewable Resources Board)  
Fred Sangris (Dene Nation Caribou Committee)  
Lance Schmidt (GNWT ENR)  
Cate Sills (GNWT ENR)  
Todd Slack (Yellowknives Dene First Nation)  
Barry Taylor (caribou outfitter)  
Joe Tetlich (Porcupine Caribou Management Board)  
Kevin Todd (GNWT Industry, Tourism and Investment)  
Raymond Tutcho (Chief, Délina First Nation)  
Leslie Wakelyn (Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board)  
Charlie Zoe (Whati)

**APPENDIX 2. OVERVIEW OF JUNE 2009 BATHURST CALVING PHOTO SURVEY**

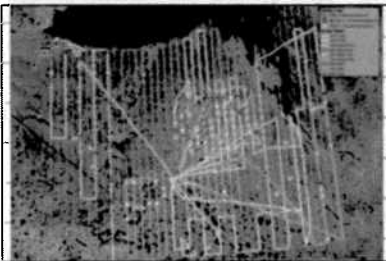
**Bathurst 2009 Calving Ground Survey (June 3-12)**

(B. Croft, J. Nishi and many more)

**1. Make Sure Nothing is Missed**



**2. Recon Survey – lines 10 km apart:**  
nearly all breeding cows in one small area



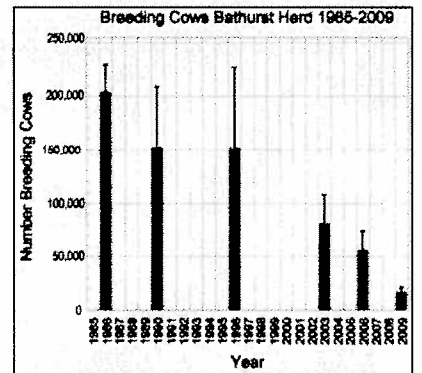
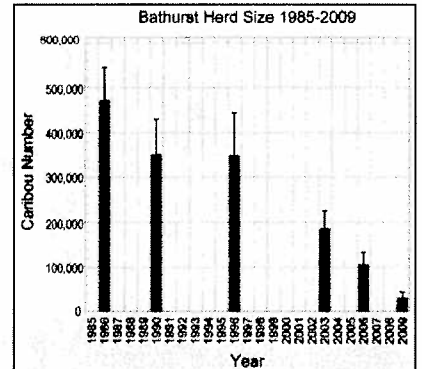
**3. Photo-plane takes pictures:**  
40% coverage High-Density, 20% Medium

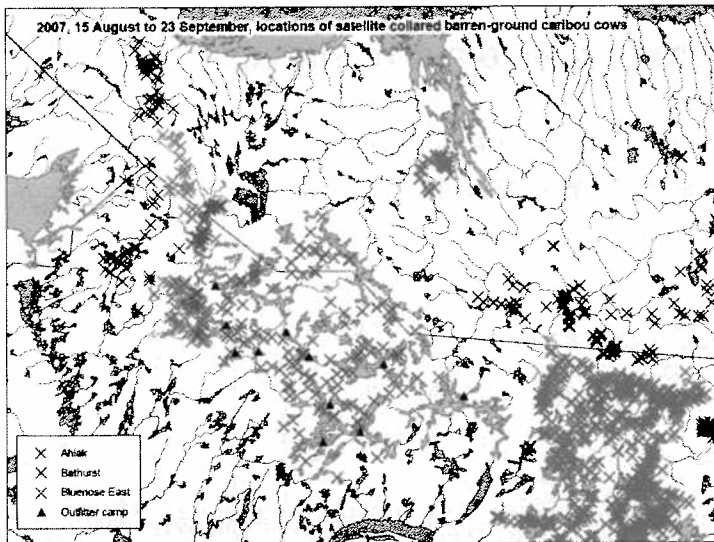


**6. Correct for Non-Pregnant Cows & Bulls:**  
16,604 breeding cows x 100/72 x 100/72.3  
= **Herd Size: 31,897** (rounded to 31,900)  
  
95% Confidence Interval: +/- 10,932

**5. Count Photos (July-August)**  
High-Density: Breeding Cows **11,928**  
Medium-Density: Breeding Cows **4,629**  
Low-Density Areas **47**  
**Total 16,604**  
  
95% Confidence Interval +/- 4,451

**4. Ground Survey: Measure % Breeding Cows:**  
71% overall



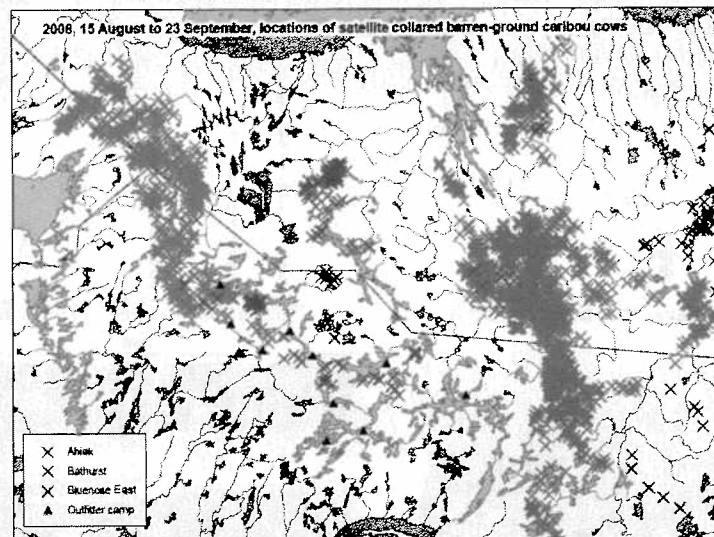


### APPENDIX 3. RADIO-COLLARED CARIBOU LOCATIONS DURING FALL HUNTING SEASON (AUG. – SEPT.)

The maps on the left show radio-collar locations during the fall hunting season in August and September, when barren-ground caribou outfitters are active.

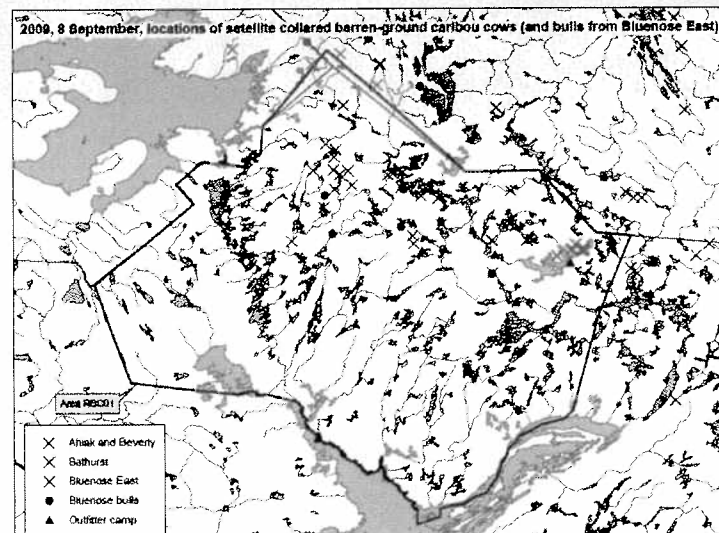
Red x's are locations of Bluenose East cows, green ones are Bathurst cows, and purple ones are Ahiak cows. The camps used by outfitters are black triangles.

In 2007, there were no Ahiak collars near the outfitter camps, and most of the camps had Bathurst collars in their area. Some of the western camps may have hunted Bluenose East caribou, which overlapped with Bathurst caribou.

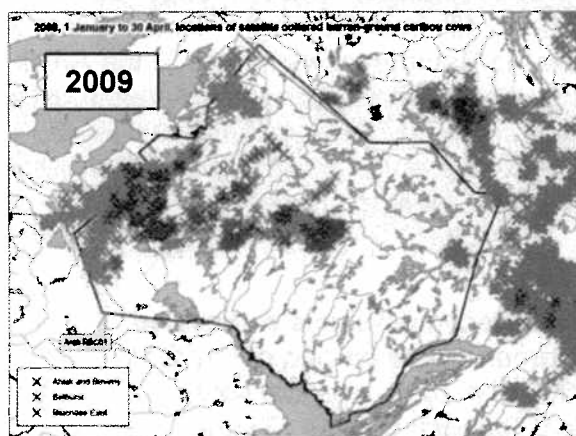
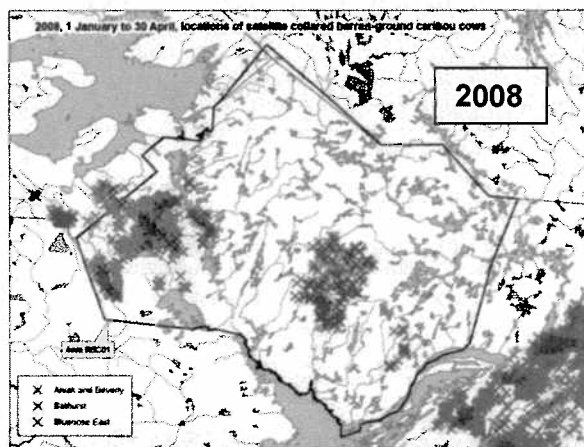
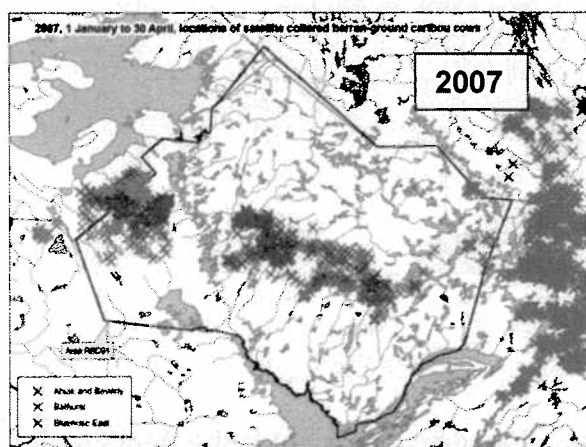
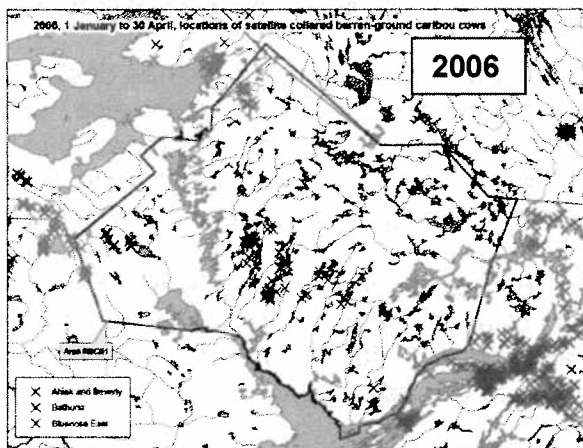
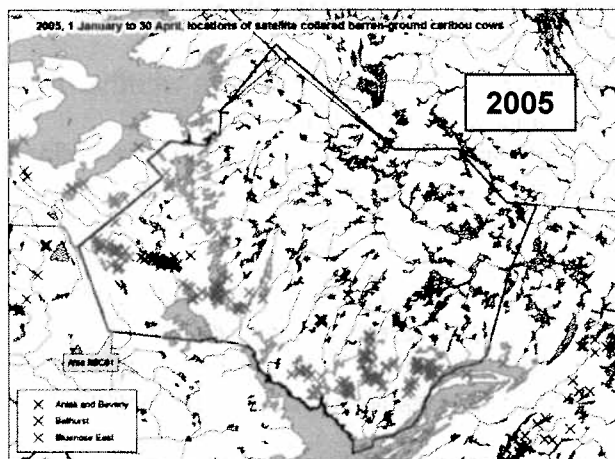


In 2008, the pattern was similar. Overall the caribou were further north at this time of year.

Note that the numbers of crosses do not represent numbers of caribou in the three herds; they reflect the numbers of collars on caribou in the 3 herds over a period from August 15 to Sept. 23. The number of collars on Bluenose East caribou increased in 2008, as did collar numbers on Ahiak caribou. There have never been more than 20 collars on Bathurst caribou.



The last map shows a single day's collar locations on Sept. 8, 2009. The additional locations in blue are Bluenose East bulls. This would indicate that most of the outfitter camps in 2009 had Bluenose East caribou nearby, and few Bathurst caribou.



#### APPENDIX 4. COLLARED CARIBOU WINTER LOCATIONS 2005-2009

These maps show caribou collar locations from January to April for each of the last 5 years (2005-2009). During this part of the winter the caribou tend not to move around much. Overlap between neighbouring herds is common in winter.

In 2005 Bathurst caribou (green) were scattered across a big area north of Great Slave Lake, with some overlap with Bluenose East caribou (red).

In 2006 the Bathurst collars were mostly east of Great Slave Lake and overlapped with Ahlak collars (purple). Tłıchǵ hunters would have been hunting mostly Bluenose East caribou.

Collars provide a great deal of information about caribou movements, migration, and habitat use. Collars can also give us some idea which caribou are likely being hunted from individual communities.

In 2007 the Bathurst collars were back north of Great Slave Lake and overlapped extensively with Bluenose East caribou south of Great Bear Lake.

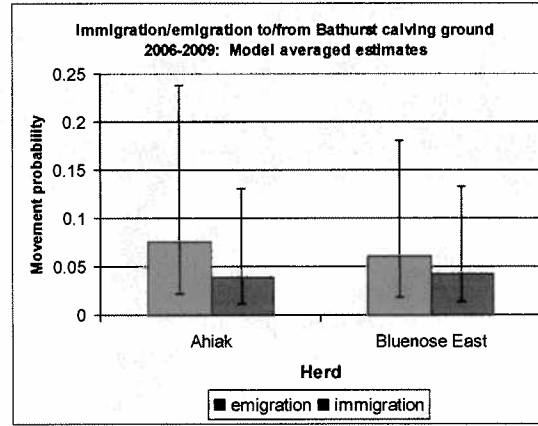
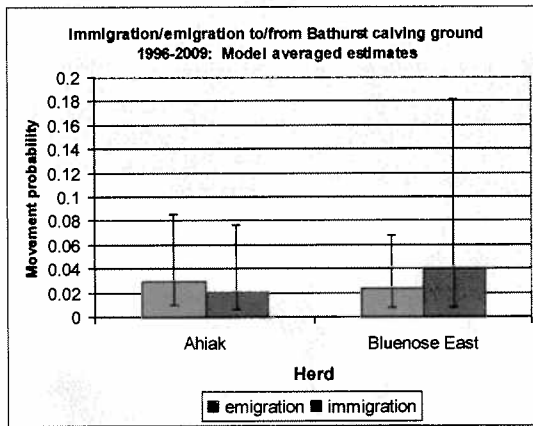
In 2008 the collar locations were generally similar to the previous year.

In 2009 many caribou wintered north of tree-line in all three herds, possibly because of shallow snow on the tundra. Bathurst collars again overlapped extensively with Bluenose East collars.

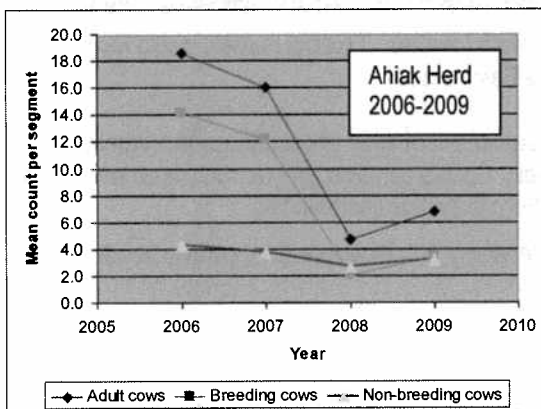
## APPENDIX 5. COULD THE MISSING BATHURST CARIBOU BE SOMEWHERE ELSE?

When biologists report that a caribou herd has declined, a question that is often asked is whether the missing caribou could have gone somewhere else. Biologists addressed this question with a statistician (John Boulanger) at a technical meeting in late September 2009 by looking at radio-collar movements between the Bathurst herds and its neighbours to the east (Ahiak herd) and west (Bluenose East herd) and by evaluating population trend in the neighbouring herds.

**Radio-Collars:** Biologists have long observed that there is a low rate of collared cows switching to calving grounds of neighbouring herds. This has generally occurred at rates of 2-4% in both directions, which suggests little net loss to either herd. In other words, 96-98% of the time, collared cows will go back to the calving ground they used before. Alaskan biologists have reported similar results.



The graph on the left shows that from 1996 to 2008, Bathurst collared cows moved to the Ahiak range at a 3% rate, while 2% of Ahiak collared cows moved to the Bathurst range. The exchange rate with Bluenose East cows was similar (2% of collared cows to BE herd, 4% from BE herd). Over the last 3 years (2006-2009 – graph on the right) on average 7% of collared Bathurst cows moved to the Ahiak range, while 4% of Ahiak collared cows moved to the Bathurst range. The larger percentages mostly reflect limited collar numbers and lower sample size in the Bathurst herd. The exchange rates with the Bluenose East herd were similar. A larger number of radio-collars would provide more confidence in these calculations, but there is no evidence of a large-scale movement to or from the Bathurst herd, with either of its neighbours.

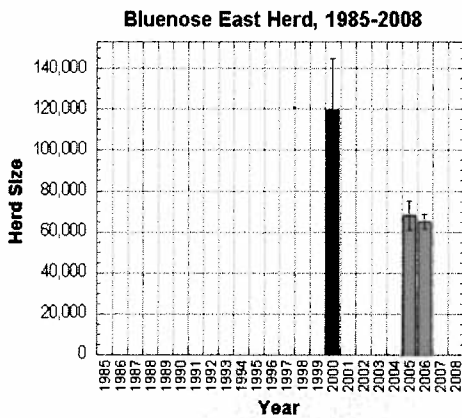


Note: Adult cows are the sum of the breeding and non-breeding cows (above)

**Ahiak Herd:** Calving reconnaissance surveys on the Ahiak calving ground were carried out by GNWT in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, over the same period of the recent Bathurst decline. These surveys do not provide a precise population estimate, but when done consistently, they give a clear index of trend.

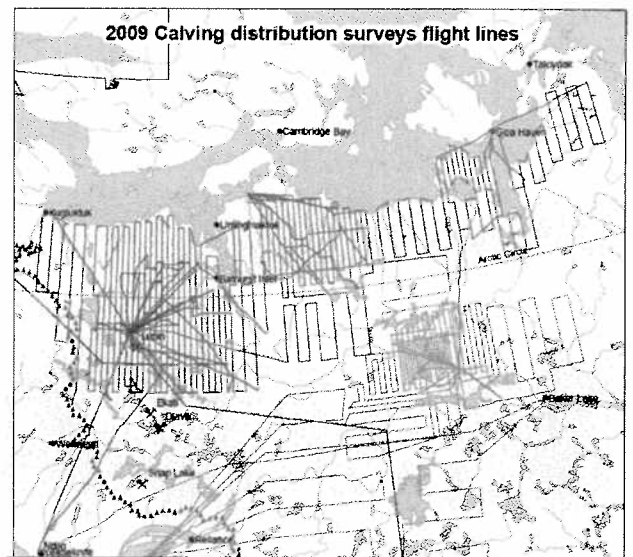
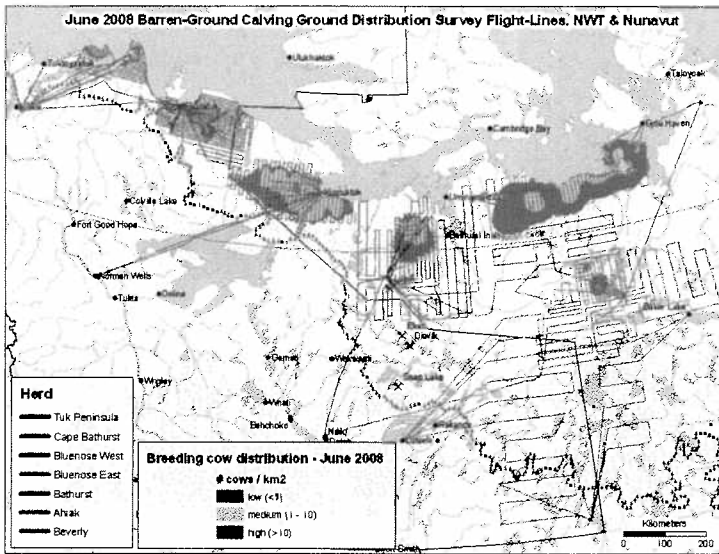
Preliminary analysis by John Boulanger of the average number of caribou seen per 10-km survey segment on the Ahiak surveys (at left) suggests that the number of cows on the Ahiak calving ground in 2009 was about 40% of the number in 2006.

A substantial decline in Ahiak caribou from 2006 to 2009 makes it rather unlikely that there was a large movement of Bathurst caribou to the Ahiak range.



**Bluenose East Herd:** In 2000 this herd was estimated at about 120,000. From 2000 to 2005/2006, its numbers dropped by nearly 50% to 65,000 in 2006. A post-calving photo survey of this herd was attempted in July 2009, but was unsuccessful because caribou did not group up into tight groups suitable for photography. This survey method can provide very precise population estimates but it requires hot weather in July to make insects highly active. Caribou may form large groups of several thousand in response to such conditions, and these groups can then be photographed and counted to provide a population estimate.

Although the survey was not successful, over 100 hours were flown on the survey by biologist Boyan Tracz and associates, who carried out the previous surveys of this herd in 2005 and 2006. His observations suggested a further decline from 2006; there was no evidence of a large influx of caribou.



