

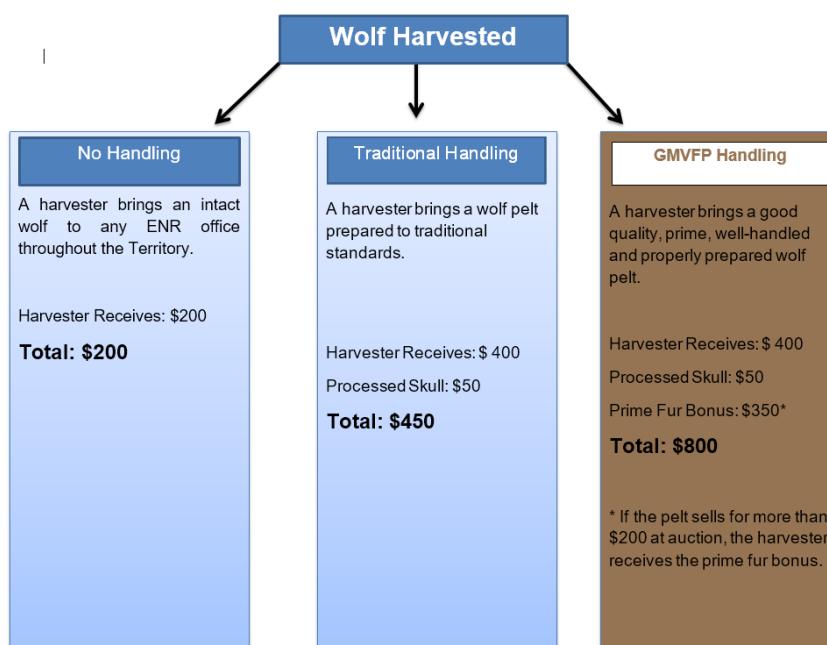
PROJECT TITLE: Community Based Wolf Harvesting Project
Organization: Tłı̨chǫ Government & GNWT-ENR
Contact: Fred Mandeville (ENR) & Sjoerd van der Wielen (TG)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Community Based Wolf Harvesting Project will be a pilot project that will include selected participants from Wekweètì and Gamètì, who will be trained in effective field techniques for hunting/trapping wolves, skinning, and fur preparation, and identifying appropriate locations away from communities for skinning and processing wolf carcasses. Selected individuals will receive training from recognized expert wolf hunters/trappers and/or potential expert instructors. An important factor in these workshop will be the cultural teachings from Tłı̨chǫ Elders. Some believe, that from a cultural standpoint, Tłı̨chǫ people do not hunt wolves. However, Tłı̨chǫ elders have clearly said that wolves are a problem for the caribou and Tłı̨chǫ people should do something about it as long as one follows the traditional laws.

We will establish field camps near large lakes within the Bathurst Mobile Conservation Zone during winter months (January-April), but away from concentration of wintering caribou as determined by collar locations and recon flight (to minimize caribou disturbance). Because we don't know where the Bathurst herd will be in January-March an exact location of the camps cannot be given.

The current Mobile Conservation Area is east of Wekweètì (see attached map). From these camps Tłı̨chǫ people will harvest wolves in a manner consistent with Tłı̨chǫ practices. The Tłı̨chǫ still have a great respect for the wolf and see this as an intelligent sacred animal. There are many rules that are established that the Tłı̨chǫ elders want the Tłı̨chǫ people to follow. For example, the Tłı̨chǫ elders do not want the wolf carcass not a part of it brought back into the community. The carcass needs to be bagged and stored in a container to avoid contact with women. It is therefore best that the carcasses or pelts will be picked up by ENR at the field camp locations by plane or skidoo. If carcasses need to be removed by planes, landing strip will be marked in areas located away from main concentration of caribou (to minimize caribou disturbance).



Tłı̨chǫ hunters will have the option to either deliver the wolf carcass (entire unskinned wolf) to ENR and receive payout, or prepare the hide themselves for submission to ENR either traditional skinned or pelts prepared by taxidermy standards through Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur (GMVF) Program.

Wolf carcasses will be necropsied by ENR biologists in the field when possible, this will also help to prevent caribou harassment. We are hoping for a minimum of 40 wolves, but not more than 100 wolves.

The training program will be initiated in winter 2015-2016 with the communities of Wekwèèti and Gamèti, where 6 to 10 selected individuals will participate in one or more training workshops. The training workshops will have three experts: a Tłı̨chǫ wolf hunter/trapper, a taxidermy skinning expert and a Tłı̨chǫ Elder. An additional workshop may be held in one other Tłı̨chǫ Community in the winter of 2016-17, depending on resources. This would result in a core group of trained and experienced wolf hunters in each of the Tłı̨chǫ Communities who would be active and effective in the field and capable of training other interested hunters and trappers in the communities. Another important objective of this program is to reduce any potential impact to the Bathurst caribou.

