



AUG 21 2013

Mr. Joseph Judas
Chair
Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board
102 A 4504 49TH AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1A7

E-Mail: jmccullum@wrrb.ca

Dear Mr. Judas:

**Management Proposal
for Beverly/Ahiak/Qamanirjuaq Caribou – Resident Harvesting**

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 2013 concerning the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) proposals to allow resident harvests to purchase one bull-only Barren-ground caribou tag for use in Barren-ground management units U/BC/01 (Beverly, Ahiak or Qamanirjuaq herds), R/BC/01 (Bluenose-East herd), or S/BC/03 (Bluenose-East herd). In your letter, you asked for additional information before responding to ENR's proposal:

- 1) Up to date population estimates, cow:calf ratios, and bull:cow ratios for the Beverly, Ahiak, and Qamanirjuaq herds:

The Government of Nunavut (GN) led a June 2011 survey that examined caribou abundance on the Beverly calving grounds in the vicinity of Beverly Lake and the Queen Maud Gulf, as well as the calving range of the Ahiak herd in the vicinity of the Adelaide peninsula, east to Pelly Bay. The survey estimates suggest that there are an estimated $124,000 \pm 14,000$ (\pm standard error) caribou within the Beverly herd and an estimated $71,000 \pm 4,000$ caribou within the Ahiak herd.

Calf:cow ratios based on recruitment surveys conducted in spring 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 for the Beverly herd have ranged from 31 to 57 calves per 100 cows. In 2011, spring recruitment was estimated at 57 calves per 100 cows. Bull:cow ratios based on fall composition surveys were estimated at 54 bulls per 100 cows in 2009 and 69 bulls per 100 cows in 2011. Composition surveys for the Beverly herd overlap with part of the range of the Ahiak herd.

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The Qamanirjuaq herd was last estimated at about 349,000 ± 45,000 caribou in June 2008. The next population estimate for this herd is set for 2014 and will again be led by GN. Calf:cow ratios based on recruitment surveys conducted in spring 2008 and 2010 were 17 and 33 calves per 100 cows, respectively. More generally, cow calf ratios in the 2000s (near 20 calves per 100 cows) were lower than in the mid 1980s to mid 1990s (near 40 calves per 100 cows). The 2008 fall bull:cow ratio was estimated at 60 bulls per 100 cows.

2) Consultation materials from Aboriginal leadership on the proposal:

Aboriginal consultation and public engagement on this proposal is still ongoing. We will forward you any consultation materials once consultation and engagement is complete.

3) Request for the ENR Ungulate biologist to attend the September 10-12 Wek'eezhi Renewable Resource Board meeting:

The ENR Ungulate biologist and/or the Bathurst Caribou Biologist/North Slave Region Wildlife Manager will be available to participate in the meeting to discuss the resident harvest proposals submitted to the board by ENR.

Sincerely,



Ernie Campbell
Deputy Minister

- c. Mr. Fred J. Mandeville, Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR
Mr. Jack Bird, Assistant Deputy Minister, ENR
Ms. Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife, ENR