**Survey Coverage:** In recent years GNWT biologists have flown many thousands of km of surveys in June and July. The map on the left (above) shows calving distribution surveys in June 2008. There were many days of additional flying done to show where calving caribou were and where they were not, and to demonstrate the separation between calving grounds. The map on the right (above) shows the approximately 59,000 km flown in June 2009. The area covered is vast, and much of the extra flying was done to verify that no large groups of calving caribou were missed. The chance of missing a large number of caribou becomes very unlikely with this level of survey flying.



## **Attachment B**

# **2009 Consultation on Joint Proposal and Interim Emergency Measures by ENR with Métis Organizations**

### **North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) correspondence**

August 14 - ENR did a presentation to NSMA on survey methods on Bathurst Caribou.  
- NSMA expressed concern regarding wolves and more collars for Caribou.

October 23 - letter to NSMA inviting them to meet on the joint Proposal

November 17 - letter received by ENR dated November 10, 2009 from NSMA requesting consultation funding agreement.

Record of attempts from November 9 - December 1, 2009 to contact the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) to set up meetings.

December 1 - e-mail from NSMA S. Grieves to ENR meeting coordinator D. Mandeville indicating NSMA not prepared to meet unless funding received.

December 18 - letter from ENR to NSMA addressing concerns in their letter of November 10, 2009.

### **Other Métis organizations correspondence**

October 14 -16 - Following the Decline and Recovery of the Bathurst Herd workshop Resolution #4 was adopted by the NWT Métis Nation.

October 23 - letters to Métis organizations to meet to discuss Bathurst Caribou Decline.

November 16 - meeting with people of Fort Providence including Fort Providence Métis Local attendees to discuss decline of Bathurst Caribou and obtain Community guidance in managing for herd recovery. Presentation and discussion.

November 25 - meeting with NWT Métis Nation, Fort Resolution Métis Council, Hay River Métis Council, North Arm Métis Council of Yellowknife on Bathurst Caribou Herd. Went over Joint proposal, additional consultation and proposed interim emergency measures.

December 4 - Community Fort Resolution met with Métis Council during community meeting regarding joint proposal and interim emergency measures.



## **North Slave Métis Alliance Correspondence**





Northwest  
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

## NORTH SLAVE REGION CONSULTATION LOG

<b>DATE:</b> August 14, 2009	<b>TIME:</b>
<b>NAME:</b>	<b>COMPANY:</b> NSMA
	<b>PROJECT:</b> Bathurst Caribou
<b>ENR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:</b> Bruno Croft, Fred Mandeville	<b>PROGRAM TIME FRAME:</b>
<b>NOTES:</b> ENR requested a meeting with the NSMA in order to discuss the decline of Bathurst Caribou and obtain guidance in managing the herd to assist in its recovery.	
<b>ENR PRESENTATION:</b> ENR did a presentation on survey methods and results that were gathered June 3-12, 2009. The purpose of the survey was to estimate the number of breeding females in the Bathurst Caribou herd on the calving grounds (1986-2009).	
<b>AUDIENCE COMMENTS:</b> Believed the government is not doing anything about the wolves. There needs to be more collars. Global warming and other climate issues are affecting the population negatively. We need to work together as it is too late to blame someone.	



OCT 23 2009

Mr. Bill Enge  
President  
North Slave Métis Alliance  
BOX 2301  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P7

Dear Mr. Enge:

**Bathurst Caribou Decline**

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) completed a Bathurst calving ground photo census in June 2009. The results of this survey confirmed that the Bathurst caribou herd has declined at an accelerated rate. The population of the herd is estimated at 31,897 caribou. ENR Staff would like to visit your community to discuss these results to obtain guidance in managing the herd to assist in its recovery. ENR Minister Miltenberger has stated "tough decisions will have to be made for the herd to recover". In this regard we would like to discuss with your community:

- the potential reduction of commercial tags, outfitter tags, resident tags and aboriginal harvest;
- the potential of a bull only harvest or harvesting of other herds;
- the need to increase monitoring and compliance; and
- the need to increase information of caribou to the communities.

Please contact either Mr. Lance Schmidt, Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR, at (867) 920-6114, e-mail: [Lance\\_Schmidt@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lance_Schmidt@gov.nt.ca), Mr. Bruno Croft at (867) 920-6265, e-mail: [Bruno\\_Croft@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Bruno_Croft@gov.nt.ca), or Mr. Fred Mandeville at (867) 920-7019, e-mail [Fred\\_J\\_Mandeville@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Fred_J_Mandeville@gov.nt.ca) to let us know if you will be able to provide us with a date to visit you in November.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister





# **NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE**

***PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7***



November 10th, 2009

Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories,  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
Ph: (867) 873-7401  
Fax: (867) 873 - 0638

Dear Gary:

**Re: Wildlife Management Consultation**

The North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) received your letter of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, requesting a date be identified in November 2009, when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) could Consult our community regarding the management of the Bathurst barren ground caribou.

It may be possible for our staff and members to get together with your staff the last week of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. However, the likelihood that a meeting could be arranged on any of these dates, depends on the capacity of our community members and staff to prepare for the meeting, as well as your willingness to include the NSMA in the construction of the meeting's agenda.

The mismanagement of our Caribou has gone on far too long, and the NSMA can no longer afford to waste time on token and superficial participation. Ever since the dissolution of the Bathurst Caribou Management Committee, which we strongly supported, the management of Caribou, and caribou populations, have been in steady decline. On this very important issue, the North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) must be adequately consulted and, if need be, accommodated. In that respect, the North Slave Métis Alliance is entitled to the same level of Consultation and Accommodation as other First Nations your Department deals with.

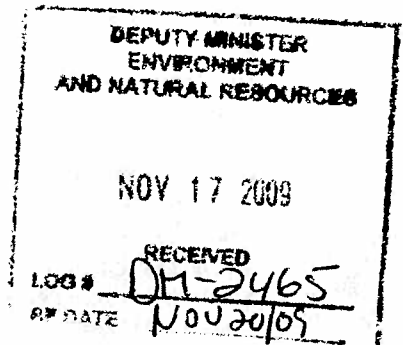
Following the Caribou Summit of January 2007, ENR was mandated to carry out a list of priority action items. Many of these actions have not been accomplished. Yet the North Slave Métis Alliance notes that its members and staff have not been involved - in any meaningful way - in those few activities that did take place.

Although the NSMA participated in the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board (WRRB) hearings in Bechoko, NT, in March of 2007, and outlined its rights and positions, ENR has never attempted to engage our community - with a view to coming to an agreement on caribou management. The NSMA has never even received a response to the letter it sent to Minister Michael McLeod, on April 21, 2007, requesting ENR submit a Consultation Proposal to the NSMA for Consultation on a Caribou Management Plan.

***Ph: (867) 873-NSMA (6762)***

***Fax: (867) 669-7442***

***Email: [general@nsma.net](mailto:general@nsma.net)***



In 2008, ENR requested the NSMA provide comments on a Wood Bison Management Strategy and Plan, and committed to providing funding for our participation in this process in an email of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The NSMA submitted a proposal for Consultation Funding to ENR on February 2, 2009 and, again, sent a request for funding on April 2, 2009. Neither request has been answered, nor has any funding been forthcoming. Furthermore, our letter of April 2, 2009, to ENR, requesting bison tags was also ignored.

DM-2465  
NOV 20/09

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the NSMA was invited to send one delegate to a Wildlife Act Workshop in Inuvik, NT, but no funds were offered to support pre-workshop work in the community, or to report back to the community afterwards. Our requests, by email, for additional information, including an agenda, were never responded to: so we did not send a delegate.

The Boreal Caribou Management Action Plan was distributed on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, but no funding was offered to disseminate information to the community or to develop a community consensus about caribou management.

There are numerous examples of ENR taking unilateral action in wildlife management without consulting the NSMA. For example, ENR, the last two-years in a row (spring 2008 and 2009), issued a General Wildlife Permit to True North Safaris to hunt bears using bait - without consulting the NSMA. That being said, this year is the first year where any form of consultation has been attempted, and only after the NSMA initiated a lawsuit against your Department for refusing to consult and accommodate the North Slave Metis People, with respect to the practice of bear baiting on its traditional territory. In addition, in 2006, ENR refused to provide funding to the NSMA to participate in the review of Species at Risk legislation, despite repeated requests by the NSMA to be funded - so it, too, could be consulted on this very important legislation.

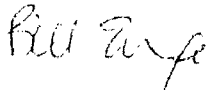
The NSMA will no longer tolerate being unacceptably "consulted and accommodated" by your Department. The North Slave Metis People have an Aboriginal Right to hunt wildlife on its traditional land and, by an extension, a vested interest in preservation of its wildlife resource. With that in mind, the NSMA expects ENR to start respecting the NSMA's Aboriginal Rights mandate just like it does First Nation's Aboriginal Rights mandates. That being said, when you confirm that ENR will provide the NSMA with adequate information, time, and funding to participate in the requested caribou management Consultation, and specify the date when we will have a capacity funding agreement in place, then we will be in a position to set a firm date for a consultation meeting.

In addition, we would like to address, in the same agreement, our Consultation protocols and funding requirements for various other consultations, including:

- ∞ Changes to the Wildlife Act and Big Game Hunting Regulations
- ∞ Species At Risk Act
- ∞ Protected Areas Strategy
- ∞ Wood Bison Management Strategy and Plan
- ∞ Boreal Caribou Strategy and Plan
- ∞ Bear Baiting
- ∞ Caribou Conservation Measures, and Compensation to Aboriginal Groups
- ∞ Wildlife Research licenses

In the meantime, we urge you to put an immediate stop to all non-indigenous harvesting of caribou, moose or bison, and immediately increase enforcement patrols throughout our territory. These actions are urgently needed in order to ensure that you do not create a conservation issue for our big game species, or infringe on our constitutionally enshrined Aboriginal Right to harvest.

Sincerely,



William (Bill) A. Enge,  
President

c.c. Lance Schmidt, Superintendant, North Slave Region. [Lance\\_Schmidt@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lance_Schmidt@gov.nt.ca)  
Bruno Croft. [Bruno\\_Croft@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Bruno_Croft@gov.nt.ca)  
Fred Mandeville. [Fred\\_J\\_Mandeville@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Fred_J_Mandeville@gov.nt.ca)



## **Log of Attempts to Contact NSMA from November 9, 2009 to December 1, 2009**

November 9 - Email to Bill Enge on Initial Request for Meeting

November 13 - Meeting with Bill Enge regarding meeting expenses to be covered by ENR

November 17 - Message left for Bill Enge

November 24 - Message left for Bill Enge

December 1 - Message left with NSMA Employee

December 1 - Called NSMA Employee, No Answer

December 1 - Email to NSMA Employee



**Subject:** Emergency Measure - Bathurst Caribou Herd

**Importance:** High

Good morning Sheryl. Left a phone message for you. I am assisting ENR with organizing meetings with Aboriginal groups to talk about dealing with decline of the Bathurst Caribou herd.

Have also talked to Bill about setting up a meeting with ENR and North Slave Metis Alliance.

This morning, ENR asked me to contact NSMA to advise the meeting needs to happen by this Thursday, Dec 3. ENR will address emergency measures being considered for hunting Bathurst caribou. Hoping you can help with confirming a date and time for this meeting. We could do this: anytime on Dec 2; morning of Dec 3.

Please call me when you can. (867) 873 - 6121.

Thanks Sheryl.

Darlene Mandeville



## **Ernie Campbell**

---

**From:** Sheryl Grieve [enviromgr@nsma.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:30 PM  
**To:** 'Darlene Mandeville'  
**Cc:** 'Danielle De Fields'; president@nsma.net; liaison@nsma.net; Gary Bohnet; Ernie Campbell; Lance Schmidt; fredj\_mandeville@gov.nt.ca; Bruno Croft  
**Subject:** RE: Emergency Measure - Bathurst Caribou Herd  
**Attachments:** 2009-11-23 NSMA information requests.PDF; 2009-11-10 NSMA response ENR consultation request.PDF

Hi Darlene,

If ENR wishes to provide the NSMA with caribou related information, they can do so, in writing, at any time, attention to myself.

Email is the preferred communication method, as I am much too busy to respond to the many phone calls. I do provide read receipts when requested.

We would especially appreciate written responses to our information requests, as submitted to the WRRB. (attached)

The North Slave Métis Alliance is not prepared to meet to discuss caribou management with ENR until after our members have had a chance to become adequately informed regarding the issue, and until after they have had sufficient time to discuss the options among themselves and try to achieve a consensus view on the matters to be decided. This community consensus building needs to happen at a workshop. ENR needs to provide adequate information, time and funding to the NSMA to enable us to hold such a workshop.

As well, we require involvement in preparation of the agenda for any meeting we would participate in.

We have not yet received a copy of the agenda for the meeting that ENR proposes.

NSMA's response to ENR's previous request for a meeting is attached, for your information.

You will note that we have already requested that ENR put an immediate stop to all non-indigenous harvesting of big game so that non-indigenous harvesting does not interfere, any further than it already has, with our Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

To repeat, the NSMA will remain unprepared to meet with ENR to discuss caribou management until funding to support our meaningful engagement has been confirmed.


Sincerely,

Sheryl Grieve B.Sc.  
Environment and Resource Manager  
North Slave Metis Alliance  
32 Melville Drive.  
Box 2301, Yellowknife. X1A 2P7  
Phone: (867) 873-6762  
Fax: (867) 669-7442  
Email: [enviromgr@nsma.net](mailto:enviromgr@nsma.net)

---

**From:** Darlene Mandeville [mailto:[prestige@theedge.ca](mailto:prestige@theedge.ca)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 01, 2009 10:11 AM  
**To:** [enviromgr@nsma.net](mailto:enviromgr@nsma.net)





Northwest  
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

DEC 18 2009

Mr. William (Bill) Enge  
President  
North Slave Métis Alliance  
PO BOX 2301  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P7

Dear Mr. Enge:

**Wildlife Management Consultation**

Thank you for your letter of November 10, 2009, received on November 17, 2009 regarding consultation and funding on wildlife issues. Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) recognizes that wildlife is important to Aboriginal people and strives to maximize involvement of Aboriginal people in wildlife management. We also recognize that capacity is a concern when seeking input and ENR does provide resources to enable participation. However, resources are limited and ENR seeks to be consistent with all Aboriginal people on engagement and consultation approaches.

ENR has reviewed its approach to funding with the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) in the past years. Funding is provided by the Department when people travel and leave communities to participate in workshops or for special initiatives. In this case funding is done through contracts or contribution agreements. From 2004-2008 your organization received \$80,000 for such initiatives. This amount and approach is consistent with funding for other Aboriginal governments and organizations. Given that funds are limited, it is unfortunate that you were unable to send a delegate to the Northwest Territories (NWT) Wildlife Act Workshop for Elders, held in October 2009 in Inuvik. Our letter offered to cover the costs for a NSMA delegate to travel, which also included, honoraria, and preparation and follow-up to the meeting.

We share common concerns about caribou declines. The Caribou Summit in 2007 was hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and brought 180 delegates from across the North together. Ways to promote recovery of caribou herds was discussed. A number of priorities were identified. The GNWT has followed through on several of the items (see attachment).

.../2



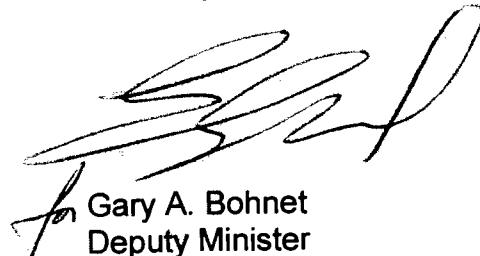
Your interest in working with ENR to help caribou recover is important to us. Everyone has a role to play. The participation by your organization and other Aboriginal communities in the caribou workshops in October 2009, helped to inform the joint proposal prepared by ENR and the Tłıchǫ Government. As required under the Tłıchǫ Agreement the joint proposal went to the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB). The WRRB is planning their public hearing for February 2010. This proposal endorses your recommendations to eliminate all commercial, resident and non-resident harvest for Caribou. The approach the Department is taking is to consult with other Aboriginal governments and organizations after submitting the joint management proposal to the WRRB. The results of these consultations will be provided to the WRRB for the public hearing in February 2010. Accordingly, in late October 2009, letters were sent to a number of organizations to discuss recovery actions for the Bathurst Herd.

However, for the caribou to recover urgent measures are needed this winter. We have been attempting to set up meetings with your organization since our letter of October 23, 2009 and have had several discussions, ending in Ms. Grieves e-mail dated December 1, 2009 to our facilitator Ms. Darlene Mandeville indicating you will not meet with ENR to discuss caribou management unless funding is provided. We have indicated our interest in meeting to discuss the joint proposal and interim emergency measures for the Bathurst Herd. We indicated that we would be willing to cover reasonable, agreed upon costs to meet on Bathurst Caribou management actions. As requested in Ms. Grieves e-mail a draft agenda is attached for a meeting (attached).

Engagement and consultation are of prime importance to the Department. ENR is pleased to share information with you on any wildlife management issue and hear your concerns or suggestions in regard to the management of wildlife. We have attached several of our correspondences to your organization to express our commitment (attached). By undertaking these discussions with the NSMA, the GNWT is not recognizing, affirming or denying any asserted Aboriginal or treaty right or Aboriginal title claim made by, or on behalf of, the NSMA.

We would be pleased to meet with you early in the new year to discuss your interests and concerns respecting Caribou Management Actions, please coordinate your availability with our facilitator, Ms. Mandeville at [prestige@theedge.ca](mailto:prestige@theedge.ca) or 873-6121.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister

Attachments

**Proposed Agenda  
ENR Meeting with NSMA**

1. Presentation on Status of Caribou herds in North Slave Region (ENR) Examples of presentations attached.
2. Presentation on Joint Proposal (GNWT/Tłıchǫ Government) and Emergency Interim Measures (ENR) Proposal WRRB link

[http://www.wrrb.ca/documents/joint\\_covering\\_letter.pdf](http://www.wrrb.ca/documents/joint_covering_letter.pdf)

[http://www.wrrb.ca/documents/Joint\\_Proposal\\_on\\_Caribou\\_Management\\_Actions\\_Nov\\_4\\_2009%20-%20final.pdf](http://www.wrrb.ca/documents/Joint_Proposal_on_Caribou_Management_Actions_Nov_4_2009%20-%20final.pdf)

3. Discussions

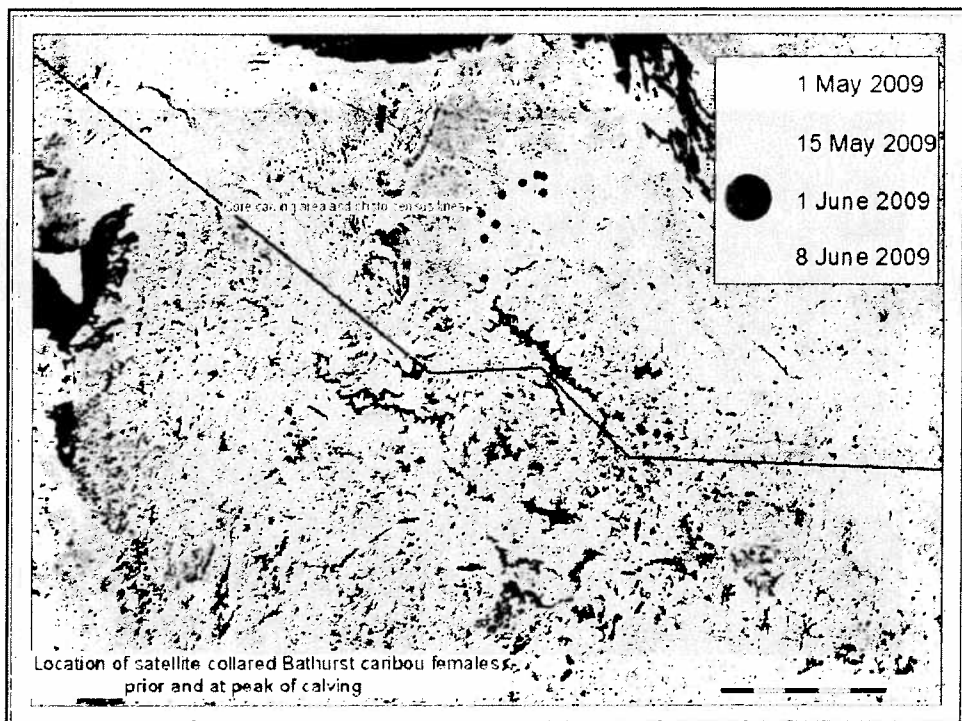
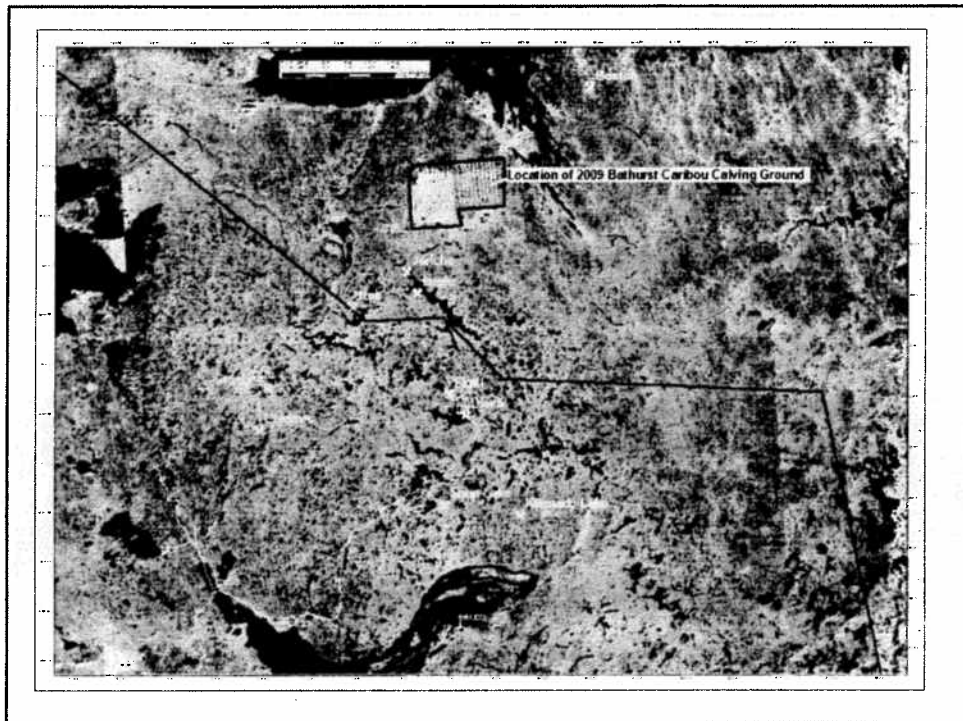


