

Tibbitt Lake to Contwoyto Winter Road

Monitoring Station Report



January 3, 2008

**North Slave Region
Environment & Natural Resources**

BACKGROUND

Prior to 2003 little or no information was collected as to how people were utilizing the Lupin Winter Road for non-commercial purposes. Due to increased use on the winter road The Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) established a check station on Ross Lake in 2003 to monitor activities by collecting data from non-commercial road users. This past season, 2007, ENR opened a check station north of Prosperous Lake on the Discovery Mine winter road and re-opened the check station on the Tł'cho Winter Road.

All non-commercial users are asked to stop at the check station to answer a questionnaire (attachment 1). The data collected is put in to a database and gives insight as to why people use the road and may help determine what impacts the road users have on the environment. Examples of information collected are: how many and what type of wildlife was harvested, why people are using the road and what communities they come from. This questionnaire also records valuable caribou information such as harvest numbers, sex of the caribou harvested, health and condition, pregnancy rates as well as numbers of caribou sighted along the winter road.

PARTNERS

ENR holds contracts with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Metis Alliance and the Tł'cho Government. Each contract is in place to hire monitors who work at the monitoring stations. The monitors are responsible for maintaining the camps and ensuring that the questionnaires are completed fully.

Partial funding for winter road monitoring comes from parties with interest in environmental monitoring concerns. The Winter Road Joint Venture Committee (JVC) provided \$20,000 in funding for the Ross Lake and Prosperous Lake monitoring stations. Last year the JVC provided ENR with a building to house the monitors at the Prosperous Lake monitoring station.

ENR also meets with the JVC to discuss survey results and address concerns. The JVC also shares road information with ENR, which allows us to prepare for operation of the check station. Nuna Logistics builds and maintains the road and ENR stays in contact with them throughout the season to discuss any concerns in regards to wildlife issues. In the past Nuna has built a turn-off leading up to the cabin, creating a driveway for vehicles checking into the station. Nuna also gives the monitors access to their camp at Dome Lake.

SURVEY RESULTS

We have compiled the last four years of data for the Ross Lake check station and last years data for the Prosperous Lake and Tlijcho check station and provided the numbers for wildlife harvested by hunters, the number of non-commercial vehicles traveling the road, why people were using the road and what community they came from (Attachment 2 through 5).

Overall numbers from the last four years show a decline in all aspects of the survey. Reasons for this vary from year to year. In 2006 lower numbers were blamed on a shorter operating season and there was not a lot of caribou migrating around the winter road. The 2007 operating season shows low numbers as well. Harvest numbers for the 2007 are low because the caribou migrated more to the western side of the north slave region. Attached are comparisons of the official operating dates from the JVC and our opening date. Although our dates generally show that we open earlier and operate past the official dates, road users typically travel when the road is open. Below are the dates:

Year	Official Date Opened	Ross Lake Opened	Official Date Closed	Ross Lake Closed
2004	January 28	January 09	March 31	April 09
2005	January 26	January 19	April 5	April 4
2006	February 5	February 4	March 26	April 12

Official Opening dates provided by the JVC

All check station will be operating again in the 2008 season.

Winter Road User Survey

Monitoring Station: **Ross Lake** **Prosperous Lake** **Tli Cho Winter Road**

Monitor's name: _____

Vehicle Information

Description of vehicle: _____

Vehicle license place origin (Territory/Province): _____ License plate no: _____

Accessory vehicles: (Snowmobiles/ATVs) **NO** **YES** How many? _____

Number of people in the vehicle: _____

Northbound Date: _____ Time: _____ am \ pm
(Spell out Month)

Community representation (indicate the community for EACH person in the vehicle)

Yellowknife _____

N'Dilo _____

Ingraham Trail _____

Dettah _____

Rae/Edzo _____

Wha Ti _____

Gameti _____

Wekweti _____

Ft. Providence _____

Other (specify) _____

Purpose for using the winter road (check all that apply):

Sight-seeing: _____ Camping: _____ Trapping: _____ (Licence #) _____

Cutting wood: _____ (Licence #) _____ Fishing: _____ (Licence #) _____

Hunting: _____ (Licence #) _____

Other (specify) _____

Hunter classification: GHL _____ Special GHL _____ Resident _____ Non-Resident _____

(Use one ✓ per hunter) Non-Resident Alien _____

How many days for hunting? 1 2 3 Other _____

What animal species are you hunting? (check all that apply)

Caribou _____

Moose _____

Grouse _____

Wolf _____

Wolverine _____

Ptarmigan _____

Other (specify) _____

Winter Road User Survey

Monitoring Station: **Ross Lake** **Prosperous Lake** **Tli Cho Winter Road**

Monitor's name: _____

Vehicle Information

Description of vehicle: _____

Vehicle license place origin (Territory/Province): _____ License plate no: _____

Accessory vehicles: (Snowmobiles/ATVs) **NO** **YES** How many? _____

Number of people in the vehicle: _____

Southbound: Date: _____ Time: _____ am / pm
(Spell out month)

Did any of you kill any wildlife this trip? YES / NO If YES, what species and how many?

