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Responses to Round 2 Information Requests



Prepared for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session
Sahtú Ragóza (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting
January 13, 2020

Background

Round 2 Information Requests (IRs) issued by the ᑭᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB) on December 20, 2019 included questions to the SRRB arising from a letter addressed to the SRRB from the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT – WMAC [NWT]), as well as a question posed by NWT Environment and Natural Resources related to the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session. The WMAC (NWT) letter is dated December 19, 2020 can be found on the Colville 2020 Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca¹.

The following are responses to Round 2 IRs to the SRRB. Documents referenced can be found on the Colville 2020 Public Registry (finding aids are included in footnotes).

Topic 3: Transboundary Agreements

IRs to ᑭᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦ ᑭᑦᑲᑦ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB)

- 3.3 The *Taking Care of Caribou* plan (2014) includes a “Management Actions” table with a section on harvest actions to be taken depending on consensus agreements regarding herd status. How does the SRRB plan to comply with transboundary agreements to share monthly Sahtú beneficiary and non-beneficiary harvest information with a degree of confidence and information on how the numbers were collected? (WMAC [NWT])

The SRRB has undertaken several initiatives to explore best practices in documenting barren-ground caribou harvest data in the Sahtú region, as follows:

- Janet Winbourne was contracted to assess and complete the Sahtú Harvest Study. This has included a series of interviews with coordinators of the Sahtú Harvest Study as well as other Harvest Studies, statistical analysis, and community validation workshops. The 2013 Assessment Report and 2016 Methods Report are available for review². Reports on community data and validation workshops are being delivered to community owners. Janet will present about the Harvest Study at the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session, and the Board will consider evidence that she is able to provide, including conclusions and

¹ Colville 2020 Public Registry. 2.0 Proposals for Decision, Information Request Responses and Supporting Documentation. File [19-12-19 WMAC-NWT Letter - Transboundary Agreements-Harvest Data](#).

² Colville 2020 Public Registry. 3.4 Harvest Studies and Monitoring. Files [2013-07-23 Sahtú Harvest Study Assessment Report](#); [2016-10-20 Sahtú Harvest Study Methods Report](#).

recommendations based on the Sahtú Harvest Study completion project.

- According to the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993)³, “Renewable Resources Councils shall participate in the collection and provision, to government and the Board, of local harvesting data and other locally available data respecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.” The SRRB’s most recent decision related to harvest monitoring was based on evidence presented at the SRRB’s Bluenose East Hearing⁴. Consistent with this provision, Decisions #10 and #11 accept the approach of community Ɂedets’ę k’áots’erewe (self-regulation) and request that Ɂehdzo Got’Inę (Renewable Resources Councils) develop and implement community conservation plans that include a harvest plan and monitoring.
- During the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session, the SRRB seeks to gather evidence for decisions that can be the basis for establishing best practices for caribou harvest monitoring and reporting in the Sahtú region.

3.4.1 How is the SRRB informing communities about the *Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan* and associated action plans? (ENR)

Initiatives reflecting the SRRB’s approach to engaging with communities about the *Taking Care of Caribou* plan have included:

- Development of Sahtú-specific documents to assist communities in understanding the plan, and to encourage contribution of community knowledge for the annual Bluenose West and Bluenose East monitoring tables. These include a plain language summary of the plan and a compilation of Sahtú components of the Community Engagement companion document to the plan⁵.
- Inclusion of components relevant to the plan’s Management Actions table in the list of community conservation plan requirements outlined in the 2016 Bluenose East Caribou Hearing Report.
- Presentations about the plan and Action Plans and their relevance for Sahtú conservation actions during collaborative community conservation planning sessions related to Ɂadə/Ɂekwę (barren-ground caribou).
- Annual contact with Sahtú leadership organisations regarding opportunities to contribute to monitoring tables, with special attention to the recognized Sahtú community stewards

³ Colville 2020 Public Registry. Rules and Policy Documents. File [Sahtú Land Claim Claim Vol 1](#).

⁴ Colville 2020 Public Registry. 3.1 Relevant Documents - Ɂadə/Ɂekwę (Barren-Ground Caribou). File [16-07-28 SRRB BNE Caribou Hearing Report](#).

⁵ Colville 2020 Public Registry. 3.1 Relevant Documents - Ɂadə/Ɂekwę (Barren-Ground Caribou). Files [15-01-28 SRRB Taking Care of Caribou Summary](#); [15-01-23 SRRB Taking Care of Caribou - Community Knowledge Report SAHTU INFO ONLY](#).

of ɬədə/ɬekwé (barren-ground caribou), Colville and Délıne.

- Hosting an ACCWM meeting in Délıne (June 28-30, 2016) and encouraging participation of Délıne leaders, ɬehdzo Got'ıne and community members to participate during public sessions.
- Participation in the ACCWM's Education and Communication Working Group, with an eye to how materials and tools can be developed that will be effective within the Sahtú region.