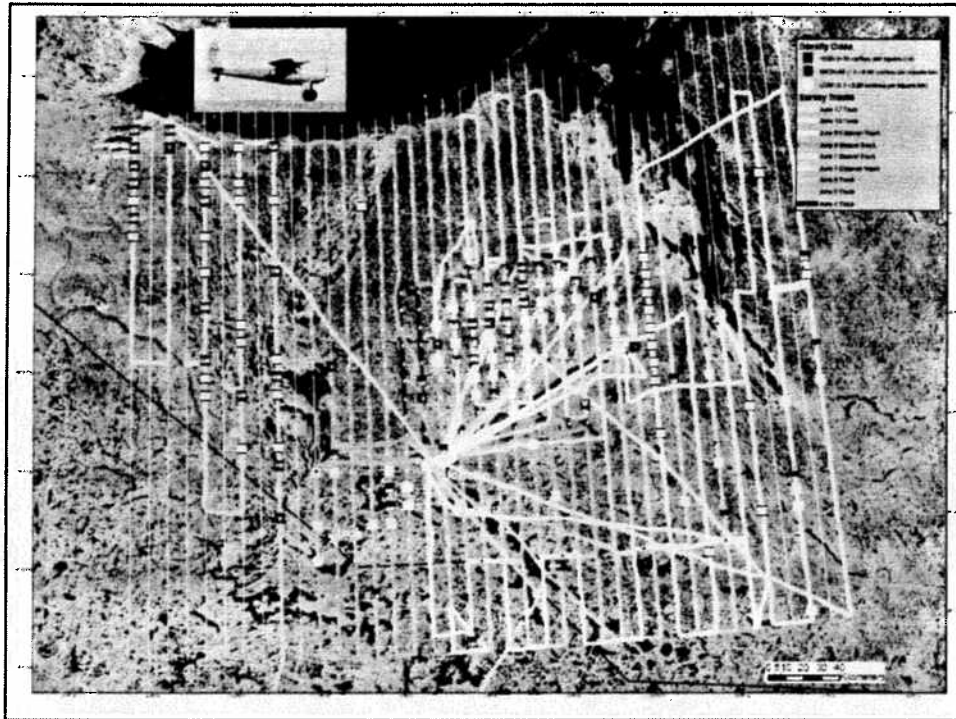
Bathurst Caribou Calving Ground Survey: June 3-12, 2009  
SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

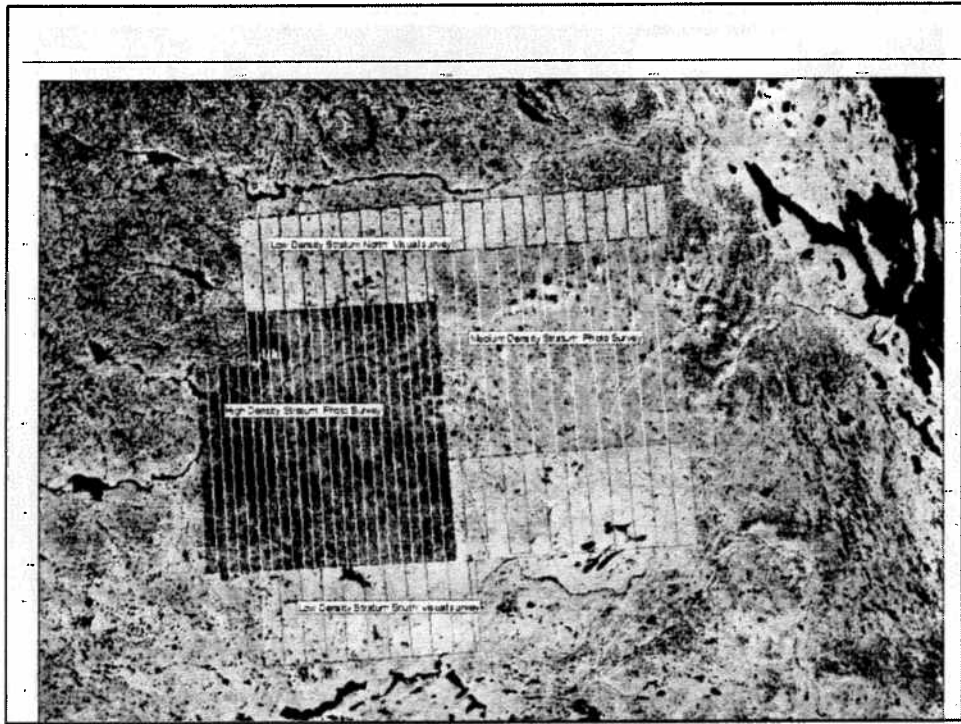


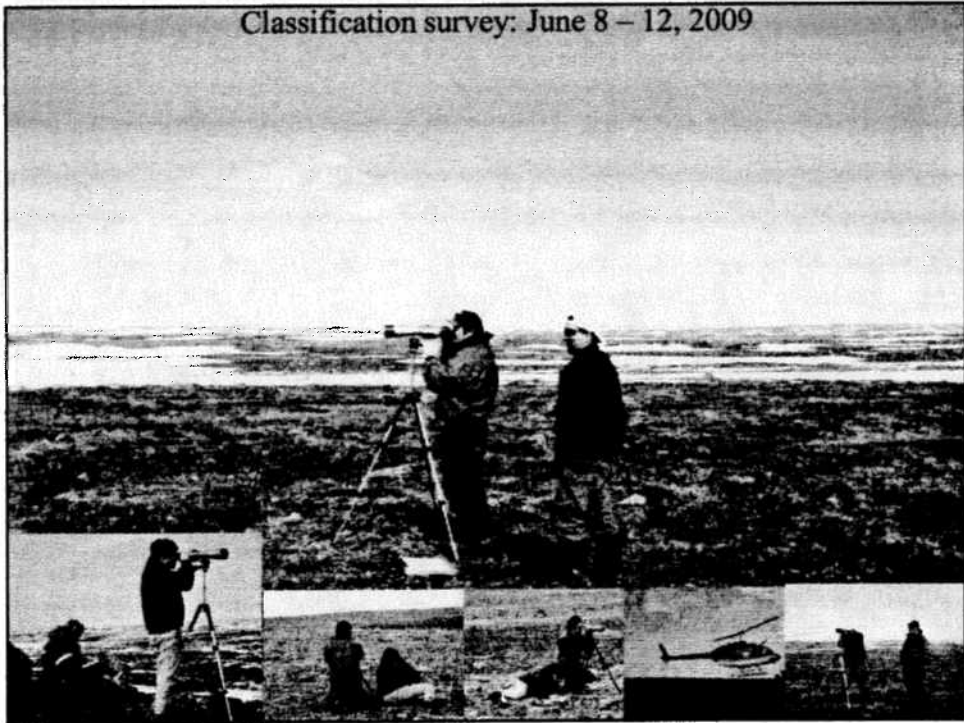
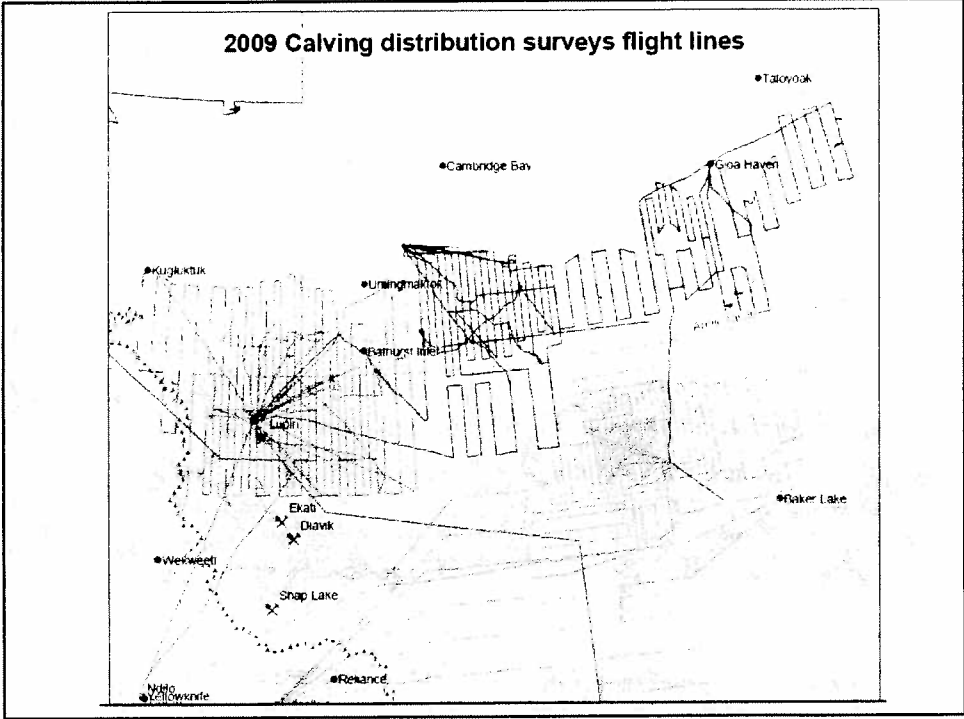
**SURVEY PURPOSE:**

**To estimate the number of breeding females in the Bathurst Caribou herd on the calving grounds.**









## Estimate of Bathurst caribou breeding females on the calving ground 1986 - 2009

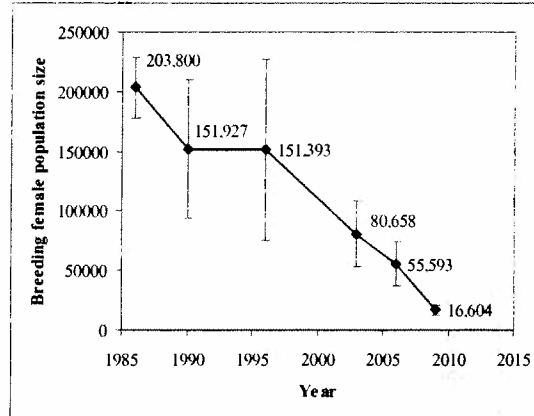


Table 5: Estimates of breeding females from 2009 compared to previous surveys

year	N	SE	CV	t/dt	CI min	CI max
2009	16604	2176.42	0.13	29	12153	21056
2006	55593	8813	0.16	19	37147	74039
2003	80658	13149.1	0.16	17	52916	108400
1996	151393	35144.0	0.23	13	75469	227317
1990	151927	25805.0	0.17	10	94430	209424
1986	203800	12695.7	0.06	43	178197	229403



**Estimating Bathurst Herd Size from Breeding Female Number**

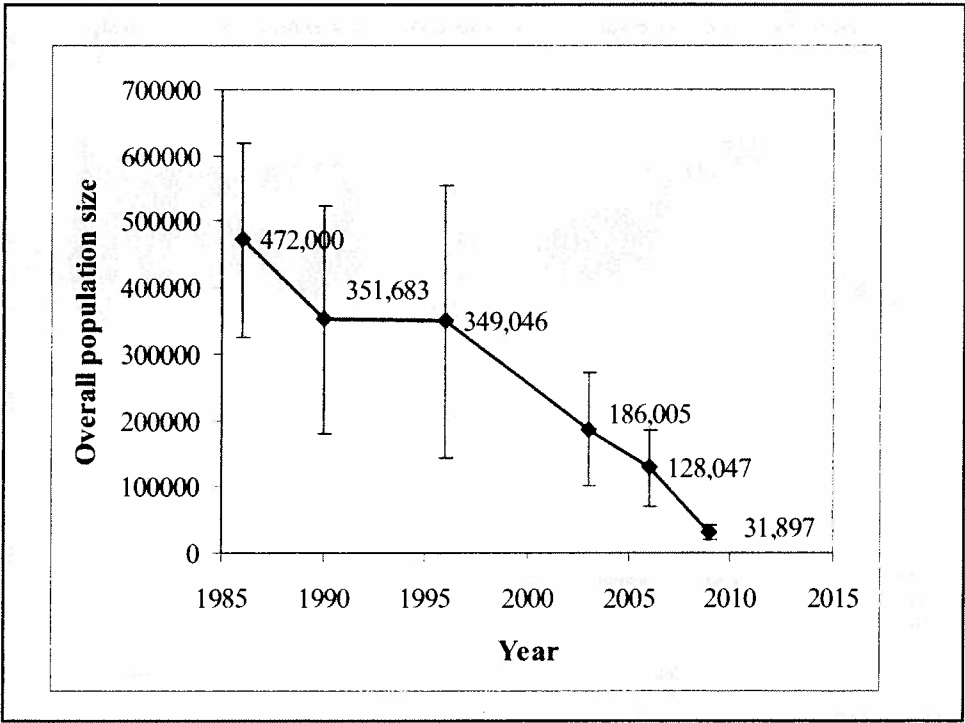
16,604 breeding cows x 100/72 x 100/72.3 = 31,897 caribou

Corrected for non-pregnant cows and bulls

95% Confidence Interval

Breeding Female Estimate: 16,604 +/- 4,451

Population Estimate: 31,897 +/- 10,952





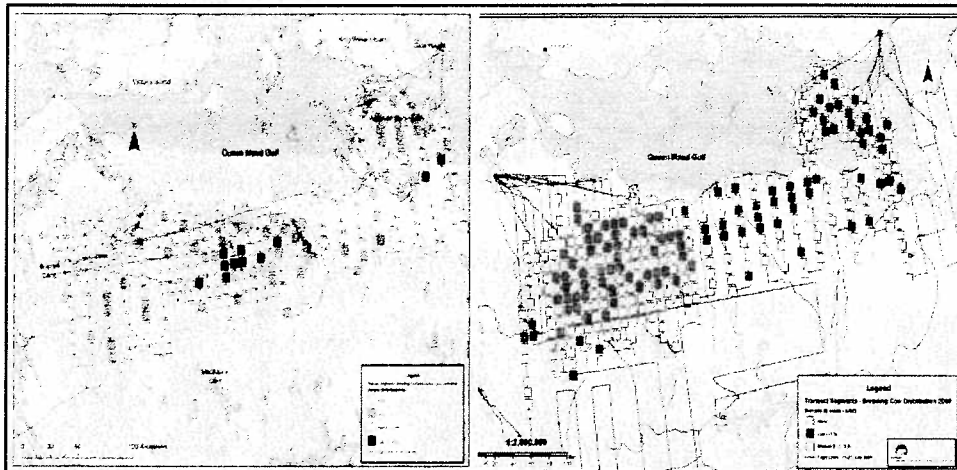


Figure . Map showing flight lines over the calving ground of the Ahiak herd in 2006 (D. Johnson, ENR, unpublished data). The squares are 10-km segments along flight lines. Red squares had at least 10 breeding cows per square km (high density), yellow squares had 1-9.9 breeding cows per square km (medium density), green squares had less than 1 breeding cows per square km, and white squares had no breeding cows.

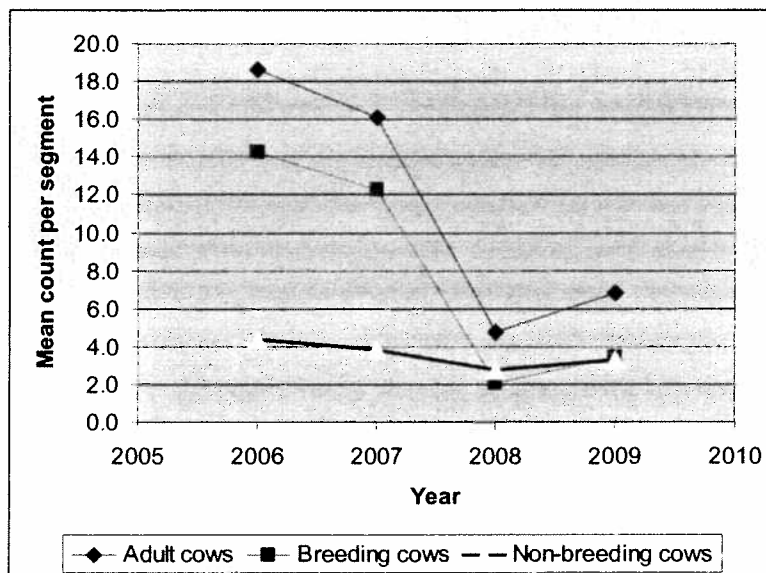
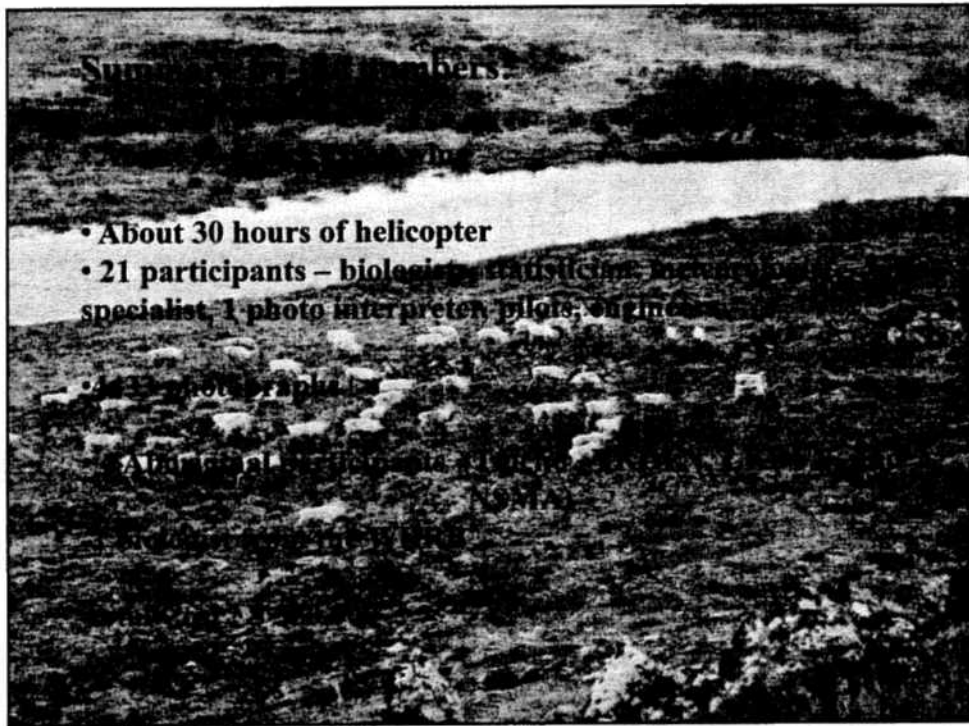



Figure . Average number of breeding cows, non-breeding cows, and adult cows (sum of breeding and non-breeding cows) observed per 10-km flight line segment on transect during calving reconnaissance surveys in June 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 on the Ahiak calving ground.

