

Tibbitt Lake to Contwoyto Winter Road

Monitoring Station Report



May 8, 2009

**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. ENR operates three monitoring stations. They are on Ross Lake, the Discovery Winter road; north of Prosperous Lake and on the Tlįcho winter road. This report provides statistical information for the Ross Lake monitoring station. The winter road north of Prosperous Lake was not pushed through this year; therefore there was no monitoring station on that portion of the 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. 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 \$10,000 in funding for the Ross Lake station to operate this year. Costs to run the monitoring station was approximately \$15,000.

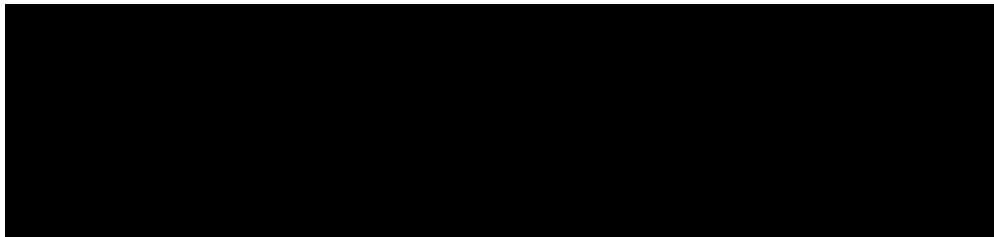
ENR also meets with the JVC to discuss survey results and address concerns. The JVC also shares road information with ENR, which allows us to prepare for operation of the check station. Nuna Logistics builds and maintains the road and ENR stays in contact with them throughout the season to discuss any 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 six years of data for the Ross Lake check station. Data provided includes: numbers for wildlife harvested by hunters, hunter type and provides communities / region that hunters came from; those can be found in 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. Last year harvest numbers were up along the Prosperous Lake portion of the road, as there was a small population of caribou situated along that portion of the winter road for much of the season. This year traffic numbers were down and no reported caribou was harvested along the Contwoyto Winter Road.

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:



Official Opening dates provided by the JVC

ENR will decide closer to the 2010 season whether the monitoring stations will operate.

Winter Road User Survey**SIDE ONE: USER INFORMATION****Monitoring Station:** ☐ **Ross Lake** ☐ **Prosperous Lake** ☐ **Tłı 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)**Southbound:** 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: GHIL _____ Special GHIL _____ 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

SIDE TWO: HARVEST / SURVEY DATA

See previous page for road user data.

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

(please specify details below)

Caribou _____ Moose _____ Wolf _____ Wolverine _____ Grouse _____
Ptarmigan _____ Other (specify) _____
Where? _____ Grid # _____

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):

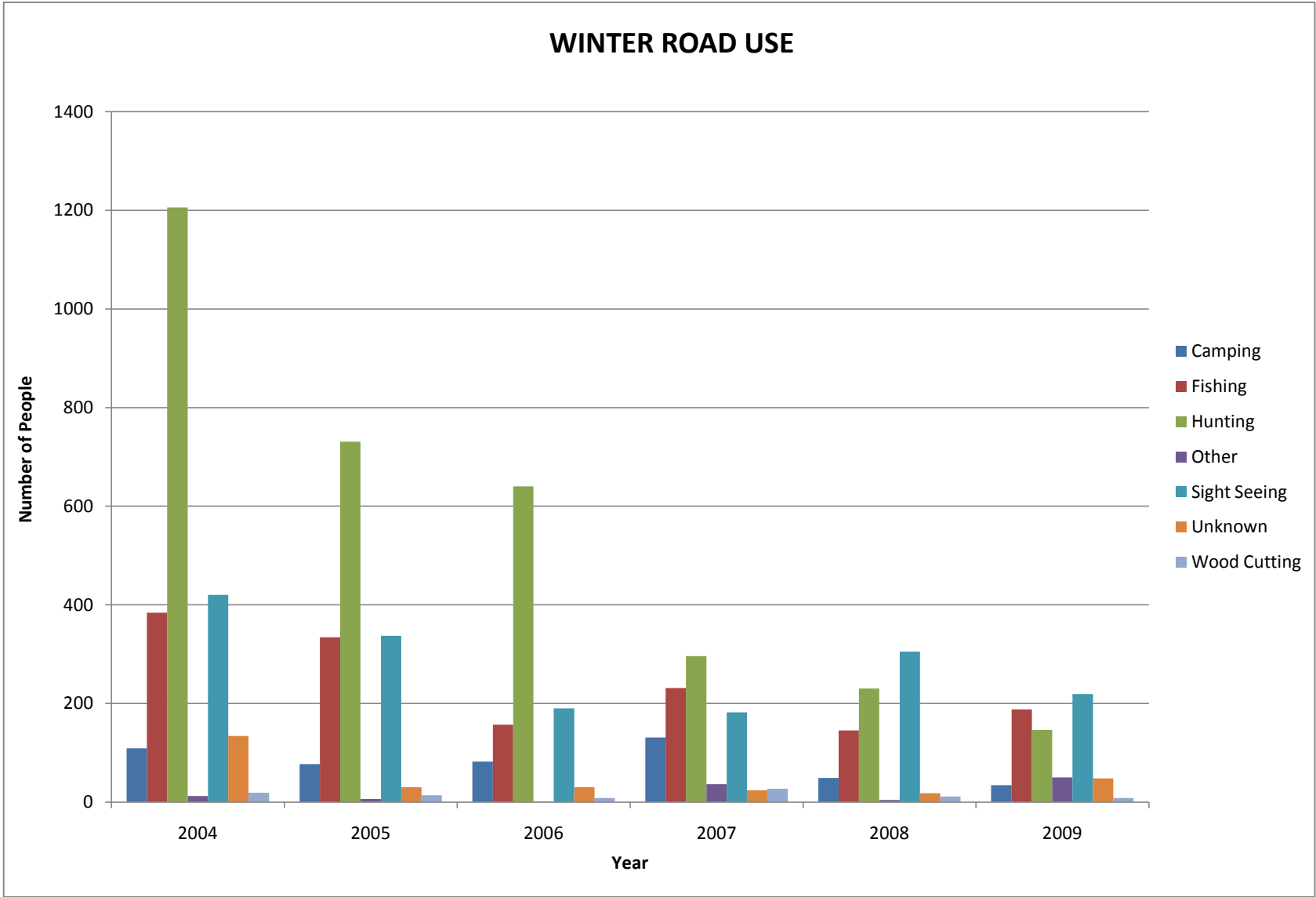
Caribou _____ Moose _____
Wolf _____ Wolverine _____ Other (Specify) _____
Where were these sightings? (identify lake or portage #, if possible) _____

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: _____



PERSON COUNT BY COMMUNITY / REGION

