

## **INFORMATION REQUESTS TO ENR**

### **INDEPENDENT BOARD CONSULTANT – ANNE GUNN**

#### Appendix A - Proposed Action 4. Eliminate all harvesting females Bathurst herd

- a) ENR to provide data on the trend in the Bathurst herd size 1986-2009 and to comment on any changes in the rate of decline in the trend of breeding females.
- b) ENR to provide harvest information 1987-2009 (total and by sex) for the Bathurst herd with a brief explanation of the data sources and known or likely biases and how those biases may influence the data. ENR to provide harvest trends 1987-2009 by harvest type; outfitter, resident and GHL (subsistence). ENR to provide an assessment of the trend in harvesting and describe any implications – for example, if the trend could or could not be considered a constant yield harvest.
- c) ENR to provide a risk analysis to show the effect on the trend in breeding females of **not** reducing female harvest by various levels (for example zero; 25% and 50% and 100% of mean female harvest 2006-2009) to clarify any implications of different options for management actions.
- d) ENR to clarify what rate of increase in breeding females is likely from reducing harvest relative to other factors reducing female survival such as predation.
- e) ENR to assess the likelihood of whether the effect of reducing female harvest on herd size will be detectable by 2012 (assuming a mean estimate of breeding females with a Coefficient of Variation similar to 2006 and 2009).
- f) ENR to assess the risk of a statistically stable herd size in 2012 and how to distinguish between a continued decline or a recovery under that condition.
- g) ENR to assess what levels of recruitment (or calf survival) will be required so that the increase in female survival (reduced harvesting) will lead to an increase in the number of breeding females by 2012.
- h) ENR to provide an assessment of how age structure may influence recovery.
- i) Given that the proposal describes a decline in both the Ahiak and Bluenose East herds, ENR to assess any available data on their harvest levels and how the proposed “limited” female harvest will be additional to those levels. This

will likely involve an assessment of the degree of overlap in winter distribution on an annual basis.

- j) ENR to describe management actions taken for Cape Bathurst and Bluenose West and an assessment of their effectiveness and how that relates to proposed actions for the Bathurst herd.
- k) ENR to specify what is meant by “when herds are mixed together”.

Appendix A - Proposed Action 5. Reduce harvesting males Bathurst herd

- a) The ENR proposal refers to a limited bull harvest. ENR to provide more details about ‘limited’ and how it will be assessed.
- b) ENR to provide details about how the implications of an antlerless bull harvest (see Section 4) and how the bull:cow fall ratio values will be used to limit the antlerless bull harvest.
- c) ENR to provide a more detailed explanation of ‘mobile harvesting zones’ for Bluenose East and Ahiak herds.

Appendix A - Proposed Action 8. Protection of Calving ground

- a) ENR to provide details on the ‘current level of protection’ as the proposed management action is to maintain this level of protection.

Appendix B - Proposed Actions to monitor the Bathurst, Bluenose East and Ahiak herds.

Proposed Action 1

- b) ENR to provide details on how the monitoring actions relate to ARC report recommendations rather than only one ARC recommendation (more collars).
- c) ENR to provide details on the monitoring as criteria for management actions – for example; if 10 month calf:cow ratios declined to 20:100 cows, what would ENR recommend as management action? In particular, ENR to provide details on the adult sex ratio and harvest proposals for the limited male harvest.
- d) ENR to justify whether a sample of 20 cows is likely to be representative of the herd pregnancy rates and under what conditions. ENR to explain why this is a necessary measure compared to, for example, monitoring calf:cow ratios at the peak of calving.
- e) ENR to provide a detailed rationale to link trends in wolf cub survival at den sites to trends in wolf numbers.

- f) ENR to provide a rationale for why monitoring actions do not include monitoring trends in wolf sightings during caribou surveys.
- g) ENR to provide more details of current harvest levels for wolves and what specific steps are proposed as incentives and what increases in wolf harvesting are being proposed.
- h) ENR to explain why seasonal distribution is not a monitoring action although changes, especially in winter distribution relate to caribou abundance.

**INDIVIDUAL - KAREN McMASTER**

1. Why has this report been distributed to the public as a joint report with joint recommendations when there is so much uncertainty and disagreement as action to be taken?
2. Has ENR compared the annual data of total caribou harvests to total wolves over the years and if not, why not?
3. What are the costs to carry - out all of the activities in this proposal? Is the GNWT going to be responsible for paying for all these jobs and new activities and how does the GNWT justify this during a recession? In recent surveys of concerns by NWT residents, were the caribou listed as a top priority or social issues?
4. What are post calving grounds? Is ENR proposing to allow oil and gas and tourism activities on these grounds? Why was mining singled out as an activity?
5. Does ENR have a specific map that outlines the land claims areas for the Tłı̨chǫ and other aboriginal communities in NWT, including those with fee simple lands, those that are traditional territory and those that are lands identified for a special purpose or protection from activity? Please advise as to the routes of the caribou throughout these areas and where the calving grounds are on these areas.
6. Did ENR have any meetings with community groups and individuals other than the Tłı̨chǫ in preparing this joint proposal? Have other aboriginal and Inuit groups been involved? Were NWT residents involved when this joint proposal went before the Tłı̨chǫ community in the summer of 2009? Were any organizations or individuals consulted in preparation of this joint proposal?