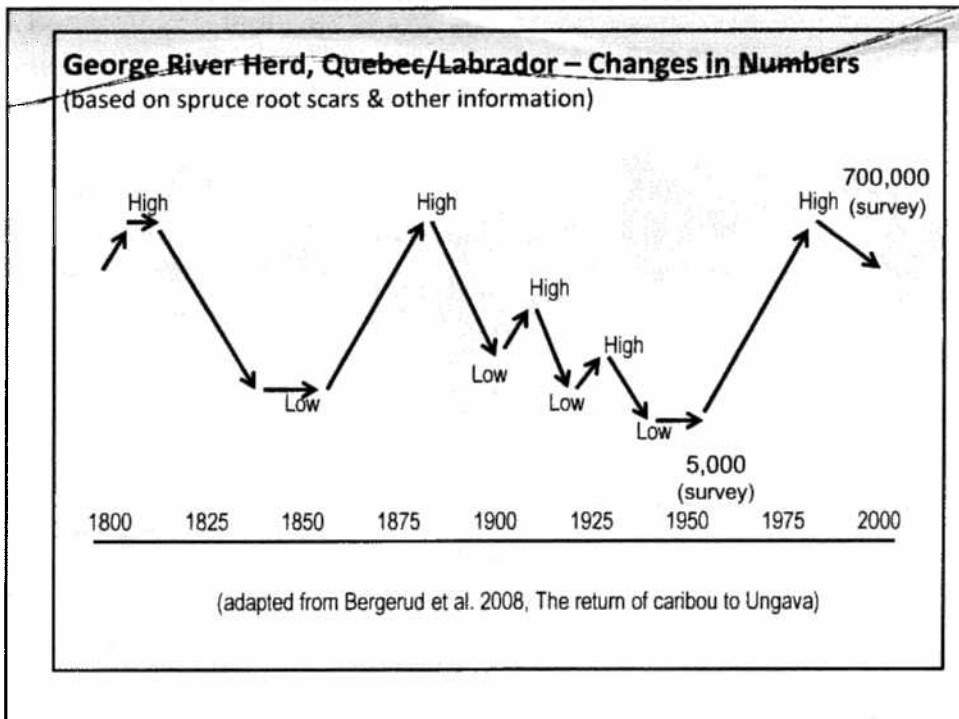


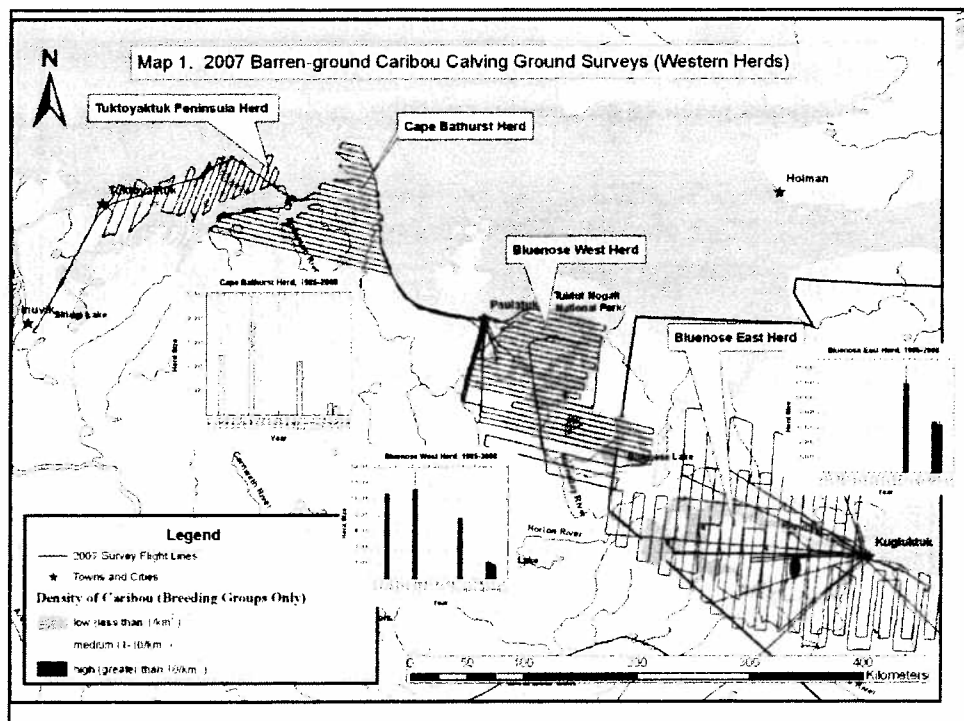
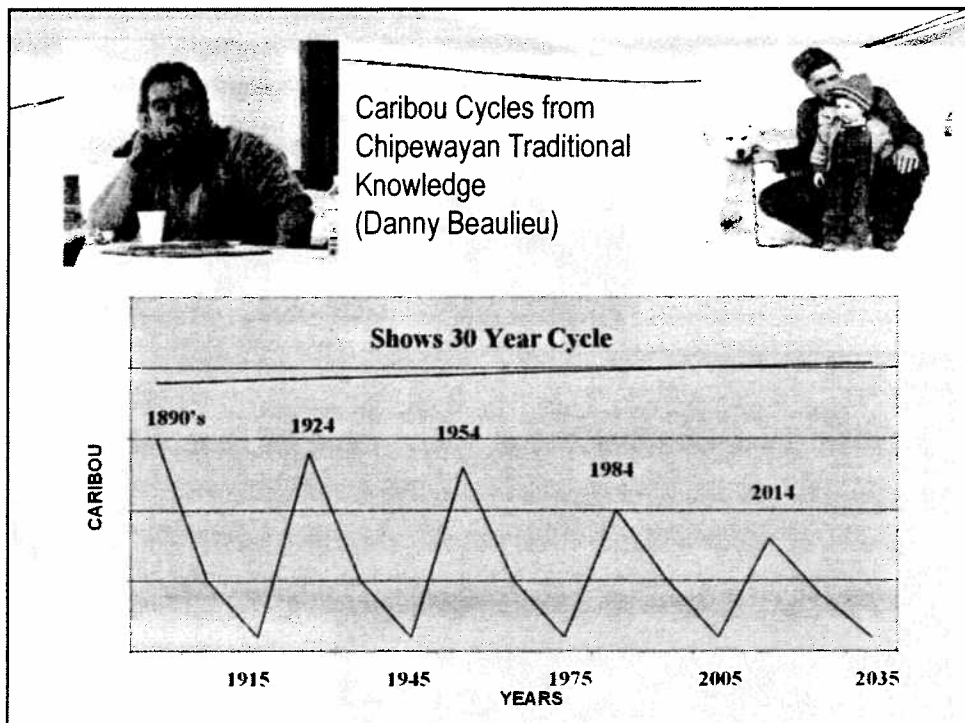
### Status of Shared NWT/Nunavut Barren-ground Caribou Herds

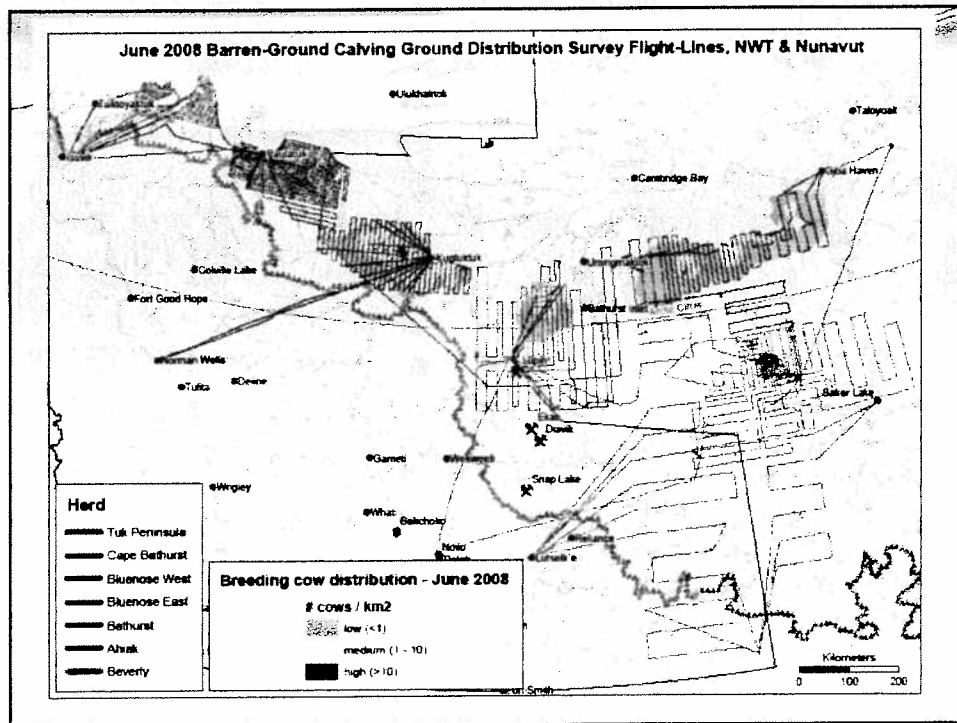
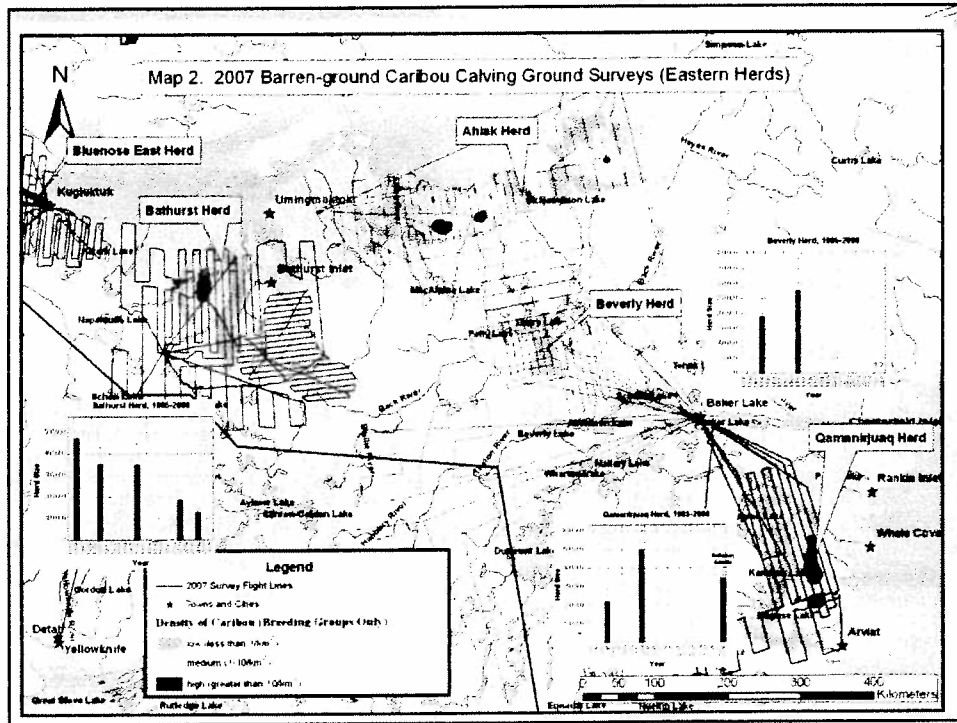
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

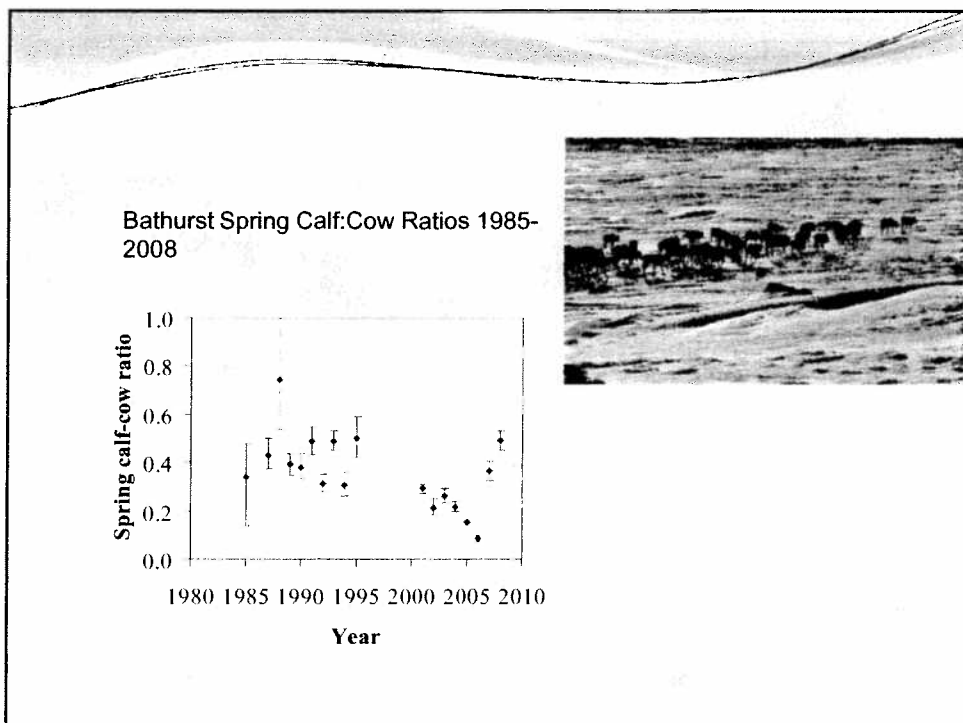
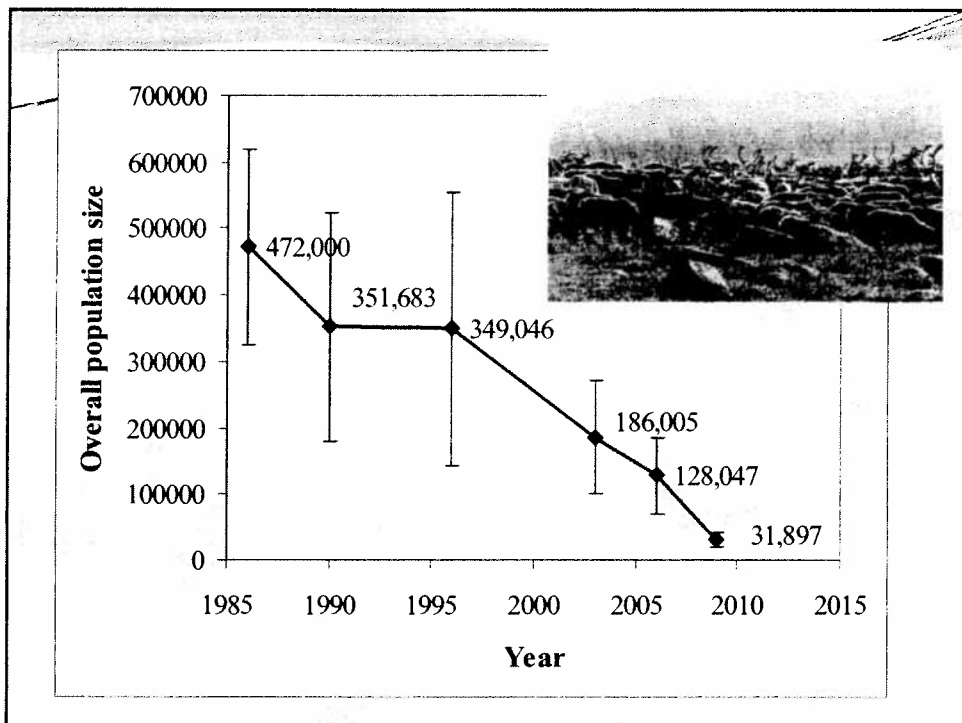


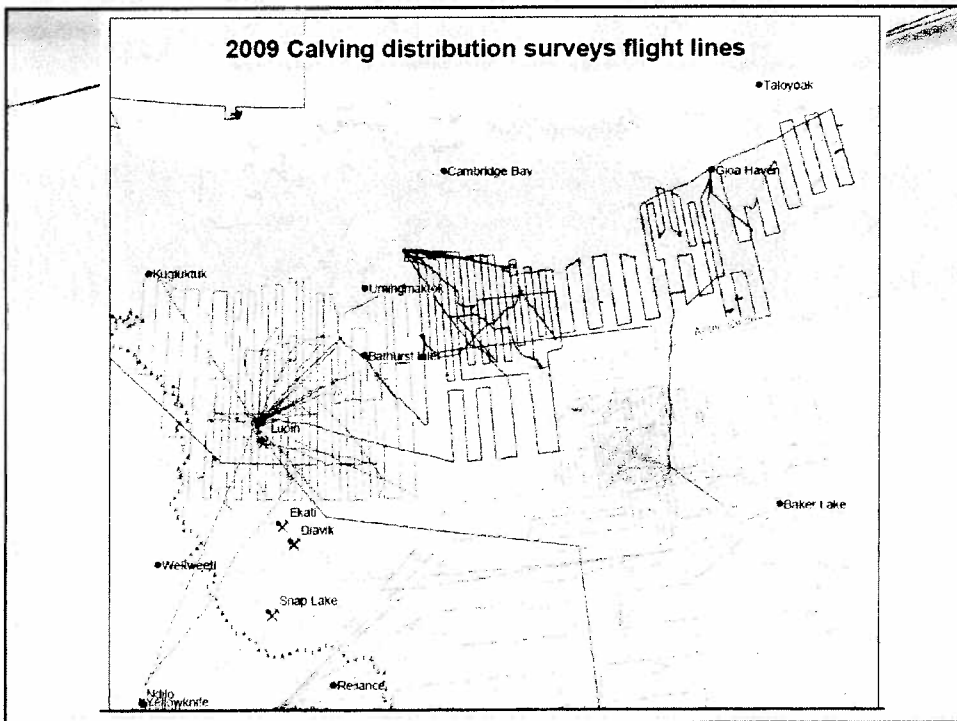
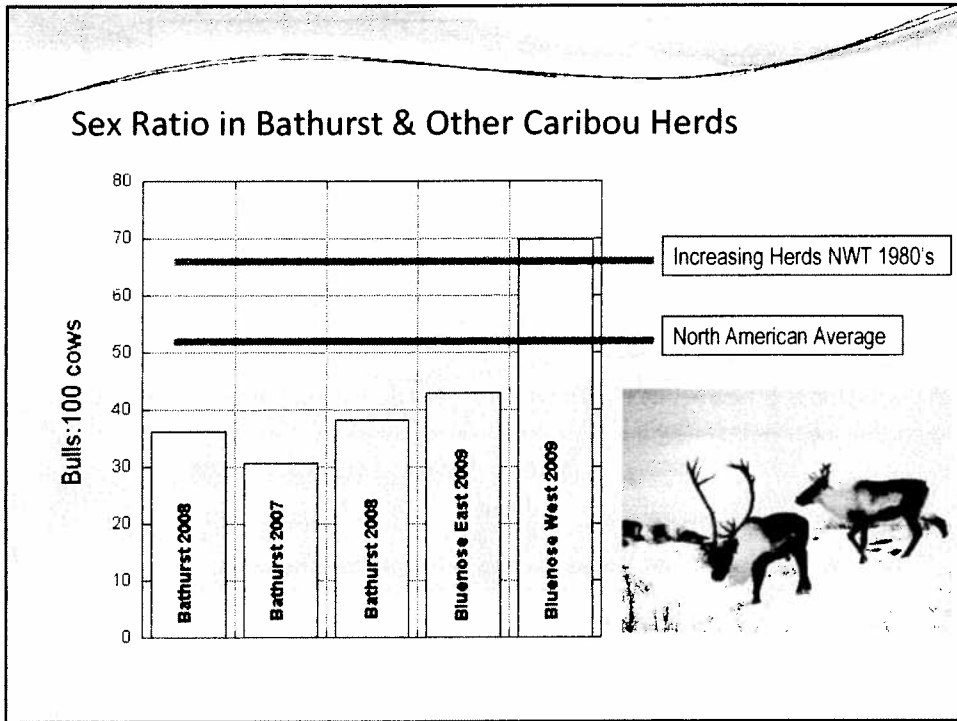
Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
December 3, 2009

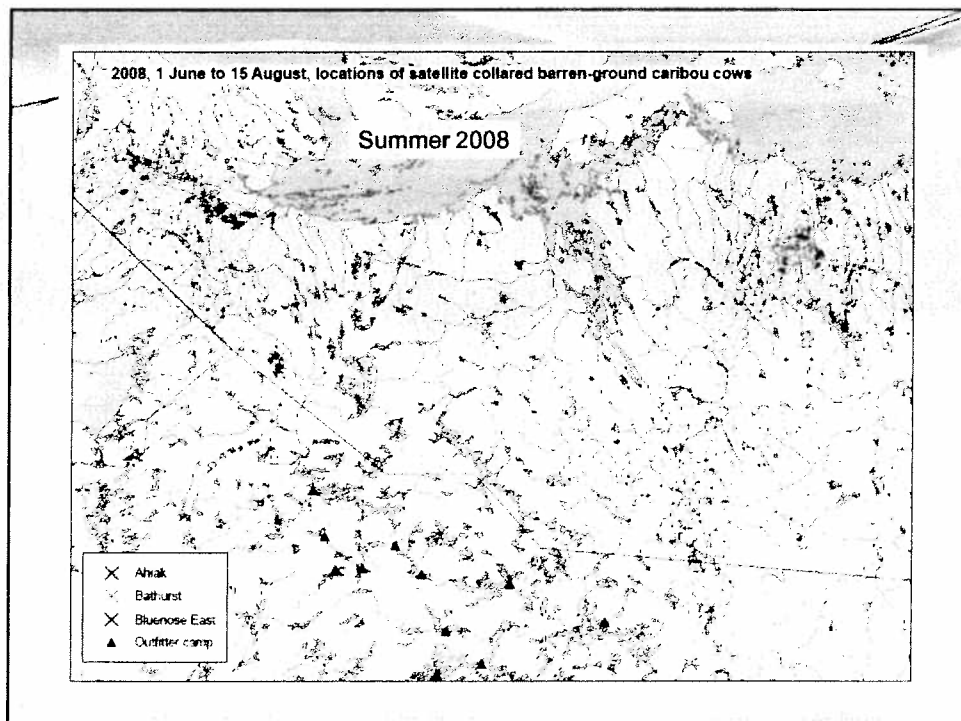
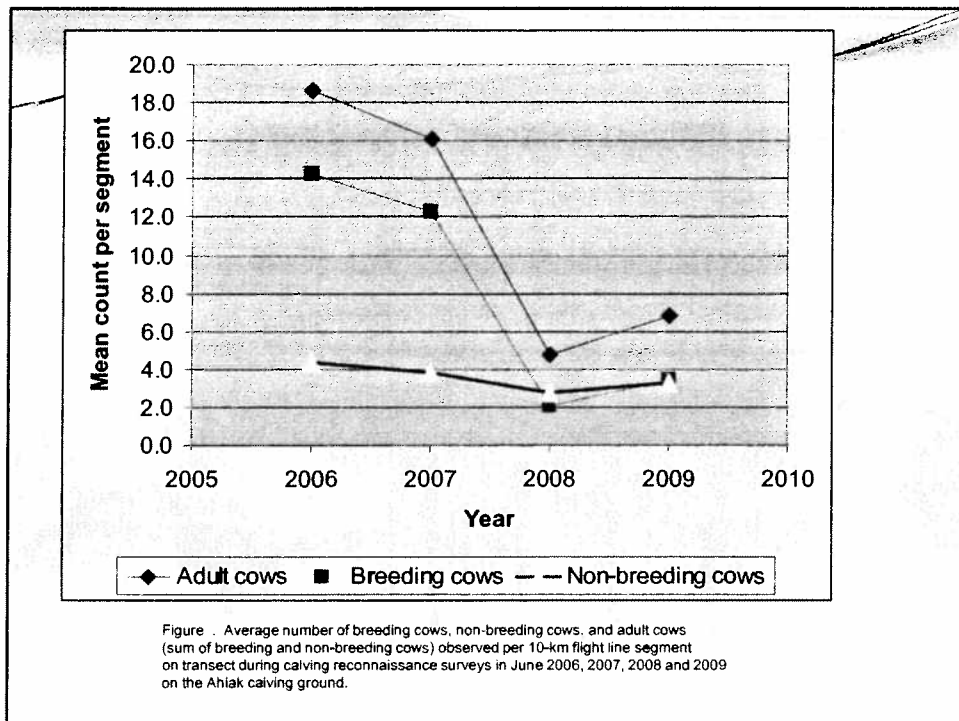