Caribou _____ Moose _____ Wolf _____ Wolverine _____ Grouse _____

Ptarmigan _____ Other (specify) _____

Where? _____

For Caribou Kills:

How many were : Male: _____ Female: _____ Were any females pregnant?: _____
Adults: _____ Young: _____

How healthy were the caribou? Were they: Skinny _____
Not so skinny _____
Fat _____
Really Fat _____

Did you notice any disease or injury with these? **YES / NO**

What wildlife did you see? (Indicate how many):

Caribou _____ Moose _____

Wolf _____ Wolverine _____ Other (Specify) _____

Where were these sightings? (identify lake or portage #, if possible)

Were any of them lame or injured? **YES / NO** (please specify details below):

Did you see any infractions, e.g., meat wastage? **YES / NO** If Yes (identify where) _____

Did you see any contaminant spills? **YES / NO** If Yes (identify where) _____

Comments: _____

Attachment 2

ROSS LAKE MONITORING STATION**Main Purpose of Road Users**

Activity	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	# of Persons	# of Vehicles	# of Persons	# of Vehicles	# of Person	# of Vehicles	# of Person	# of Vehicles
Camping	109	55	77	30	82	39	93	45
Fishing	384	180	334	135	157	62	170	60
Hunting	1206	573	731	326	640	284	265	108
Other	12	8	6	8	1	1	36	10
Sight Seeing	420	201	337	144	190	78	180	83
Unknown	134	102	30	25	30	24	21	13
Wood Cutting	19	13	14	8	8	2	19	9
Working	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2289	1136	1529	676	1108	490	784	328

Person Count by Community

Community	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	# of Persons	# of Vehicles						
Dettah	106	51	84	48	32	16	63	34
Fort Providence	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort Resolution	5	3	16	7	0	0	0	0
Fort Simpson	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort Smith	27	9	68	30	22	14	0	0
Hay River	34	15	55	19	14	5	32	8
Lutsel K'e	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	0
N'Dilo	80	28	34	12	34	8	44	17
Behchoko	18	8	4	2	2	1	0	0
Rae Lakes	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0
Unknown	141	109	34	28	35	26	12	9
Yellowknife	1848	897	1188	514	931	406	627	256
Out of Territory	6	3	30	10	33	13	6	4
Out of Country	8	6	6	2	5	1	0	0
Total	2289	1136	1529	676	1108	490	784	328

ROSS LAKE MONITORING STATION

Harvested Wildlife

Wildlife	2004	2005	2006	2007
	# Harvested	# Harvested	# Harvested	# Harvested
Caribou	538	494	255	68
Grouse	0	1	0	0
Hare	0	1	0	0
Ptarmigan	5	0	0	8
Moose	0	2	0	0
Wolf	9	3	3	0
Wolverine	0	1	2	1
Total	552	502	260	77

Caribou Harvested by Hunter Type

Hunter Type	2004	2005	2006	2007
	# Harvested	# Harvested	# Harvested	# Harvested
GHL	236	312	148	65
Resident HL	143	88	90	3
Unknown	159	94	17	0
Total	538	494	255	68

**PROSPEROUS LAKE
STATION**

Harvested Wildlife

Wildlife	2007 # Harvested
Caribou	0
Grouse	0
Hare	0
Ptarmigan	0
Moose	0
Wolf	0
Wolverine	1
Total	1

Caribou Harvested by Hunter Type

Hunter Type	2007 # Harvested
GHL	0
Resident HL	0
Unknown	0
Total	0

**TLI CHO
WINTER ROAD**

Harvested Wildlife

Wildlife	2007 # Harvested
Caribou	85
Grouse	0
Hare	0
Ptarmigan	1
Moose	0
Wolf	0
Wolverine	0
Total	86

Caribou Harvested by Hunter Type

Hunter Type	2007 # Harvested
GHL	60
Resident HL	7
Unknown	18
Total	85

PROSPEROUS LAKE STATION**Main Purpose of Road Users**

2007		
Activity	# of Persons	# of Vehicles
Camping	85	13
Fishing	222	108
Hunting	70	33
Other	0	0
Sight Seeing	201	90
Unknown	18	9
Wood Cutting	22	14
Working	0	0
Total	618	267

TLI CHO WINTER ROAD**Main Purpose of Road Users**

2007		
Activity	# of Persons	# of Vehicles
Camping	0	0
Fishing	0	0
Hunting	102	41
Other	2	1
Sight Seeing	0	0
Unknown	5	3
Wood Cutting	0	0
Working	0	0
Total	109	45

Person Count by Community

2007		
Community	# of Persons	# of Vehicles
Behchoko	0	0
Dettah	0	0
Fort Smith	0	0
Hay River	0	0
N'Dilo	2	2
Unknown	15	8
Yellowknife	589	251
Out of Territory	12	6
Out of Country	0	0
Total	618	267

Person Count by Community

2007		
Community	# of Persons	# of Vehicles
Behchoko	5	3
Dettah	8	2
Fort Smith	12	5
Hay River	5	2
N'Dilo	0	0
Unknown	9	4
Yellowknife	70	29
Out of Territory	0	0
Out of Country	0	0
Total	109	45