7. The Alberta Research Council report recommended clarifying various statistics and information to the public such as rates of decline. Have these recommendations been implemented?
8. Re the Bluenose Herd, ENR notes that despite lack of success in June 2009, biologists reported seeing lower numbers. Could ENR please explain how this conclusion was reached and what the number was.
9. Was this proposal reviewed by the GNWT legal advisors prior to its submission to the public?
10. The proposal indicates that consultation and collaboration with the Nunavut Government and co-management groups will be needed to ensure that proper protection is maintained for each calving round, as the Bluenose East, Bathurst and Ahiak calving grounds are all in Nunavut. Why are the GNWT and Tłı̨chǫ proposing to restrict resident and non-resident hunters when it cannot be certain that these calving grounds will be protected? Why are precautions not being required in Nunavut at the same time as in NWT? Why is the NWT taking the lead if the calving grounds are in Nunavut?
11. Who funded community hunts of caribou in the past? How many caribou were taken during these hunts? Is this subsistence hunting and traditional hunting? How may aboriginals rely purely on subsistence hunting these days?
12. The proposal indicates that low numbers of breeding females in the Bathurst herd warrant immediate management. What is the threshold used for science reasons, political reasons? Are they the same?
13. The proposal indicates that “ A limited low number of breeding females may be allowed to be harvested from the Bathurst herd in the winter months for scientific purposes (health and condition and assessment of pregnancy rate). Meat will be distributed to Aboriginal elders. The numbers to be collected are to be discussed further with Tłı̨chǫ Aboriginal hunters, members of the WRRB and ENR biologist”. How can members of the NWT comment on this proposal when these numbers have not been agreed to? Why is meat only to be distributed to Aboriginal Elders?
14. The proposal indicates “ No harvest of females is to take place when caribou of different herds are mixed together in the winter time to avoid accidental hunt of Bathurst cows. When this situation occurs, it is recommended that males only be hunted (ENR’s position). Consultation between Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and ENR will take place to explore avenues to provide financial support to hunters to access new hunting areas.” What is the Tłı̨chǫ’s position? What does the consultation aspect really mean? What does access to new

hunting areas mean? Who provides financial support and to whom?. Do people really know the difference between the herds and who will police this?

15. The proposal indicates “The Diamond Mines’ Wildlife and Environment Monitoring programs (WEMP) will be redesigned to adjust for results and findings acquired through several years of data collection and new proposed monitoring will be presented to the Tłı̨chǫ government and communities for their inputs.” What is involved here? What are the plans that you want people to comment on? How can interveners comment on this proposal when these plans are uncertain? Why are these plans not also presented to NWT residents?
16. During ENR meetings with the Tłı̨chǫ, did any of the elders indicate that they should also reduce the harvesting of male and female caribou?
17. How many caribou tags were issued to residents in the NWT annually for the last 5 years? Does the GNWT know how many resident caribou hunters there are in the NWT and how many families rely on this meat as a substantial portion of their diet?
18. The proposal indicates no direction is required from the Board on this action re compliance, winter road etc. Why is no direction sought here? Why is public interest implication in Wek’èezhìi referred to specifically not the NWT interest?
19. ENR website indicates:

“The Department of Environment and Natural Resources promotes and supports the sustainable use and development of natural resources to protect, conserve and enhance the Northwest Territories environment for the social and economic benefit of all residents. This responsibility is shared with Aboriginal, federal, territorial, and municipal governments, boards and agencies and every resident of the Northwest Territories.

#### Vision

Our children will inherit a secure future that relies on a healthy environment capable of supporting traditional lifestyles within a modern economy built on the strengths of our people and the wise use and protection of our natural resources providing communities and individuals with opportunities to be productive and self-reliant.”

Please advise how this proposal is consistent with ENRs values which are about all NWT citizens.