3.4.2 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is invited to the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management's annual status meeting and contributes scientific monitoring information to the monitoring table. What process does the SRRB use to populate regional information into the monitoring table? (*ENR*)

In the 2016 Bluenose East Hearing Report⁶, the SRRB stated in Decision #3 that the SRRB “will work with ıjch'ádıı (wildlife) management partners to develop a well-rounded community-collaborative Dene náoweré and science-based research and monitoring program in order to provide greater certainty about the status of Bluenose East ɬekwé based on the ten criteria outlined in the *Taking Care of Caribou* plan developed by the ACCWM (Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management), and approved by the NWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.” This will be a key topic for the second Public Listening Session.

The SRRB has experimented with different methods of collaborating with Délıne to elicit inputs into the monitoring table while adhering to OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession) principles that are widely understood to be best practice for research with Indigenous communities. Methods proposed by Colville for the future are included in *Dehlá Got'ıne ɬədə Plan*⁷ being considered by the SRRB as part of the Colville 2020 Public Listening evidence. The SRRB welcomes additional evidence related to best practices in compiling community knowledge as a basis for assessing barren-ground caribou status.

The methods used to date are as follows:

- Monthly technical team meetings including Délıne ɬehdzo Got'ıne, SRRB and NWT Environment and Natural Resources staff to discuss the monitoring table. This, along with a questionnaire used in a door-to-door campaign, was the method used in 2016.
- The SRRB developed a questionnaire for eliciting community inputs into the ACCWM monitoring table. This questionnaire has been used by more than one ACCWM Member Board, and was used by Délıne in 2017 in a door to door campaign, along with a focus group meeting. Délıne provided a detailed report on results that served as the basis for monitoring

⁶ Colville 2020 Public Registry. 3.1 Relevant Documents - ɬədə/ɬekwé (Barren-Ground Caribou). File [16-07-28 SRRB BNE Caribou Hearing Report](#).

⁷ Colville 2020 Public Registry. 2.0 Proposals for Decision and Supporting Documentation. File [19-10-21 Colville Plan 1 - Dehlá Got'ıne ɬədə Plan](#).

table information, as well as reflections on future methods for strengthening results.

- The SRRB has supported delegates from Colville and Délı̄ne to present at each of the annual ACCWM status meetings, orally providing community knowledge information for the monitoring information directly to Member Boards and other participants. This approach pays respect to the oral basis of community knowledge sharing in the Sahtú.

3.5 How does the SRRB ensure that there is harmonization between any community conservation plans and broader management planning, for example with other co-management boards or across jurisdictional boundaries? (*ENR*)

The SRRB recognizes that conservation planning among diverse regions and communities will vary, but coordination and consensus regarding conservation goals is needed. The SRRB has taken initiative to encourage Délı̄ne and Colville to attend ACCWM meetings to gain an understanding of broader understandings of barren-ground caribou statuses and cross-jurisdictional action planning. In addition, the Board has encouraged and supported coordination among Sahtú communities, between Colville and Paulatuk, and between Délı̄ne and the Tłı̄chǫ Government.

The Board partnered with the Sahtú Secretariat Inc. in hosting a Sahtú Leadership Caribou Meeting on April 21-23, 2015, and coordinated a caribou sharing meeting involving Tłı̄chǫ Government and Délı̄ne delegates as well as ENR on December 5-6, 2016. Wildlife management authorities and community delegates were invited to participate in the 2016 Bluenose East Hearing in Délı̄ne, and the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session.

Topic 4: Public Listening Process and Timelines

IR to Pehdzo Got'ı̄ne Gots'ę Nákedi (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB)

4.3 Clarify the length of time required for the completion of results from Public Listening Sessions, and how the SRRB intends to be engaged in the management of barren-ground caribou herds in the interim. (*WMAC [NWT]*)

As outlined in the Timeline for the Colville 2020 Public Listening, the SRRB plans to complete a Reasons for Decision document based on consideration of evidence collected at the first Public Listening session on the central question of “What is the most effective way to regulate the harvest of caribou?.” The Board’s Reasons for Decision document will be released on March 31, 2020.

Per the *Sahtú Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, Sections 13.8.24, 13.8.25 and 13.8.26, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources will then have 90 days to accept, vary or set aside and replace the decision. The Minister must consider the same factors as were considered by the Board and, in addition, may consider information not before the Board and matters of public interest not considered by the Board. Any

proposed variation or replacement shall be sent back to the Board by the Minister with written reasons.

Per the *Sahtú Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, sections 13.8.27 and 13.8.28, the Board will then have 30 days after the receipt of a variation or replacement from the Minister to make a final decision and forward it to the Minister with written reasons. The Minister will then have 30 days to, once again, accept, vary, set aside or replace the Board's final decisions, with reasons. The Government must then, as soon as practicable, implement the decisions of the Board that are accepted by the Minister.

Throughout this process and beyond, the Board shall monitor research, proposed policies, regulations, management plans and other initiatives for the regulation of caribou herds. The Board will also be working closely with Sahtú communities, ENR and other stakeholders in preparation for Public Listening #2 (preliminary title *Knowledge of Caribou and Landscapes*).