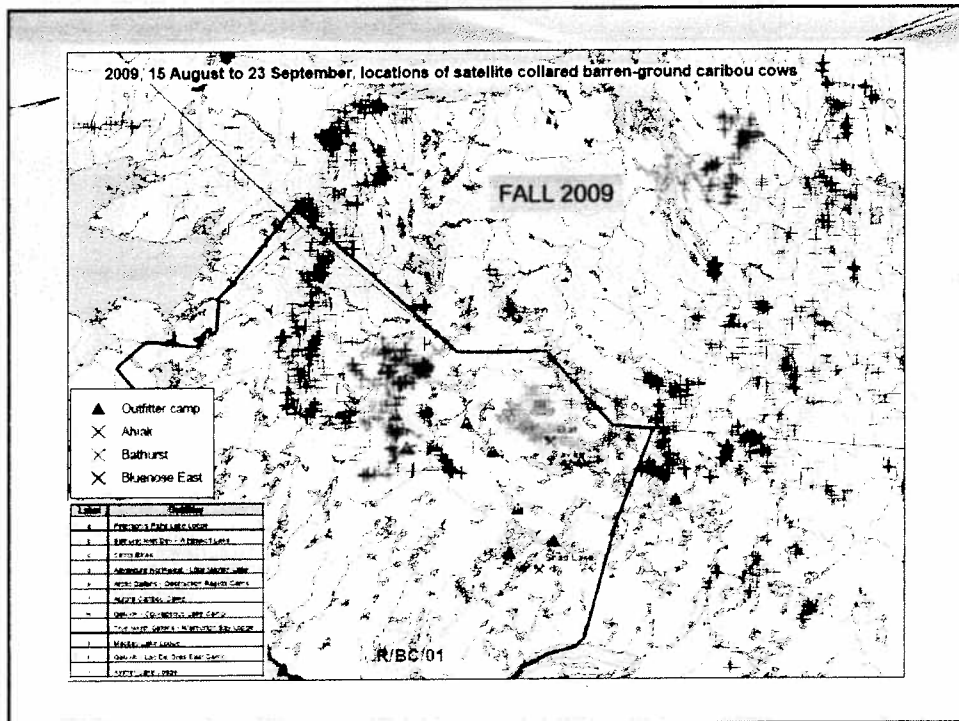
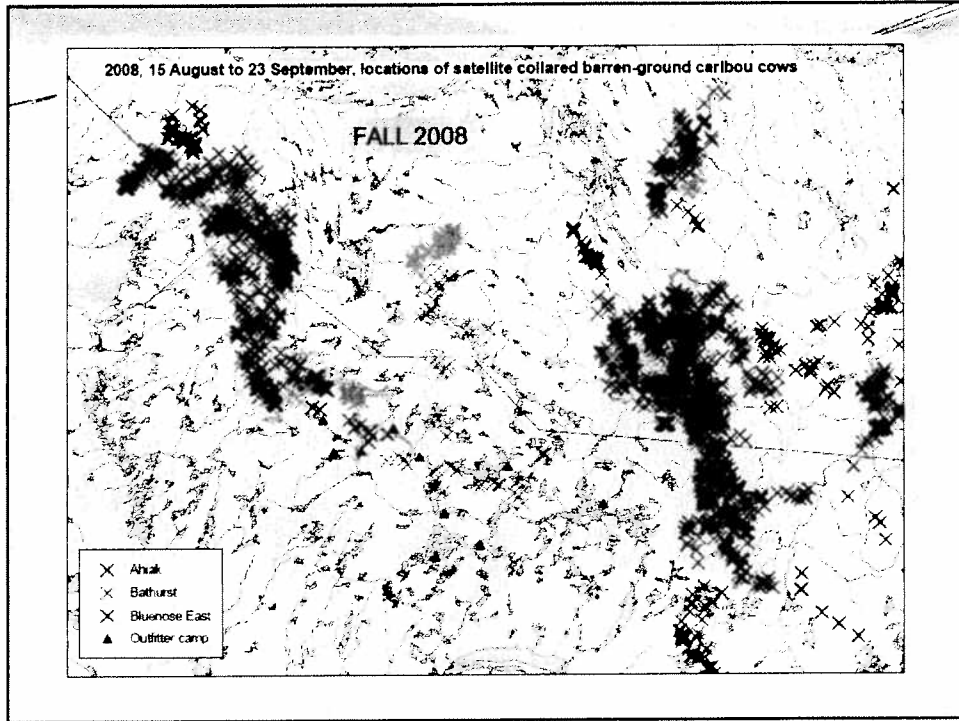


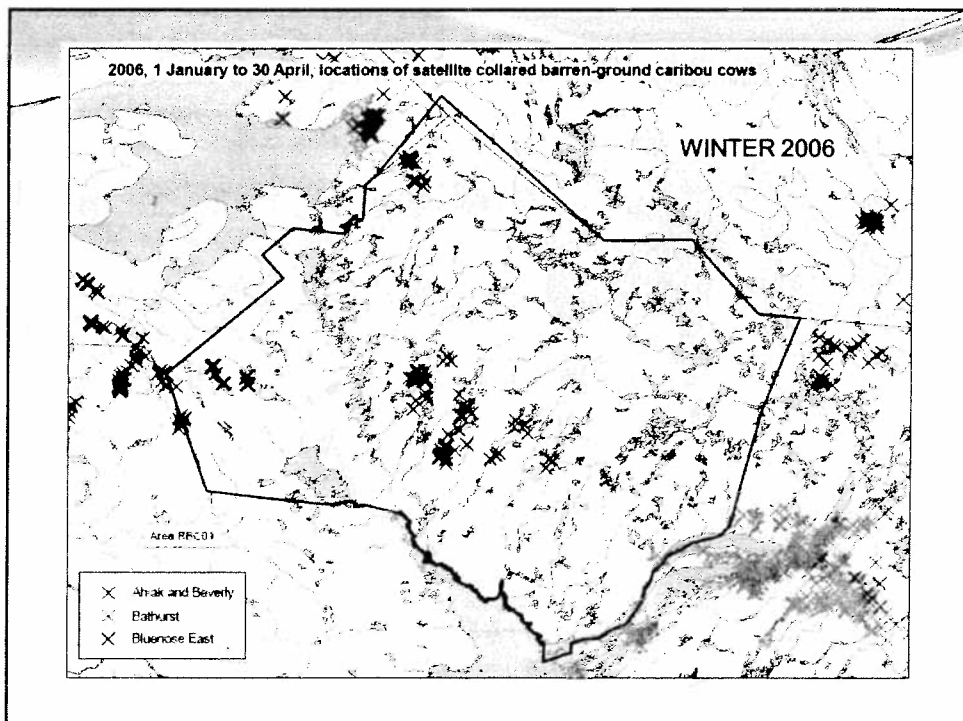
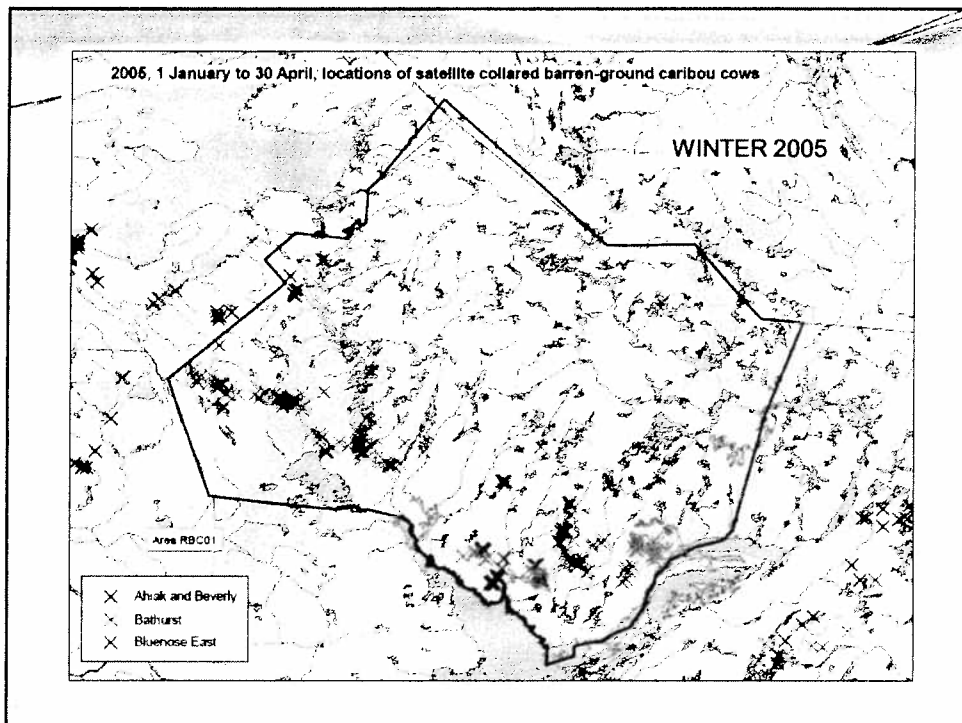


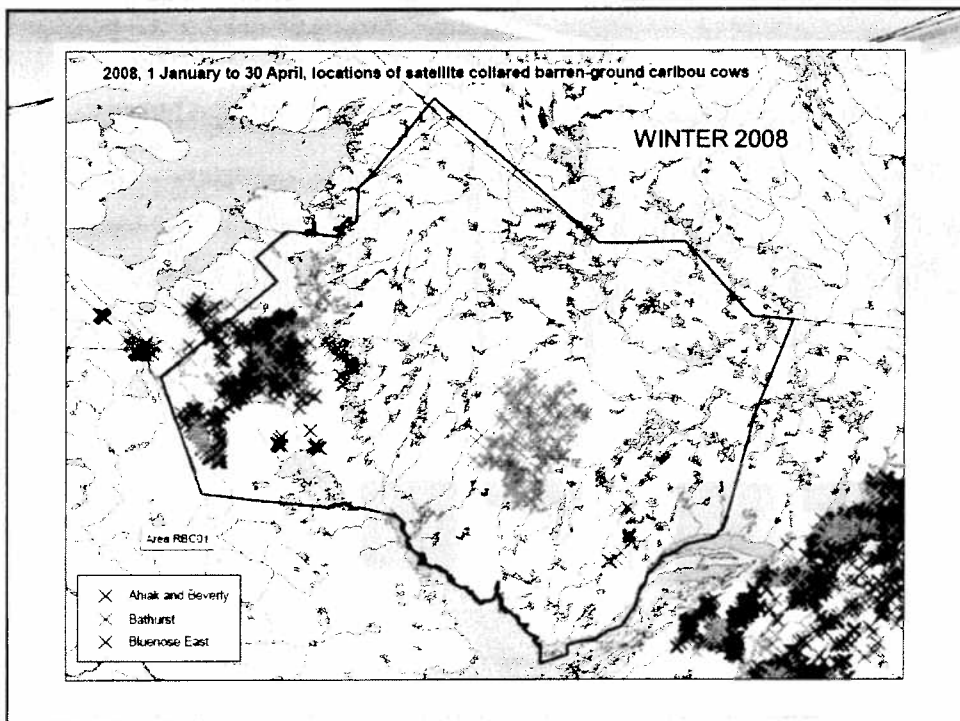
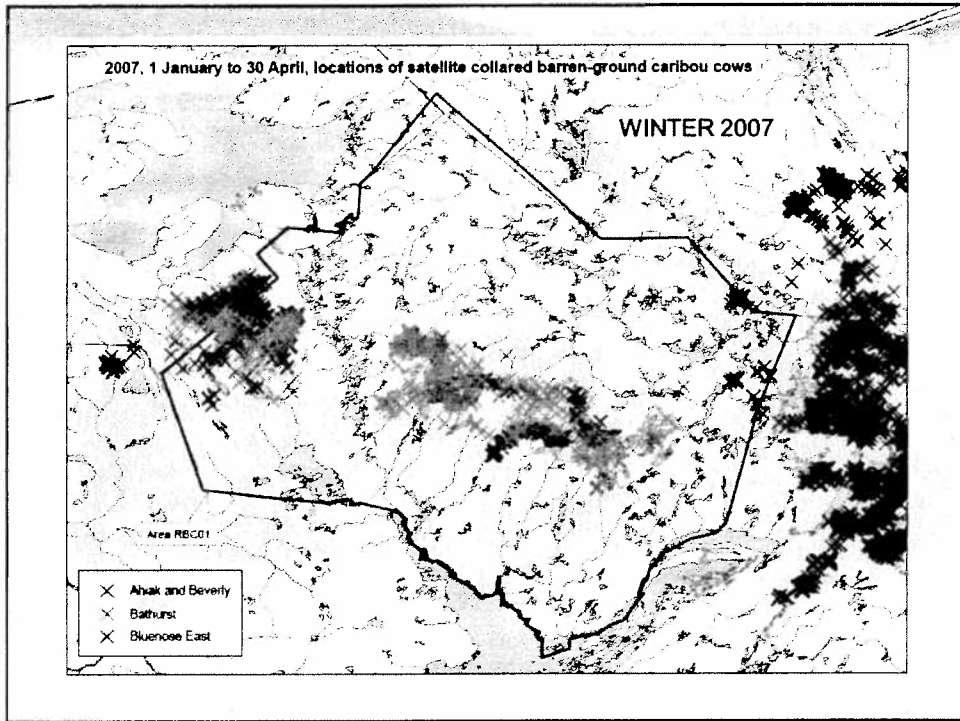


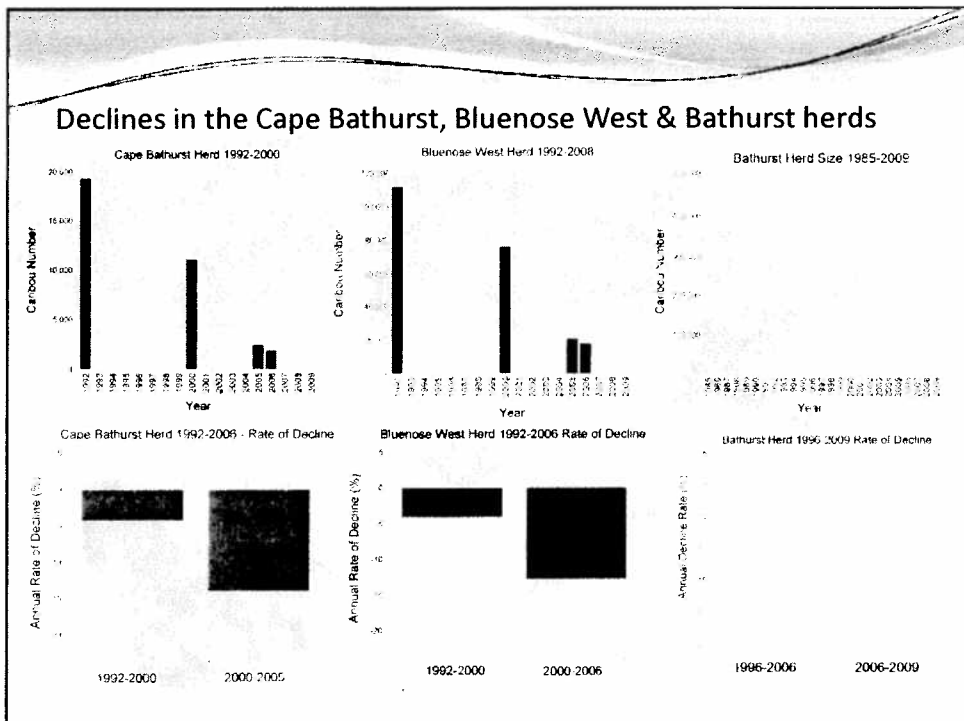
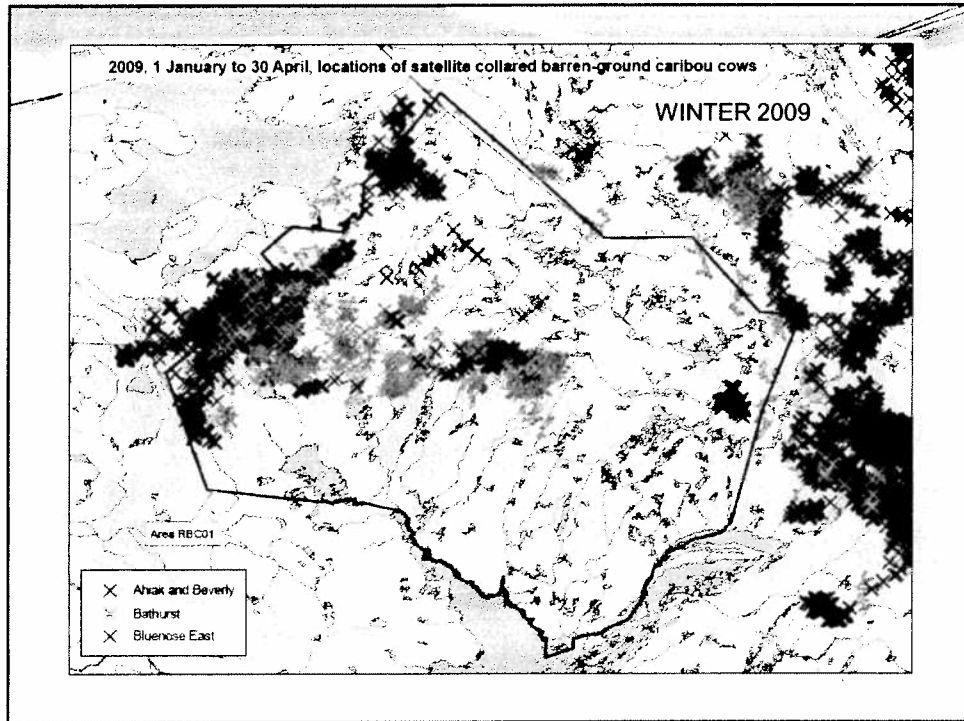






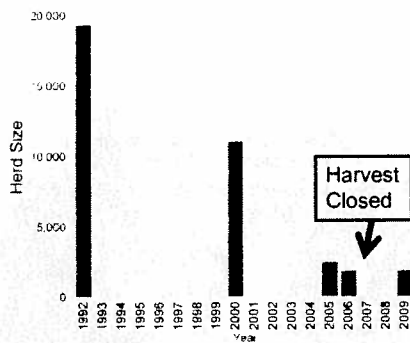




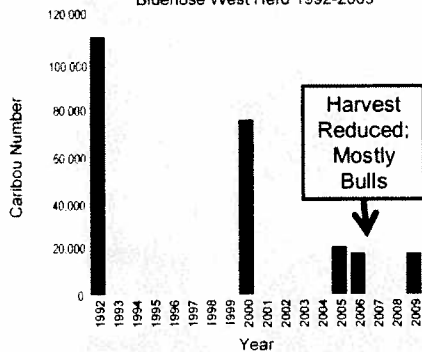


### Cape Bathurst & Bluenose West Herds: Harvest Management

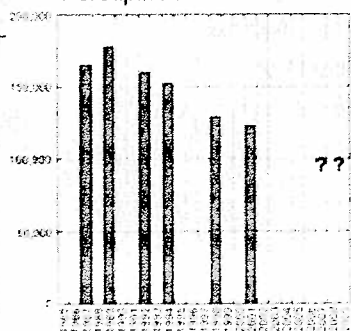
Cape Bathurst Herd 1992-2009



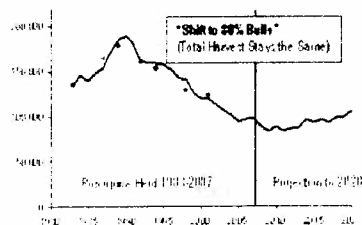
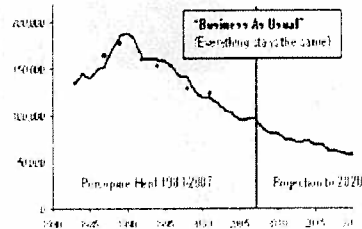
Bluenose West Herd 1992-2009