20. The proposal allows for Tłı̨chǫ hunters to assess presence/absence of fetuses in 20 cows hunted during winter which is a joint decision but previously indicated that Tłı̨chǫ want unlimited hunting of cows. Please explain.
21. Did the Tłı̨chǫ and GNWT consider instilling means to ensure that all caribou harvesting is being conducted according to the traditional values of Elders and good hunting practices?
22. Does ENR need to determine whether wolves are hunting caribou as recommended in this proposal? If so how would you do this? What cost would be involved in doing so? Would providing incentives to hunters to trap and hunt wolves not be more efficient, fair, effective and economic than the actions proposed in this proposal?
23. What does ENR mean by “tend to support” in terms of assessing scientific data? The Alberta Research Council report provides for a number of cautions in data interpretation, ambiguous language and weak conclusions. Why is the GNWT using this report to support a declining caribou population?
24. What does it cost to do a photo census?
25. For calculation of caribou, how do you arrive at the plus or minus?
26. If the Bluenose herd decreased so much between 2006 and 2000, why was nothing done in 2006?
27. Why are aboriginal hunters and resident hunters not required to report the number of caribou they harvest? Would this be valuable information in understanding the caribou situation in the NWT?

**N.W.T. WILDLIFE FEDERATION - MARTIN KNUTSON, PRESIDENT**

- 1) What has the annual budget for managing Caribou been in the preceding 5 years?
- 2) What is the proposed budget for the next 5 years?
- 3) Who will be hired to perform the work?
- 4) How can a recovery plan be implemented when the cause of the decline cannot be identified?
- 5) How would the calving grounds be defined for the purpose of closing them to mining exploration?

- 6) Define "post calving period" If no exploration is allowed post calving when and where is this area?
- 7) Will all hunters be restricted from killing female caribou? If so who will monitor this and what will the fines be?
- 8) Explain how limiting the Resident Hunt and Non-Resident hunt is going to help increase the herds when the Aboriginals take the most animals and they are still allowed to hunt?
- 9) Is it possible to tell a Bluenose East Caribou from an Ahiak Caribou?
- 10) How many Caribou would be killed to provide pregnancy data?
- 11) How much taxpayer money will be used to "provide financial support"? Will this financial support be given to resident hunters who do not get to hunt?

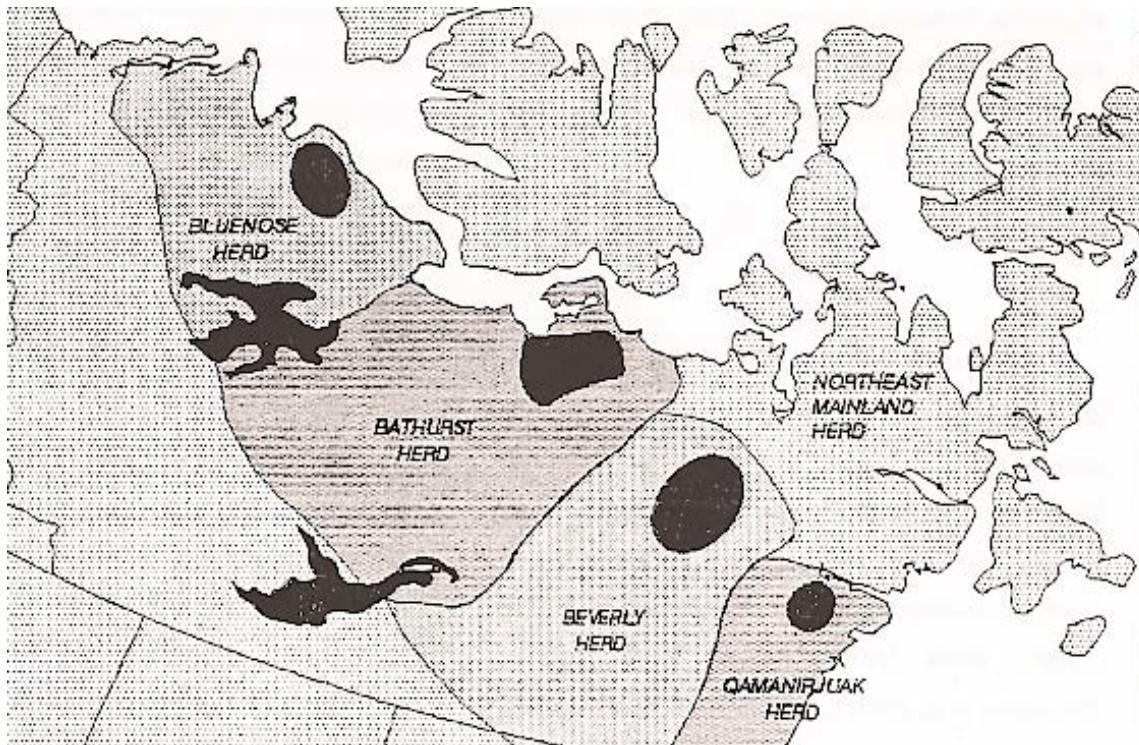
**QAIVVIK, LTD. AND CARIBOU PASS OUTFITTERS, LTD. - JOHN ANDRE**

