

## **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 Tłı̨cho 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.

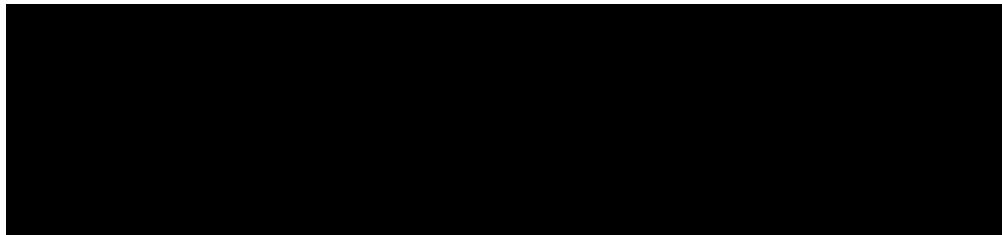
ENR also meets with the JVC to discuss survey results and address concerns. The JVC also shares road information with ENR, which allows us to prepare for operation of the check station. Nuna Logistics builds and maintains the road and ENR stays in contact with them throughout the season to discuss any 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 Contwoyo 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.

ATTACHMENT I

**Winter Road User Survey**

**SIDE ONE: USER INFORMATION**

**Monitoring Station:**  **Ross Lake**  **Prosperous Lake**  **Tłı̨ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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:** 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**

### **SIDE TWO: HARVEST / SURVEY DATA**

See previous page for road user data.

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**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)

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

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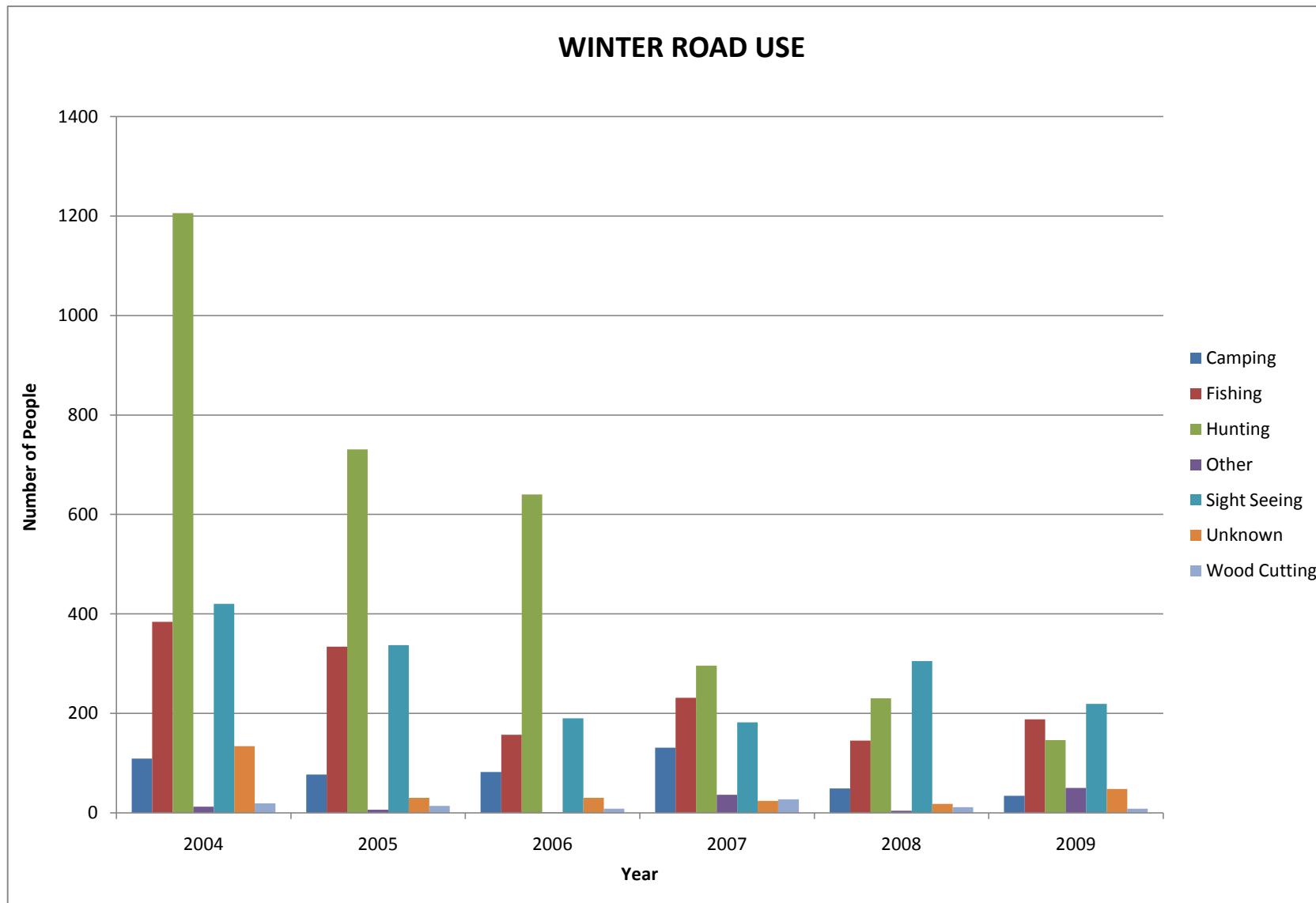
Did you see any infractions, e.g., meat wastage? **YES / NO** If Yes (identify where) \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you see any contaminant spills? **YES / NO** If Yes (identify where) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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## PERSON COUNT BY COMMUNITY / REGION