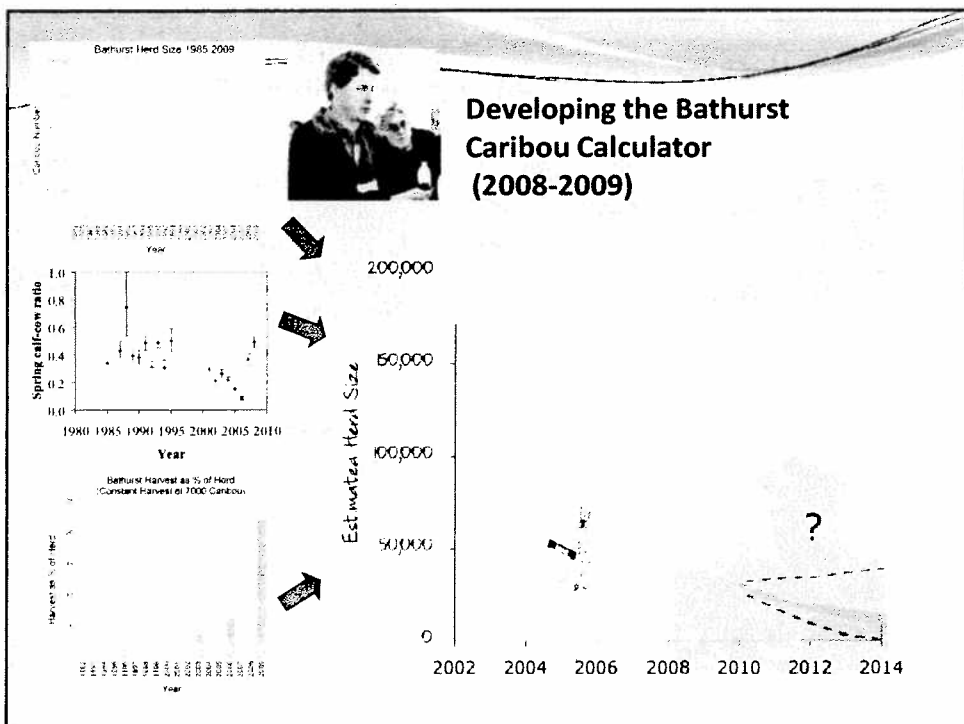
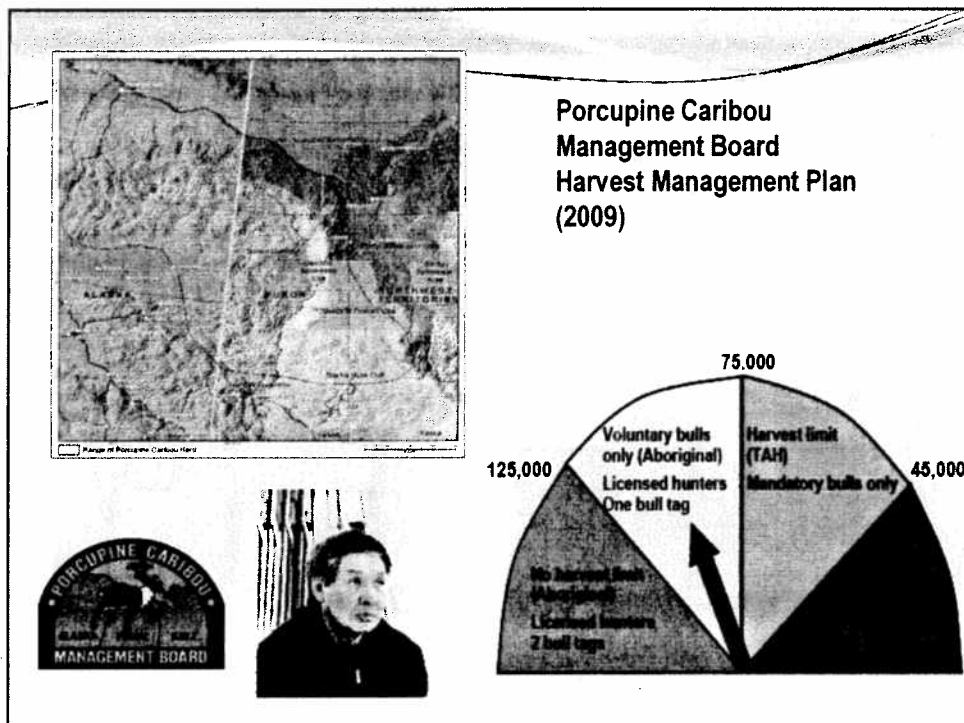


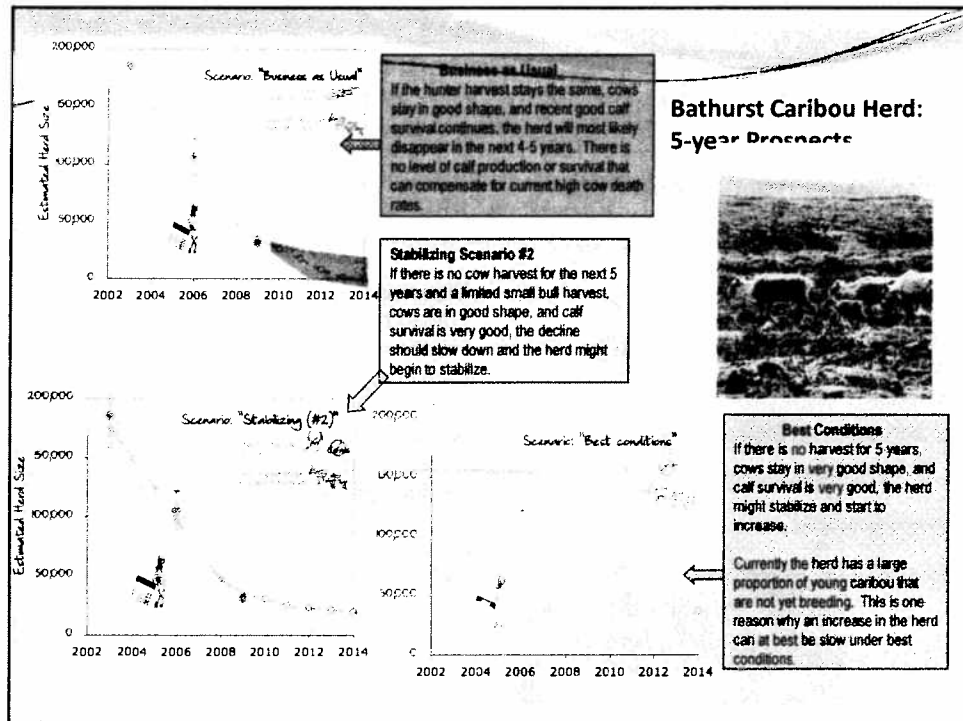
Porcupine Herd 1985-2009



Porcupine Caribou Calculator







### Bathurst Caribou – Management

1. Bathurst June 2009 survey – rapid decline
2. Workshops, Meetings, Information Sharing. July – Dec. 2009 (on-going)
3. Joint Management Proposal (TliCho & GNWT) Oct. 30, 2009
4. (Likely) Renewable Resources Board Hearings Dec. 2009
5. Consultation with all partners, aboriginal governments – November

#### Bathurst Herd Size 1985-2009

Year	Caribou Number
1985	450,000
1986	350,000
1987	300,000
1988	250,000
1989	200,000
1990	150,000
1991	100,000
1992	80,000
1993	70,000
1994	60,000
1995	50,000
1996	40,000
1997	35,000
1998	30,000
1999	25,000
2000	20,000
2001	15,000
2002	10,000
2003	8,000
2004	7,000
2005	6,000
2006	5,000
2007	4,000
2008	3,000
2009	2,000

## Joint ENR/Tlicho Proposal

### All herds in North & South Slave (Tlicho Government and ENR)

- Commercial meat sales**
- Eliminate
- Non-resident hunters (outfitted)**
- Eliminate
- Resident hunters (non-Aboriginal)**
- Eliminate



### General Hunting Licence Holders (ENR only)

- Bluenose-East**
- Tags only – primarily bulls
  - reassess in fall 2010 when new herd estimate obtained
- Bathurst**
- Limited bulls only - tags
  - Mobile protection zones
- Ahlik**
- Tags only – primarily bulls
  - Reassess in fall 2010 when new herd estimate obtained

## Proposed Emergency Measures

### All herds in North & South Slave

- Commercial meat sales**
- Eliminate
- Non-resident hunters (outfitted)**
- Eliminate
- Resident hunters (non-Aboriginal)**
- Eliminate



### General Hunting Licence Holders

- Bluenose-East**
- ~~Tags only – primarily bulls~~
  - ~~reassess in fall 2010 when new herd estimate obtained~~
- Bathurst**
- ~~Limited bulls only – tags~~
  - ~~Mobile protection zone - no hunting~~
- Ahlik**
- ~~Tags only – primarily bulls~~
  - ~~Reassess in fall 2010 when new herd estimate obtained~~
- Wood Bison**
- Increase access for Aboriginal hunters to address hardships from reduced access to caribou

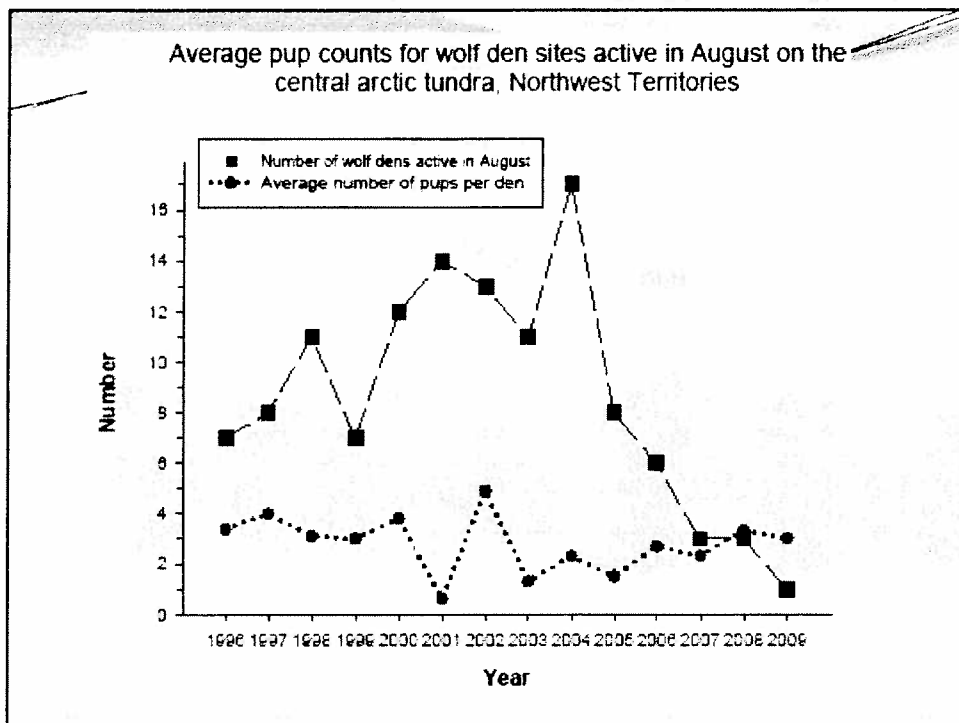
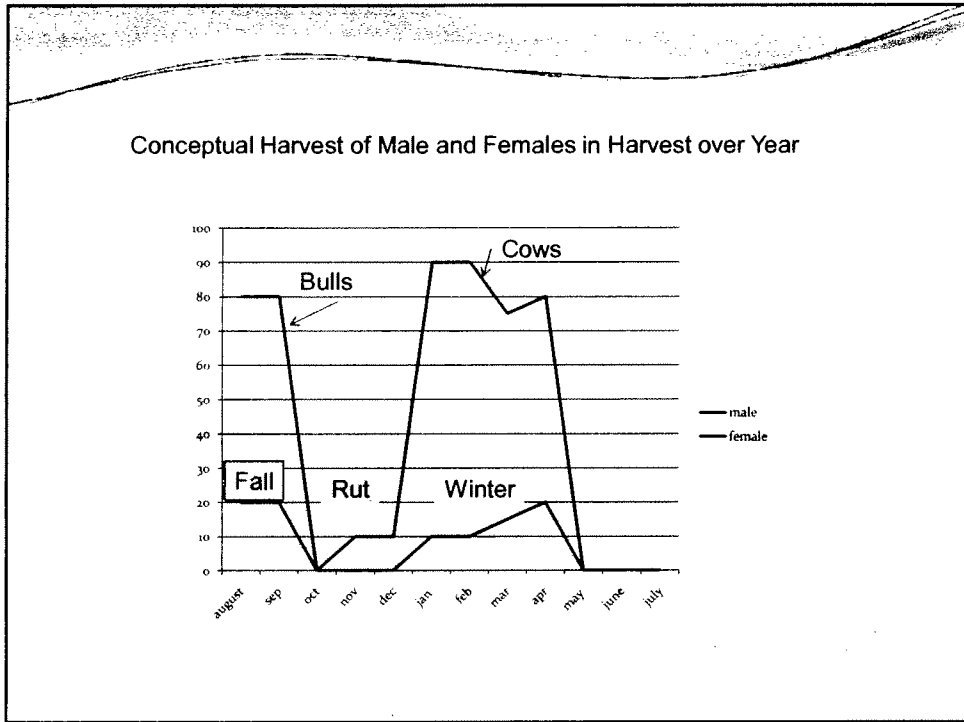


Figure . Map showing flight lines over the calving ground of the Ahlak herd in 2006 (D. Johnson, ENR, unpublished data). The squares are 10-km segments along flight lines. Red squares had at least 10 breeding cows per square km (high density), yellow squares had 1-9.9 breeding cows per square km (medium density), green squares had less than 1 breeding cows per square km, and white squares had no breeding cows.



## Attachment

### ENR Actions on Caribou Management Priorities from the Caribou Summit in 2007:

1. Calving ground protection – GNWT has advocated for zero development activity on all NWT calving grounds, and raised the subject of protecting Nunavut's calving grounds with the Nunavut Minister. Our understanding is no land use permits have been issued for either Territory for exploration or development activities during calving season.
2. Harvest Reduction. In concert with co-management boards, GNWT implemented closure of all harvest of the Cape Bathurst herd and harvest reduction with at least 80 percent bulls for the Bluenose West herd. Surveys in 2009 indicate that these two herds are showing signs of stabilizing after rapid declines before 2006. GNWT has proposed the elimination of cow harvest and limitation of bull harvest for the Bathurst herd after its rapid decline in 2006-2009. The GNWT is also implementing interim emergency measures to protect the Herd.
3. Harvest Reporting – working with co-management boards, GNWT has worked toward the use of tags and harvest reporting for the Bluenose-West herd, and has proposed mandatory harvest reporting for the Bathurst herd.
4. Implement cumulative impact monitoring program. GNWT has worked with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada on their cumulative effects programs, including a workshop in February 2008, on modeling cumulative effects in the range of the Bathurst caribou herd. The GNWT held a workshop in October 2009, to review and improve wildlife monitoring programs at the diamond mines in the Bathurst range.
5. Elders and harvesters on wildlife patrols. GNWT has increased the extent of participation of wildlife surveys and field programs throughout the NWT in recent years.
6. Cut resident, outfitting and commercial harvest including sale of caribou meat. Following recommendations of co-management boards, GNWT implemented closure of all resident, outfitting and commercial caribou harvest in the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement areas in 2006. The GNWT has proposed jointly with the Tłı̨chǫ Government, that all resident, outfitting and commercial harvest be closed in the range of the Bathurst herd. The GNWT is implementing Interim emergency measures are being considered to protect the Bathurst and neighbouring herds from resident, outfitting and commercial harvest.
7. Information on disease to public: GNWT has on-going programs to monitor health and disease status in NWT wildlife, including caribou and will continue to provide information on wildlife disease to the public.





JUN 17 2008

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

### **Species at Risk Legislation - Public Consultation Document**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is planning to introduce legislation to manage and protect species at risk in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Consultation has been an important component in developing this legislation. Over the years, ENR has met with Aboriginal governments and organizations, resident hunters and other stakeholders to ensure their views were considered in developing the legislation. Most recently, the Department has worked closely with land claim organizations to ensure the approach proposed for species at risk management in the NWT respects and fully integrates the roles and responsibilities of the wildlife co-management boards.

This document outlines the major elements proposed for a new NWT Species at Risk Act and reflects input from earlier consultation sessions. I encourage you to review the document and provide us with your comments. Meetings will be held in all regions during June and July to provide an opportunity for organizations and the public to raise their views. Meetings will be advertised locally. All comments received by August 1, 2008 will be considered as a draft Bill is prepared for introduction into the Legislative Assembly in the fall of 2008.

If you would like to meet with a departmental representative to discuss the document, please contact Ms. Susan Fleck, Director, Wildlife Division at 867-920-8043.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister

Enclosure





# North Slave Metis Alliance – Response to Proposed SAR legislation Yellowknife, July 3, 2008

In attendance: Sheryl Grieves  
Claudia Haas

---

## **Introduction:**

Lynda Yonge, Manager, Wildlife Management Support, presented background information on:

- why a NWT *Species at Risk Act* is needed;
- how the proposed NWT *Species at Risk Act* was developed;
- the process of consultation that has taken place to date; and
- how this *Act* differs from the *federal Species at Risk Act*.

Lynda Yonge also outlined the process that will be taken once the draft legislation is tabled in the Legislative Assembly and responded to questions and comments. Linda Todd took the notes.

## **Comments/Questions/Concerns and Discussion:**

- **Wolverine population is an issue for NSMA**

### Response

Currently wolverine is not considered a species at risk in the NWT, although it is of concern in the south.

- **Does the impact of climate change fall under this legislation?**

### Response

- If the threat is non-human, it may be possible to take human actions that can make a difference.

- **Discussion about what is a native species (bison re-introduced vs deer)**

### Response

- Bison are a native species therefore would fall under the proposed SAR Act, deer are not native species, so a small population of deer doesn't fall under the Act.

- **Habitat – Would all eskers or just specific eskers fall under habitat protection?**

### Response

- Designated habitat is geographically referenced, therefore must be a specific area; for example, calving grounds, and these could be specific to certain times of the year.

- Activities must fit the criteria of activities that won't harm the species to be allowed in designated habitat

➤ **Habitat Designation for Land in Dispute**

Response

- Would apply first to public land, then private land
- Compensation may be available

➤ **Example of a Building Used by Peregrine Falcon for Nesting**

Response

- Could not remove building while peregrine falcons were nesting.

➤ **Responsibility of Minister regarding Land and Water Board Decisions**

Response

- Minister obligated to make a statement about the impact of proposed activity on the species and recommend what, if any, restrictions and conditions should be made.
- Intention is to ensure the requested activity can be undertaken without causing more harm to either habitat or species.

➤ **What if Land or Water Board disagrees with Minister and issues license**

Response

- Agreements are in place with federal government
- Possible to present to Minister, Environment Canada and ask for protection under the federal Species at Risk Act which could overrule a Land or Water Board decision that does not fit within the intention of not causing more harm to either species or habitat

➤ **How would Devolution or Provincial Status Affect the Status of the SAR Act?**

Response

- SAR Act would become paramount to other GNWT legislation regarding land.

➤ **Responsibilities for Defining a Management Plan?**

Response

- Management plan/recovery strategy makes recommendations
- Conference makes commitment as to their area(s) of responsibility

➤ **Penalties – Are the Corporation Penalties High Enough?**

Response

- Will review to see if the penalties are in line with similar legislation.

- Possible to charge for each species and an amount per day of each offense.

➤ **What about accidental shooting of a species at risk?**

Response

- Would be a matter for the Court to decide about culpability.

➤ **When would the proposed SAR Act come into Force?**

Response

- About one year.

➤ **Is Federal Species at Risk Act in Use Until this Act Comes into Force?**

Response

- Yes; the territorial Act will apply to species not listed at the national level.

➤ **Will Hybrids/Species Interbreeding be Considered under the SAR Act?**

Response

- If only 1 or 2 animals, unlikely this Act would come into play.

➤ **Do Beavers, Amphibians and Reptiles Fall Under the proposed SAR Act?**

Response

- All do. Fish and marine mammals (defined by the Fisheries Act) fall under federal fisheries.

➤ **How Is it Determined if the Extinction is a Natural Process?**

Response

- Act tempered by “if recovery not feasible” and the need to identify the reasons why this is so in a public statement; an example would be the Eskimo curlew.
- Legislation provides for unusual circumstances and a case by case basis.
- Committee would have species experts discuss the circumstances and present a status report.

➤ **How Does this Act Tie into Protected Areas Strategy?**

Response

- Not directly.

➤ **Conference Structure?**

Response

- The conference will change according to species and geographic area, however all members participate in administrative aspects.
- Policies and Procedures will be developed.

➤ **Support for the Conference?**

Response

- Role of the Secretariat is to support Conference participants and bring them together to reach agreement.

➤ **Would Support be Forthcoming for Participation by the North Slave Metis Alliance?**

**Concern was expressed about already high workloads, the reliance on proposal funding and the importance of meaningful participation by North Slave Metis Alliance**

Response

- Minister appoints members
- Suggestion to put these concerns in writing
- Legislation cannot proceed without an appropriation allocated to cover costs associated with the Secretariat and SARC members

NOV 11 2008

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

### Draft Action Plan on Boreal Woodland Caribou Conservation in the NWT

In the fall of 2005, Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) released a public consultation document and held meetings with wildlife co-management boards and in almost every community in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to identify threats to boreal caribou in the NWT. ENR is now releasing a draft *Action Plan for Boreal Woodland Caribou Conservation in the Northwest Territories* for public review. Twenty-three specific actions are identified in the Action Plan to address threats and help conserve boreal caribou.