1. According to ENR, caribou mortality, for the Bathurst Herd, has increased from 11% in 1996 (Bathurst Caribou Management Plan), to 21% in 2004 (ENR Manuscript Report #163), to over 57% from 2006-2009. What has ENR identified as the cause of this mortality?
2. In 2008, ENR harvested approximately 60 caribou for samples. What was the age structure of these caribou?
3. ENR has reported pregnancy rates of 91% for the Bathurst caribou herd in 2008. If most Bathurst Caribou don't become pregnant until their third year, and the caribou are only living for two years (58% mortality rates), then how does the ENR explain the high pregnancy rates?
4. What is the source of the 119,600 caribou figure for the Bluenose East herd in 2000 mentioned in the ENR proposal? All the research presented at the WRRB hearing in 2007 says ENR counted 84,412, and upped that figure to approximately 104,000.
5. What is the exact data to support the ENR assertion that the Ahiak caribou herd is down 60% from the 2006 level of 200,000?
6. What is the mortality rate of collared caribou, by herd, over the past ten years.
7. What are the exact locations of collared caribou, by herd, over the past 3 years. Please show the collared caribou from time of collaring to present. Also, please identify caribou as bulls or cows.

8. What are the mathematics used to extrapolate the size of the Ahiak herd, from the 4453 caribou counted to the 200,000 caribou reported?
9. Please explain how the Ahiak herd, censused in 1995 at 31,556, increased to 200,000 the following year?
10. According to ENR, between the Ahiak herd and the Bathurst herd, about 250,000 caribou have died in the past year. How many carcasses or diseased animals has ENR documented?
11. If 250,000 caribou are dying a year, this is about 4800 caribou dying per week, or nearly 700 per day, every day. Does ENR have personnel on the ground, following the caribou, waiting for them to die, so that they can be autopsied?
12. The outfitters shot 223 caribou last year. ENR says 250,000 died. How is closing down the outfitting industry going to save the crashing caribou?
13. Don Thomas' paper "Needed: less counting of caribou and more ecology" rejects the use of calving ground surveys for caribou management. It says other ecological factors, such as caribou calf survival (which has been high), pregnancy rates (which has been high), hunting pressure (dropped 70% in the past 13 years) etc. should be looked at. What is the ecological evidence ENR has to support this caribou crash?
14. If the wolf numbers are down, according to ENR, how does ENR rationalize the doubling of wolf tags for the outfitters?
15. If there are 200,000 caribou in the Ahiak herd (2008 GNWT report), 32,000 in the Bathurst caribou herd, and 66,000 in the Bluenose East herd, and we apply ENR's 4% harvesting goal implemented in the Sahtu, that means a TAH of 11,920, roughly double the current harvest. Even if ENR is correct, and the Ahiak herd is down 60% (they admit they have no such data), it still means a TAH of 8720, which is over 30% more than the current harvest level. With harvest levels anywhere from 30% to 200% under previous management goals, why is ENR requesting the Tłı̨chǫ to drastically reduce harvest, along with shutting down the outfitting industry and resident harvest?
17. ENR asserts that that Bathurst and Ahiak traditional calving grounds overlap (ENR File Report #123). If a caribou is collared on the wintering ground, and it migrates north to the east side of the inlet, how does ENR determine its herd designation?
18. Does the ENR reject or accept the concept, that more than one area of concentrated calving can occur on the herd's traditional calving ground?
19. GNWT File Report #18 defines a caribou herd: "Current terminology defines a caribou herd as a group of animals which consistently calves in a specific traditional

location distinct from calving areas used by other herds (Skoog 1968, Thomas 1969)". How does ENR reconcile a "distinct" calving ground, with an "overlapping" calving ground??

20. Has ENR eliminated the Northeast Mainland herd, mapped out in the 1996 Bathurst Caribou Management Plan, page 4 (see below)?



21. If ENR has virtually no bulls collared, yet is recommending the harvest of bulls in "mobile management zones", how does ENR intend to determine what bulls from what herd are where at any given time.

22. ENR states in the proposal on the Ahiak herd "This herd was never properly photo-censused." In then says "preliminary trend analysis conducted by a statistician (John Boulanger) suggests that this herd is also declining." You also state the Ahiak herd is down 60%. In order to calculate a percentage drop, one needs a beginning number and an ending number. Please provide those numbers and reconcile them with the statement "this herd has never been properly photo-censused."

23. Please explain the designation of the Bathurst Herd as the "Tłı̨chǫ Herd", the Ahiak herd as the "Inuit" herd, and the Bluenose East Herd as the "Sahtu" herd. Is ENR implying that the Tłı̨chǫ don't have the right to manage these other herds, which are all "wildlife in Wek'èezhìi"?

24. What is ENR's specific plans for predator management, including grizzly bears?

25. What is the caribou harvest numbers for 2007 and 2008?
26. What are the wolf harvest numbers for 2007 and 2008?
27. How many “problem” grizzly bears have been killed in the past ten years, and what is the trendline of these numbers?