ENR would like to hear the opinions and advice of the wildlife co-management boards, Aboriginal Governments, community residents, stakeholders and the public on the draft plan. In particular we are looking for comments on:

- *Are these goals appropriate for the conservation of boreal caribou in the NWT?*
- *Do these actions address the threats facing boreal caribou in the NWT?*
- *Which actions are the highest priority to conserve boreal caribou?*
- *Which actions are most important to address immediately?*

Please send your comments on the Action Plan to:

Susan Fleck – Director  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320, 5th Floor Scotia Centre  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
Tel: (867) 920-8043  
Fax: (867) 873-0293  
E-mail: [speciesatrisk\\_borealcaribou@gov.nt.ca](mailto:speciesatrisk_borealcaribou@gov.nt.ca)  
Visit: [www.nwtwildlife.com](http://www.nwtwildlife.com)

Comments must be received by **December 31, 2008**. In 2009 ENR will finalize the Action Plan and make it public.

.../2



-2-

I look forward to hearing from you. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact your ENR Regional Biologist or myself at 867-920-8043.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "SFleck".

Susan Fleck  
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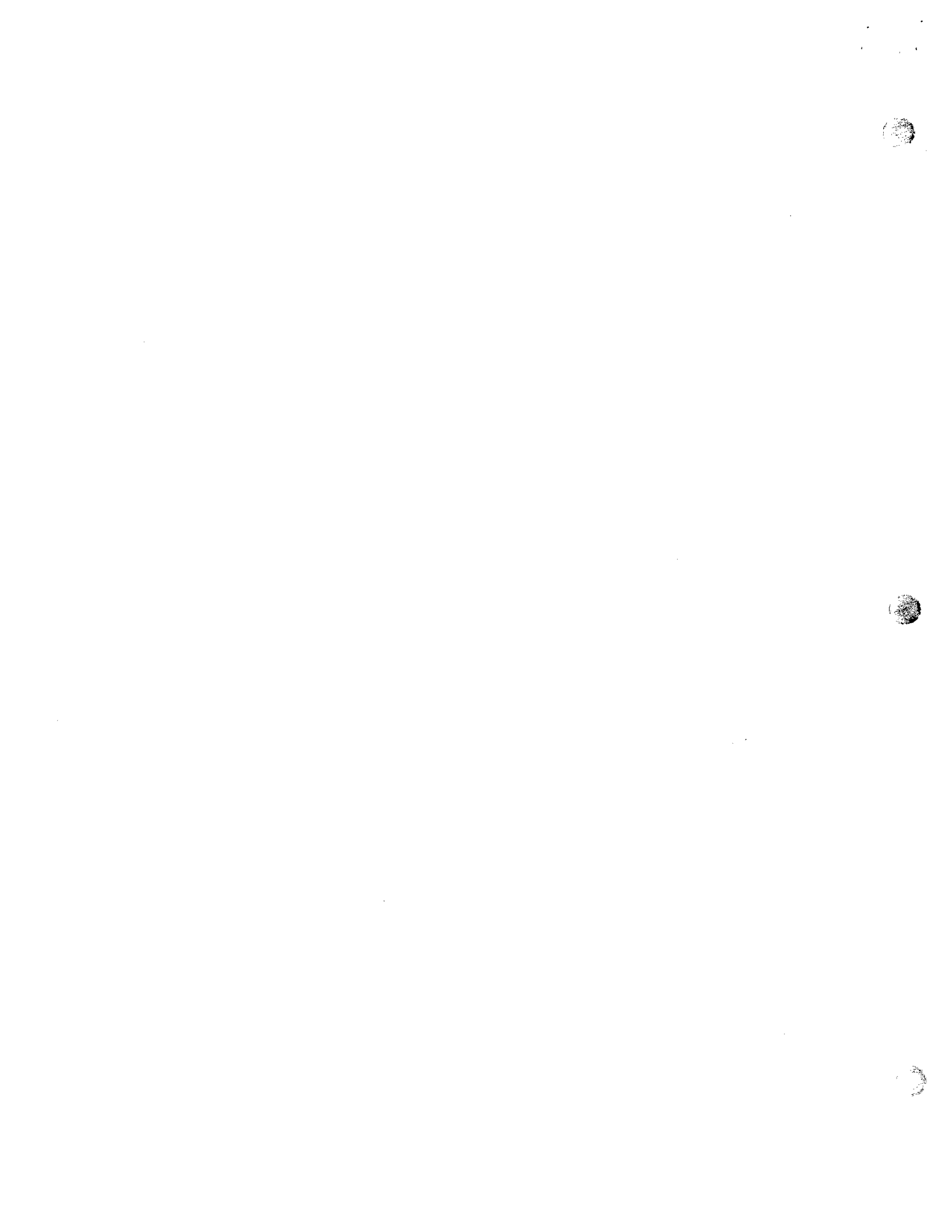
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JAN 15 2009

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

### **Draft Wood Bison Management Strategy for the Northwest Territories, 2009-2019**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has prepared a draft management strategy for wood bison in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The purpose of the strategy is to provide long-term vision and guidance for the recovery of wood bison in the NWT. The draft management strategy outlines the general goals and direction for wood bison management.

The draft management strategy is now ready for public review and comment. We would like to hear your opinion. In particular we would like to know your opinion on the following:

- Are the goals appropriate for the management of wood bison in the NWT?
- Have all the challenges been identified?
- Which key strategies are the highest priorities to manage wood bison?
- Which key strategies are most important to address immediately?

Please send your comments on the draft management strategy by **March 13, 2009** to:

Ms. Susan Fleck, Director  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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P.O. BOX 1320  
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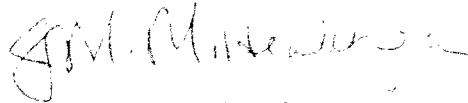
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-2-

I look forward to hearing from you. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact your ENR Regional Biologist or Ms. Susan Fleck.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Michael Miltenberger".

J. Michael Miltenberger

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Chief Leon Lafferty  
Community Government of BEHCHOKO  
PO BOX 8  
RAE NT X0E 0Y0

Ms. Marie Lafferty  
President  
Fort Simpson Metis Local #52  
PO BOX 408  
FORT SIMPSON NT X0E 0N0

Chief Charlie Nitiza  
Community Government of Wha Ti  
PO BOX 92  
WHA TI NT X0E 1P0

A/Chief Louis Balsillie  
Deninu K'ue First Nations  
PO BOX 1899  
FORT RESOLUTION NT X0E 0M0

Chief Fred Daniels  
Smith's Landing First Nation  
BOX 1470  
FORT SMITH NT X0E 0P0

Ms. Rachel Crapeau  
Director  
Lands Management  
Yellowknives Dene Nation  
PO BOX 2514  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P8

Chief Frieda Martselos  
Salt River First Nation 195  
BOX 960  
FORT SMITH NT X0E 0P0

Chief Edward Sangris  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)  
BOX 2514  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P8

Chief Fred Sangris  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndilo)  
BOX 2514  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P8

Mr. North Douglas  
President  
Rae-Edzo Metis Local #64  
PO BOX 35  
BEHCHOKO NT X0E 0Y0

Mr. Dana Cross  
Acting President  
Hay River Metis Local #51  
SUITE #1, 8 GAGNIER ST  
HAY RIVER NT X0E 1G1

Mr. Ken Hudson  
President  
Fort Smith Metis Council  
PO BOX 1107  
FORT SMITH NT X0E 0P0



Northwest  
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

SEP 17 2009

Mr. Bill Enge  
President  
North Slave Metis Alliance  
PO BOX 2301  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P7

Fax: 1-867-669-7442

Dear Mr. Enge: *Bill*

**NWT Wildlife Act Elders Workshop October 15-16, 2009 Inuvik, NT**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is developing a new Wildlife Act. The new Act will embrace our unique approach to wildlife conservation in the Northwest Territories (NWT) by respecting and recognizing Aboriginal and Treaty harvesting rights and fully integrating the role and responsibilities of the wildlife co-management boards and processes established under land claims agreements. As most hunters in the NWT are Aboriginal, part of the ongoing process to develop the new Wildlife Act co-operatively will be hosting a NWT Wildlife Act Elders Workshop.

The objective of the workshop is to discuss common traditional values relating to wildlife to provide a foundation for the new Act. The workshop would also obtain elders' views on ethical issues such as wastage and hunter education. All information gathered will be used as per the TK policy in existence by each respective Aboriginal Organization. A second workshop is proposed for April or May 2010 to report back on how traditional values and practices will be reflected in the new Act.

Environment and Natural Resources invites your organization to identify elders to participate in the NWT Wildlife Act Elders Workshop on October 15-16, 2009 in Inuvik, NT. As funding is limited, ENR can cover the cost for 1 delegate. You are welcome to send additional delegates. However, ENR will not be able to cover these costs.

.../2





If you have questions, please contact Mr. Norman Snowshoe at (867)873-7482 or [norman\\_snowshoe@gov.nt.ca](mailto:norman_snowshoe@gov.nt.ca). ENR will be hiring a contractor to assist with setting up travel and accommodation for the delegates. It would be appreciated if delegate names could be provided to Mr. Snowshoe before October 2, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Michael Miltenberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister

c. Mr. Norman Snowshoe, Aboriginal Liaison, ENR



**Wildlife Act Elders Workshop  
Information on Cost Recovery**

ENR will cover the following costs for delegates to the Wildlife Act Elders Workshop:

- Travel and accommodation - will be booked through ENR conference contractor, who will contact your organization, once delegates are identified.
- Honoraria - \$200 per day for meeting days. \$100 per travel day. \$100 for ½ day to prepare for meeting and \$100 for ½ day to report on meeting to Aboriginal organizations.
- Per Diems - will be consistent with GNWT duty travel rate as below

**MEALS & ACCOMMODATION (taxes included)**

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Claim Allowance Effective April 1, 2009</b>
<b>Non-Commercial Accommodation</b>	Where employees make private arrangements for overnight accommodation.	\$50.00 per night
<b>Meals</b>	breakfast	\$16.65
	lunch	\$17.75
	dinner	\$53.05
<b>Meals Total</b>	Meal allowance total	\$87.45
<b>Incidentals</b>	Incidental allowance	\$17.30
<b>Daily Total</b>	Meals and incidentals total	\$104.75

- Travel by personal vehicle as per GNWT duty travel rate as below

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Claim Allowance as of July 1, 2009</b>
<b>Private Car Kilometric Rates</b>	Where the use of a privately owned car is authorized for the individual's rather than the Employer's convenience.	\$0.280 / km



OCT 22 2009

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

### **A New Wildlife Act for the Northwest Territories**

As you may be aware, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has been working for several years on the development of a new Wildlife Act for the Northwest Territories (NWT). The intent is to prepare legislation that reflects a northern approach and recognizes the majority of wildlife users in the NWT are Aboriginal.

The current process for drafting the Wildlife Act is similar to the one used to draft the *Species at Risk Act (NWT)*.

A Wildlife Act Working Group has been established with members from the four land claims groups, four wildlife co-management boards, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation and the Dehcho First Nations to work collaboratively in drafting the new legislation. All the information from the working group meetings is being provided to the Akaitcho Territory Government.

This process ensures Aboriginal rights set out under land claim agreements, treaties and the Constitution and the wildlife management provisions in land claim agreements are incorporated.

The attached information sheet, produced by the working group, outlines the purpose, values, principles, approach and engagement and consultation process for the development of the new Wildlife Act.

I encourage you to review this document and provide your input, questions or concerns to the GNWT.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister

Attachment





# A New *Wildlife Act* for the Northwest Territories



CONSERVING WILDLIFE

## Introduction

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is developing a new *Wildlife Act*. The new legislation will embrace our unique approach to wildlife conservation in the Northwest Territories. It will respect and recognize Aboriginal and treaty harvesting rights and fully integrate the role and responsibilities of the wildlife co-management boards and processes established under land claim agreements. This document outlines the process for developing the Act and key foundations.

## Purpose

The purpose of the new *Wildlife Act* is to enact legislation that is comprehensible, enforceable and respectful of Aboriginal and treaty harvesting rights. The fundamental principles underlying the legislation will be the conservation (wise use and protection) of wildlife.

The new Act will provide tools to:

- Protect and conserve healthy populations of wildlife throughout the NWT.
- Recognize and support the exercise of Aboriginal, treaty and land claim beneficiary rights to harvest and use wildlife.
- Support and implement wildlife management processes established in land claim agreements and strengthen regional and local management.
- Promote and support the co-operative management of wildlife where wildlife resources are shared among wildlife co-management boards established under land claim agreements and with other jurisdictions.
- Be respectful of how wildlife is treated.
- Manage human activities that affect wildlife.
- Encourage involvement in wildlife management and promote stewardship of wildlife and wildlife habitat by all residents of the NWT.
- Recognize the hunting heritage in the NWT and encourage continued wise use of wildlife.

## Traditional Values

The new *Wildlife Act* will be based on a fundamental respect for wildlife. It will incorporate traditional values as the majority of harvesters in the NWT are Aboriginal. Land claims and self-government agreements provide a foundation for how wildlife management is undertaken in the NWT. An example of this type of approach can be found in the new Nunavut *Wildlife Act*, which is based on Inuit principles that promote the Inuit approach to wildlife management.

## Provide Your Input

We invite you to send any comments, questions or concerns about the new *Wildlife Act* by fax, mail or e-mail by December 15, 2009, to:

Susan Fleck, Director  
Wildlife Division  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the NWT  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Phone: (867) 920-8064  
Fax: (867) 873-0293  
E-mail: [wildlife@gov.nt.ca](mailto:wildlife@gov.nt.ca)



CONSERVING WILDLIFE



Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources

## Principles

Principles to guide wildlife management, such as those found in land claim agreements, will be included. Principles addressing the responsibilities and obligations of wildlife management authorities, such as those found in the Nunavut *Wildlife Act*, will also be included.

## Collaborative Approach

In areas of the NWT where there are settled land claim agreements, the responsibility for managing wildlife is shared between the GNWT, the wildlife co-management boards established under land claim agreements and the Tlicho Government, where Tlicho lands are concerned.

In areas where land claims are not yet settled, the GNWT has an obligation to consult with anyone who has Aboriginal and treaty rights to ensure wildlife management actions do not infringe on those rights.

ENR is using a collaborative process to develop the new legislation. All wildlife co-management boards established under land claim agreements and Aboriginal governments have been invited to participate in the process. Participants to date include the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, the Tlicho Government and the Northwest Territory Metis Nation.

## Engagement and Consultation Process

The GNWT carried out extensive consultations on developing a new Act between 1999 and 2003. Valuable input was received and the results of that consultation are being considered during this process. ENR will continue to seek input from special interest groups such as outfitters, resident hunters, industry, land management agencies and members of the public during the development process.

In addition to this document, there will be two rounds of consultation:

- Spring 2010 – Meetings and focus sessions will be held following the release of a public document outlining the main elements of the bill.
- Fall 2010 – Meetings and focus sessions will be held following the release of draft legislation and a plain language document describing the legislation.

The intent is to introduce the draft bill into the Legislative Assembly during the winter session of 2011.

OCT 23 2009

Mr. Bill Enge  
President  
North Slave Métis Alliance  
BOX 2301  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P7

Dear Mr. Enge:

**Bathurst Caribou Decline**

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) completed a Bathurst calving ground photo census in June 2009. The results of this survey confirmed that the Bathurst caribou herd has declined at an accelerated rate. The population of the herd is estimated at 31,897 caribou. ENR Staff would like to visit your community to discuss these results to obtain guidance in managing the herd to assist in its recovery. ENR Minister Miltenberger has stated "tough decisions will have to be made for the herd to recover". In this regard we would like to discuss with your community:

- the potential reduction of commercial tags, outfitter tags, resident tags and aboriginal harvest;
- the potential of a bull only harvest or harvesting of other herds;
- the need to increase monitoring and compliance; and
- the need to increase information of caribou to the communities.

Please contact either Mr. Lance Schmidt, Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR, at (867) 920-6114, e-mail: [Lance\\_Schmidt@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lance_Schmidt@gov.nt.ca), Mr. Bruno Croft at (867) 920-6265, e-mail: [Bruno\\_Croft@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Bruno_Croft@gov.nt.ca), or Mr. Fred Mandeville at (867) 920-7019, e-mail [Fred\\_J\\_Mandeville@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Fred_J_Mandeville@gov.nt.ca) to let us know if you will be able to provide us with a date to visit you in November.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister





## **Other Métis Organizations Correspondence and Consultation**





NORTHWEST TERRITORY MÉTIS NATION

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HAY RIVER, NT  
OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2009

Resolution # 4

**Suspend Caribou Harvesting and Request for Government Action**

WHEREAS the caribou herds throughout the circumpolar north are experiencing a radical population decline;

AND WHEREAS the NWTMN are stewards of renewable resources such as caribou;

AND WHEREAS human activity including harvesting, mining development and environmental effects may be a cause of the decline in caribou populations;

WHEREAS the NWTMN is concerned about the rapid decline in the caribou population;

WHEREAS this Assembly is concerned that Government is not responding proactively to address the caribou crisis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The NWTMN encourage NWTMN members to suspend all caribou harvesting due to conservation concerns until the caribou population increases to a sustainable level.
2. The NWTMN requests Government to take immediate and significant conservation measures to ensure the sustainability of the caribou population for future generations.

MOVED BY: Arthur Beck

SECONDED BY: Richard Mercredi

DISPOSITION: Carried Unanimously





Northwest  
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

NOV 20 2009

Ms. Betty Villebrun  
President  
Northwest Territory Métis Nation  
PO BOX 720  
FORT SMITH NT X0E 0P0

Dear Ms. Villebrun: *Betty*

**NWT Métis Nation Response to the Crisis of Declining Caribou Herds**

Thank you for your letter of October 28, 2009 regarding Resolution #4 to encourage NWT Métis Nation (NWTMN) members to suspend all caribou harvesting due to conservation concerns until caribou populations recover and requesting the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to take immediate and significant conservation measures. I would like to commend the NWTMN for taking this action and demonstrating leadership to ensure caribou for future generations.

With respect to immediate actions by the GNWT, a proposal prepared with the Tłı̨chǫ Government has been submitted to the Wek'èezhli Renewable Resources Board for management actions to conserve barren-ground caribou in the North Slave region (attached). The Board is expected to provide recommendations to both governments in February 2010 for review and implementation. The GNWT will also work with Aboriginal partners to begin a pro-active education campaign to ensure that all Northwest Territories (NWT) residents are aware of the current crisis with NWT caribou herds and actions that need to be taken.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Miltenberger

Attachment

- c. Grand Chief Joe Rabesca  
Tłı̨chǫ Government





OCT 23 2009

Mr. Garry Bailey  
President  
Fort Resolution Métis Council  
BOX 1921  
FORT RESOLUTION NT X0E 0M0

Dear Mr. Bailey:

**Bathurst Caribou Decline**

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) completed a Bathurst calving ground photo census in June 2009. The results of this survey confirmed that the Bathurst caribou herd has declined at an accelerated rate. The population of the herd is estimated at 31,897 caribou. ENR Staff would like to visit your community to discuss these results to obtain guidance in managing the herd to assist in its recovery. ENR Minister Miltenberger has stated "tough decisions will have to be made for the herd to recover". In this regard we would like to discuss with your community:

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- the need to increase monitoring and compliance; and
- the need to increase information of caribou to the communities.

Please contact either Mr. Lance Schmidt, Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR, at (867) 920-6114, e-mail: [Lance\\_Schmidt@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lance_Schmidt@gov.nt.ca), Mr. Bruno Croft at (867) 920-6265, e-mail: [Bruno\\_Croft@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Bruno_Croft@gov.nt.ca), or Mr. Fred Mandeville at (867) 920-7019, e-mail [Fred\\_J\\_Mandeville@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Fred_J_Mandeville@gov.nt.ca) to let us know if you will be able to provide us with a date to visit you in November.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister



OCT 23 2009

Mr. Albert Lafferty  
President  
Fort Providence Métis Council  
BOX 319  
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0

Dear Mr. Lafferty:

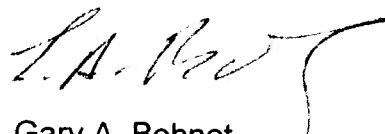
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Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister



OCT 23 2009

Ms. Betty Villebrun  
President  
Northwest Territories Métis Nation  
BOX 720  
FORT SMITH NT X0E 0P0

Dear Ms. Villebrun:

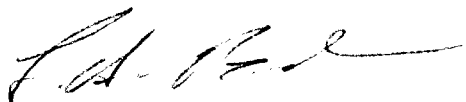
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Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister



OCT 23 2009

Mr. Ken Hudson  
President  
Fort Smith Métis Council  
BOX 1107  
FORT SMITH NT X0E 0P0

Dear Mr. Hudson:

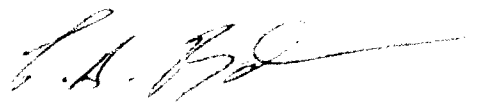
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Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister



OCT 23 2009

Mr. Albert Lafferty  
President  
Fort Providence Métis Council  
BOX 319  
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0

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Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister





OCT 23 2009

Mr. Paul Harrington  
President  
Hay River Metis Council  
10E GAGNE STREET  
HAY RIVER NT X0E 1G1

Dear Mr. Harrington:

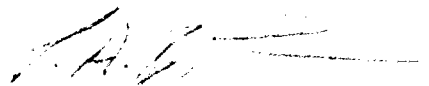
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Sincerely,



Gary A. Bohnet  
Deputy Minister







## NORTH SLAVE REGION CONSULTATION LOG

<b>DATE:</b> November 16, 2009	<b>TIME:</b>
<b>NAME:</b>	<b>COMPANY:</b> Fort Providence
	<b>PROJECT:</b> Bathurst Caribou
<b>ENR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:</b> Bruno Croff, Fred Mandeville	<b>PROGRAM TIME FRAME:</b>
<b>NOTES:</b> ENR requested a meeting with the people of Fort Providence in order to discuss the decline of Bathurst Caribou and obtain guidance in managing the herd to assist in its recovery.	
<b>ENR PRESENTATION:</b> ENR did a presentation on survey methods and results that were gathered June 3-12, 2009. The purpose of the survey was to estimate the number of breeding females in the Bathurst Caribou herd on the calving grounds (1986-2009). In addition, there were calculations of breeding cows (minus detailed statistics), estimations of Bathurst Herd size from breeding female numbers, and the overall population size. The total herd size is based on photo sensus, which is based on breeding cows and the ratio of cow/calf and cow/bull.	
<b>AUDIENCE COMMENTS:</b> As of three years ago when the decline started, we no longer support community hunts. What caused the decline? We would like to see a "no fly" zone during peak caribou seasons. What about the injured caribou? Are you doing anything about the caribou predators? The inexperienced hunters out there need to be educated. Is there any information on past declines? What would replace the caribou? And who will pay? Winter Road is narrow, only 200 meters. Why is the Reindeer number not affected? Fines should be increased for hunting infractions. Preserve the meat. Road kill should be salvaged and distributed. We would like a study on habitat, diseases, effect of pregnancy. Government has to step forward and do something now. Noise, pollutions (mine has 1 000 000 L of diesel), greenhouse gases. Contamination in lichen. Reduce noise levels. Need more communication, and information in aboriginal language.	

## **Draft Proceedings Summary**

**Bathurst Caribou Herd Community Meeting  
Deh Gah Gotie First Nation  
Fort Providence Metis Local  
Fort Providence, NT  
November 16, 2009**

10 community members attended

---

Opening Remarks: James Christie, representative of the Fort  
Providence Resource Management Board

- James commented 3 years ago the Fort Providence Resource Management Board became concerned about the declining numbers of the herd and decided it would be irresponsible to continue their community harvest. FPRMB did not seek publicity for this decision but should have.

### **Comments and questions following review of the June 2009 survey:**

1. Question: what do you attribute the decline to?

ENR response: For the most part it is a natural cycle - poor conditions of animals; poor pregnancy rates; environment/climate. When the herd gets lower in numbers we have to be careful about other causes.

2. Comment: the increase in air traffic from 1985 to date over the caribou range may have contributed to the decline in numbers. And the footprint left from diamond mines and roads.

ENR response: From what we are seeing it does not have an impact on the population. It is a concern. There are other herds declining where there is no flight activity.

3. Question: Wondering if sports hunting has something to do with it? They tend to want trophy bulls and if they were left alone those were the ones that would be breeding and improving health of the herd.

ENR response: This is a concern that everyone shares. From ENR's side of things we survey in the fall and try to determine the number of bulls, etc. to use guidelines. We know the number of bulls. One thing we understand, if you keep removing prime bulls in a herd that is low in numbers it has to have an impact.

4. Comment: In reference to sound disturbance, in cold dense air you can hear a big truck 5 miles off the highway.

5. Comment: Over the last few years, there is a lot of water in the bush, more than before. Is there more water where the caribou are?

ENR response: It varies from time to time. We know animals are affected by insects. Causes disturbance and they can't breed. Snow composition seems to be changing and crystal air in the snow pack is not a good thing. Moisture level plays a role. There is correlation between water and vegetation.

6. Comment: The Bison herd is declining. People are saying there is too much water and the food is frozen under water.

ENR response: Have to find ways to allow more calves to get to the calving ground.

7. Question: Does the same thing happen to the reindeer?

ENR response: They don't keep track of the reindeer. They are free ranging. Not declining.

8. Question: How about the other side of the globe, like Russia, is it is the same situation as here?

ENR Response: Some of Alaska is recovering now. It is not as drastic as the Bathurst herd.

9. Question: Are we finding a lot of caribou are wounded and wonder off to die? Since the diamond mines coming there are a lot of vehicles. Are there inexperienced guys going out and killing them, wounding them?

ENR Response: Yes. We are trying to get a hunter education program delivered to some of the communities.

10. Question: Is anyone watching the wolves? As the Buffalo were increasing we noticed wolves have evolved. At the same time we are seeing a decline in moose in this area. Is someone monitoring the wolves?

ENR Response: When one goes down in numbers the other follows. ENR has been monitoring wolf dens for several years.

11. Question: Are there lots of bears in the calving grounds?

ENR Response: Usually see 10 to 12 on average. Have not seen more than 5 solves in the calving grounds.

12. Question: Is there any evidence of this happening in the past, decline and recovery?

ENR Response: Yes. Things have changed on us. We don't know if climate change will add to the problem. We need to adjust our hunting on the Bathurst herd until things get better.

13. Question: What are people going to do for food on the table?

ENR Response: Looking at diverting harvesting to another herd to the west or east.

### **Questions and comments following review of joint proposal:**

1. Comment: Agree with reducing harvesting of all females.

ENR Response: Does not look like the Tlicho will agree with that. Limited female harvest may be possible, on other herds subject to other RRMB. ENR wants to go with no female harvesting.

2. Question: Would no female hunting be until the population goes up?

ENR Response: The area of concern is the winter roads. Proposal is to have hunting management or a 200 metre no hunting area from the winter roads.

3. Question: Will ENR be enforcing, e.g., hunting of bulls only?

ENR Response: Yes. There will be check stations. Will try to hire wildlife monitors from the Tlicho communities to assist with monitoring.

4. Question: Will there be fines?

ENR Response: There are fines under the Wildlife Act, for different offences.

5. Comment: 200 metres seems narrow.

ENR Response: ENR requested 2 – 4 km from each side of the road.

6. Question: What is going to replace the caribou?

ENR Response: We are trying to get ITI involved to help communities travel further to hunt neighbouring herds, and bison around the Tlicho communities. Get a zone opened with tags available. Another option is to utilize road kill.

7. Comment: Don't know how we will make our recommendations. Personally, some things to consider are:

- Try to determine why the reindeer numbers seem to not be affected by this decline and appear to be okay
- Should be limited cull on wolves, bears and other predators. A lot of them will starve anyway
- Fines for illegal hunting and wasting should be greatly increased
- People should be taught how to preserve meat from things like freezer burn and prevent wastage - hand out vacuum pack machines
- Road kill should be salvaged and distributed, wastage has to come to an end
- Hire people in town to utilize wastage
- Promote harvesting of other types of meat and fish

8. Question: Are you going to study areas that have been used for calving, after calving?

ENR Response: We are looking at doing that.

9. Comment: Bring resident hunting to zero. Greater monitoring on use of fast machines for hunting.

10. Question: Is there disease affecting the herds?

11. Question: Is there a chain of decline at the bottom of the animal chain?

ENR Response: Caribou down in numbers means wolves are down in numbers.

12. Comment: Stop it with government. Chicken shit MLA's won't stand up in the house. It is up to the government to stop it. If ENR or RCMP can't stop it call in the army.

13. Question: What are we going to do to replace meat, where is the meat going to come from?

ENR Response: Need to get ITI on board and involved. Put dollars on the table to assist communities and aboriginal people to replace loss of red meat. At the end of the day it is like James stated, up to the government to do something and that is why government is coming up with this action plan.

14. Comment: In addition to noise pollution, there are other things that come with that – mines burning fuel and greenhouse gas omissions in the area of the migration routes and calving grounds. In addition to that, truck hauling and flights. Need to look at contamination on the ground that is turning caribou off from eating or affecting their digestion.

15. Question: Are diamond mines conducting studies of impact on areas surrounding the mines?

16. Question: Did impact happen after the mine industry? Should there be a reduction in noise control – you could try that?

17. Comment: This type of information is good but has to get out more. Fort Providence RRMB quit paying for community hunts. If more people had this information they will start getting concerned and take action voluntarily, harvest less, report infractions. Get this out in all languages. There was a lot of bad publicity in the spring – if people had seen this data you would not have had that.

ENR Response: You are right, we should be saying it more.

18. Comment: Hire people to get the message out. Use media.





Northwest  
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

## NORTH SLAVE REGION CONSULTATION LOG

<b>DATE:</b> November 25, 2009	<b>TIME:</b>
<b>NAME:</b> Betty Villebrun Arthur Beck Paul Harrington Lee Mandeville	<b>COMPANY:</b> NWT Metis Nation Fort Resolution Metis Council Hay River Metis Council North Arm Metis Council of Yellowknife
	<b>PROJECT:</b> Bathurst Caribou
<b>ENR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:</b> Bruno Croft, Lance Schmidt	<b>PROGRAM TIME FRAME:</b>
<b>NOTES:</b> ENR requested a meeting with the above companies in order to discuss the decline of Bathurst Caribou and obtain guidance in managing the herd to assist in its recovery.	
<b>ENR PRESENTATION:</b> ENR did a presentation on survey methods and results that were gathered June 3-12, 2009. The purpose of the survey was to estimate the number of breeding females in the Bathurst Caribou herd on the calving grounds (1986-2009). In addition, there were calculations of breeding cows (minus detailed statistics), estimations of Bathurst Herd size from breeding female numbers, and the overall population size. The total herd size is based on photo census, which is based on breeding cows and the ratio of cow/calf and cow/bull.	
<b>ACTIONS ITEMS/FOLLOW UPS:</b>	



## **Draft Summary Bathurst Caribou Herd Community Meeting**

**Northwest Territory Metis Nation (Betty Villebrun)  
Fort Resolution Metis Council (Arthur Beck)  
Hay River Metis Council (Paul Harrington)  
North Arm Metis Council of Yellowknife (Lee Mandeville)  
November 25, 2009**

### **Opening Discussion**

Bruno Croft provided an overview of the presentation on the Bathurst Caribou Herd June 2009 Survey. He explained the purpose of this meeting is to see what you have not seen yet and to get your recommendations to add to the joint proposal to be brought to the Wekeezhii Renewable Resources Board prior to the public hearing.

Paul Harrington - asked why ENR is not just moving to do what you need to do instead of doing this consultation? In the meantime people are shooting caribou and game outfitters are still shooting. All direction I have heard and all aboriginal people I have been talking to say get it done. It took 3 years to talk to the Aboriginal groups. 11 recommendations were presented and ENR has only worked out one. Assemblies are saying get it done now.

ENR response - explained the numbers we got this summer in the survey are new numbers and compelling and we have no choice. We have legal obligation to consult.

Paul Harrington – I've been in negotiations for over 12 years and have always heard the Minister has veto.

ENR response - we were asked to do consultation on the joint proposal. The Minister has asked us to go one more time before the winter harvest, get one last shot at it to get everybody's input. He will go the distance.

Paul Harrington – I can understand why they want to put provisions into our land claims to guarantee us wildlife. The way our herds and animals are being managed is too slow. Reaction time to deal with an emergency is too slow.

ENR response – we have come up with a joint proposal and our Tlicho partners did not agree on some of the measures. We have got back to them and can go ahead with emergency measures. Wekeezhii Renewable Resources Board is waiting for this and then will make the last call.

Betty Villebrun – Northwest Territory Metis Nation sent a letter to the Minister saying we agreed we should not be hunting any caribou. As far as we can see we have done what we can do.

ENR – it is refreshing to get your recommendations and to hear you are not doing community hunts. I think what happened is if you go back 3 years, we got really slack on not doing consultation. I think you will find we are moving faster on this than anything else we have done. Within the next 3 weeks, before Christmas, you will hear things. The Minister we have now is not shy to do things. I think you will see things from him you have not seen from other Ministers.

Arthur Beck – a lot of people are aware of what is going on. Have been talking about this in my language and in English on the radio.

ENR - we are dealing with different herds. The one we are concerned about is the Bathurst herd.

### **Review of June 2009 Bathurst Caribou Herd Survey**

Paul Harrington – would not want someone to see this and then say – well, look at all that caribou. Need to explain the information.

ENR – we are forced to defend this all the time.

20 people were involved in the survey, 2 aircraft and 2 choppers, a biologist, Aboriginal groups. One thing people have to understand is that when we do a calving ground photo census we are counting the number of females on the calving ground. We monitored the peak of the calving season, 4 to 5 days on either side.

Paul Harrington – surveys can be affected by things like weather

Arthur Beck – this stuff is not enough. If you come to our community you might as well do it right, bring the stuff you brought to the workshop in October – Danny Beaulieu's stuff. Bruno asked Arthur for a list of what information to bring to the community.

Paul – I'm hoping when the Minister does things to protect the caribou, that he is going to do it for all the herds. If we have to go through this for every herd we will have no caribou here in 10 years. When we talk about caribou we are talking about all the caribou

ENR – one of the recovery options include shutting down Bathurst harvesting and helping people to hunt other herds. Tlicho folks are telling us there is a problem, we want to do our part, but in order for us to do something there has to be a clear case of conservation. We don't want to say we will stop hunting. If it doesn't happen the Minister will make the call.

Paul Harrington – as soon as you have an Aboriginal group impose restrictions, the Minister has to step in.

ENR – think you will find the Minister has more guts than others.

Paul Harrington – from what I have seen the Aboriginal groups are meeting, recommendations are put forward, and here we are now. This is going to sit on the Minister's head if Aboriginal groups are deciding you are challenging our rights.

ENR – we are trying to find ways to accommodate Aboriginals. We have to find them something else to eat.

Arthur Beck – organize hunts by the bands in communities where they need meat. Explain to the First Nations you have an inherent right but they are no good if there are no caribou.

Betty Villebrun – don't think the white people have done that much damage.

ENR – harvesting by non-Aboriginals is not that high. If we are going to tap in Aboriginal rights other privileges have to go first.

Betty Villebrun– Aboriginal people have to understand if there is no meat ---

Paul Harrington – my recommendation is what people need to hear now is species at risk – start pushing that now. Don't wait till it is too late. If aboriginal groups are against that then we will see how government will manage our herds. If they can't do anything with that then we are in trouble with moose and all.

Paul Harrington – another thing that is confusing is the 3 years when the bells started going off and we saw the decline with no comeback, I always thought those 3 years and 11 recommendations was the consultation.

ENR – what happened there is going back to 2007 the Wekeezhii Renewable Resources Board said come up with a joint proposal. Then we got bogged down in the court case. When we came out of this in January this year our government was ready to go to business.

Arthur Beck – also at the first 2 sessions Aboriginal people wanted that information to be used as information for us, not call it consultation cause they didn't meet with the communities. Mine activity is missing from your presentation. It just touched on it. Not only January meeting steering away from it but the Tliche government also steering away.

### **Comments Re Recovery**

Arthur Beck – young breeders could be selected out. That is what we should be harvesting.

Lee Mandeville – outfitters will jump this, they are going after bulls with antlers. They will jump on us.

Arthur Beck – big game outfitters are killing big breeders. Maybe the little guys are doing the breeding and the fetus is not as healthy.

Paul Harrington – no good to take out the big bulls, they are the ones with the good genes. I always thought that Aboriginals would be the last ones hunting them.

Paul Harrington - why are they still commercial hunting?

ENR - there was pecking order, that in management of wildlife and birds, Aboriginals would be the last ones to have access. The first ones to go would be commercial hunters, then non status then Aboriginals.

Paul Harrington - It sounds like commercial is going to keep going regardless and we will be stopped at the same time. There should be room for these little communities to take a quota. Why should there continue to be commercial hunts and shut us off at the same time.

Lee Mandeville – why aren't they at the table? Why should they have a say – people from the states.

ENR – we have consulted a bit with outfitters. They are already selling tags. They have been told to be cautious about selling tags. That is the first step before regulation. It is very clear that if we are thinking about taping Aboriginal hunters the other ones are gone. We are at the point now where no choice.

Paul Harrington – I can understand where these communities are telling Chiefs my family is not going to have meat and still allow commercial hunting. Seems commercial people can take government to court but we can't.

ENR – in a joint proposal when we are infringing Aboriginal hunting, any harvesting will be by Aboriginal people.

Paul Harrington – you should make that clear from the start.

Paul Harrington - Finally got a look at the big picture. Metis hunt from all of the herds. When one herd is in trouble we know it is all the herds. Has to be massive coverage.

Arthur Beck – have to check the water, lichen takes 15 years to mature, so sulphur dioxide coming off trucks, that is what they are doing to the caribou.

ENR - we started collecting vegetation samples this year and will get results of that soon.

Arthur Beck – show your results to us. If you don't it is easy for us to say you are not showing it cause they have something to hide.

Paul Harrington – needs to be political will behind every movement. Saw caribou antlers in Nova Court – we haven't been hunting for 3 years already. We started 3 years ago taking it easy.

Arthur Beck – don't want to go back and talk about mistakes we made in the past. I want to go forward.

Lee Mandeville – need education for what you are showing.

## **Review of Joint Proposal**

ENR - Wekeezhii Renewable Resources Board will not make a call until November. GNWT will take emergency measures.

Paul Harrington – commercial hunters should be on top.

Paul Harrington – we should be dealing with all herds.

Lee Mandeville – might be hard to get consensus, one formula for across the table.

ENR – we are suggesting Aboriginal people to continue to bring meat to the table from Bluenose West and Ahiak until we have a count this summer. No commercial meat tags, no outfitters tags, no resident hunting. Harvest adjacent herds. But Tlicho are saying no restriction to female harvesting.

Arthur Beck – don't mind for some communities to harvest caribou but leave breeding females alone.

ENR - most Tlicho Chiefs are in line but the problem is Wekweti, perhaps 2 Chiefs.

Paul Harrington – you are setting yourselves up for something else, you can't deal herd by herd. They are going to fly out and nail other herds. They have done it in the past. They will do it again. They have the money to do it. They will concentrate on this one herd, they have money and resources to fly out to hunt other herds.

Lee Mandeville – what about the moose population? If they start community hunts on moose?

ENR - will definitely put pressure on other species.

Paul Harrington – we noticed woodland are taking a hit. They are hunting them. We are looking at ways to put restrictions on that but we can't because the band is doing it.

The other thing is harvesting of trees in their calving grounds. Loggers harvest trees in their calving grounds and we are running into problems with that too.

If we only deal with one herd they are going to fly out and shoot the shit out of other herds.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENR**

1. The way our herds and animals are being managed is too slow. Reaction time to deal with an emergency is too slow.
2. With reference to the June 2009 survey presentation – need to explain the information, people will see all the caribou shown on the grid and say there is lots of caribou.
3. When the Minister does things to protect the caribou, he should do it for all the herds. Has to be massive coverage.

4. Organize hunts by bands in the communities where they need meat. Explain to the First Nations you have an inherent right to hunt that is no good if there are no caribou. There should be room for little communities to take a quota.
5. People now need to hear species at risk – start pushing that now.
6. Need to hear about affects of mine activity.
7. Should be harvesting young bulls, leave females alone.
8. Not good to take out big bulls, they are the ones with good genes.
9. Make it clear from the start – when infringing Aboriginal hunting, any harvesting will be done by Aboriginal people. Commercial hunters on the top of no hunting.
10. Check the water and show results to us.
11. Need political will behind every movement.
12. Need public education about the 2009 survey and joint proposal.

Consultation Log  
Bathurst Caribou Herd Community Meetings

Date: December 4, 2009

Time: 1 – 4 p.m.

Company: Fort Resolution Metis Council  
(some Dene Band members attended the meeting)

Project: Bathurst Caribou Herd Community Meeting

ENR Representatives: Bruno Croft  
Danny Beaulieu

**Notes: ENR did a presentation on survey methods and results that were gathered June 3 – 12, 2009. The purpose of the survey was to estimate the number of breeding females in the Bathurst herd on the calving grounds (1986-2009). In addition, there were calculations of breeding cows (minus detailed statistics), estimates of Bathurst herd size from breeding females, and the overall population size. The total herd size is based on photo census, which is based on breeding cows and the ratio of cow/calf and cow/bull.**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

**Recommendations and Comments**

- Would it be when the diamond mines started? Shortly after mines started to go in production, and burning fossil fuel, this is what you should be looking at, what is left by the mines. It is not industry that is being blamed. There is no feed for them to go back there. You should tell people that.
- Could be wolves.
- If you don't stop them (Tlicho) from hunting they are defeating the purpose.
- I can't say I am prepared not to hunt anymore when the Dogrib people are still doing it.
- You are only doing the agreement with the WRRB board. Maybe there is something that needs to be drawn up for us for hunting
- Maybe there is something that needs to be drawn up for us for hunting. Need both cows and bulls. If they are going to agree WRRB can go hunting, it is not fair to us.
- I do support we don't hunt but it has to be everybody. They need to be mandated not to hunt. Maybe one caribou and it should be a bull. Not 5 – 10 caribou.
- We need training about the different herds.
- Government needs to step in if they want to stop hunting, go to our schools and organizations on how we can train the youth to identify the herds.

- Instead of maybe saying it is this or that, the real problem is the diamond mines. People are saying all this mine activity is smack in the middle of their migration route. Government is not saying that.
- Would be nice to involve us in those studies (referring to sampling of vegetation and checking for contaminants). Take our people out to help you do the studies and we can bring home that message.
- We recommend you look at the WRRB board and give us representation on the board.
- We need to be part of this board. We should be the ones making the recommendations.
- We are willing to back up but not if the species at risk act kicks in.
- They have to take into consideration if they let the WRRB people continue to hunt those herds there has to be compensation to the rest of the Aboriginal people who cannot hunt. If they treat us differently we have to be compensated for our loss.