

**Report on a Public Hearing  
Held by the  
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board &  
Reasons for Decision on the  
Setting of a Total Allowable Harvest for  
the Bluenose - West Caribou Herd**

**21-23 November 2007  
Fort Good Hope, NT**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS .....	3
1. SRRB RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTER(S) .....	4
2. PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY OF REPORT .....	6
3. INTRODUCTION .....	7
3.1 The SRRB and Management of the BNW Caribou Herd .....	7
3.2 SRRB Mandate .....	7
4. PREVIOUS SRRB BNW MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS .....	9
5. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT) AND GWICH'IN RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD BNW CARIBOU MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS .....	11
5.1 Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) BNW Caribou Management Proposals .....	13
5.2 Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board BNW Caribou Management Proposals..	14
6. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING .....	15
7. IS THERE A CONSERVATION CONCERN FOR THE BLUENOSE WEST CARIBOU HERD? .....	15
8. NEED FOR A TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST .....	17
9. THE SAHTU NEEDS LEVEL .....	18
10. SRRB RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING A TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST & SAHTU NEEDS LEVEL .....	19
11. ADDITIONAL SRRB RECOMMENDATIONS ON CARIBOU MANAGEMENT .....	20
12. SRRB RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT, HABITAT AND CARIBOU MANAGEMENT .....	22
13. CONCLUDING COMMENTS .....	24

## LIST OF FIGURES & TABLES

Figure 1: Annual range of the Bluenose-West barren-ground caribou herd.....	12
Figure 2: Population Trends, 1987-2006 .....	16
Figure 3: Land Rights in the Bluenose-West Caribou Range.....	23
Table 1: Subsistence Harvest of BNW Caribou in the Sahtu .....	17

## LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	Chronology of Events since the 2005 Photo-Census of the BNW .....	25
APPENDIX B	Previous SRRB BNW Caribou Recommendations .....	27
APPENDIX C	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) & Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board BNW Caribou Recommendations.....	37
APPENDIX D	List of Documents on Public Record .....	49
APPENDIX E	List of Registered Participants in the Hearing .....	54

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>BNW</b>	<b>Bluenose-West</b>
<b>ENR</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Natural Resources</b>
<b>GNWT</b>	<b>Government of the Northwest Territories</b>
<b>GRRB</b>	<b>Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board</b>
<b>GSA</b>	<b>Gwich'in Settlement Area</b>
<b>HTC</b>	<b>Hunters and Trappers Committee</b>
<b>INAC</b>	<b>Indian and Northern Affairs Canada</b>
<b>IR</b>	<b>Information Request</b>
<b>MVRMA</b>	<b>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</b>
<b>NWT</b>	<b>Northwest Territories</b>
<b>RRC</b>	<b>Renewable Resource Council</b>
<b>SLWB</b>	<b>Sahtu Land &amp; Water Board</b>
<b>SNL</b>	<b>Sahtu Needs Level</b>
<b>SRRB</b>	<b>Sahtu Renewable Resources Board</b>
<b>SSA</b>	<b>Sahtu Settlement Area</b>
<b>TAH</b>	<b>Total Allowable Harvest</b>
<b>WMAC (NWT)</b>	<b>Wildlife Management Advisory Council, Northwest Territories</b>

## **1. SRRB RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTER(S)**

Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Minister, Environment & Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories

Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Government of Canada

As required by the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, Section 13.8.21 (b), the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board conducted a public hearing 21-23 November 2007 in Fort Good Hope, NT to hear from all affected and interested parties about establishing a Total Allowable Harvest to reduce harvesting on the Bluenose-West caribou herd. The hearing provided a wide range of interested parties an opportunity to express their views on barren-ground caribou management in the Sahtu Settlement Area. Information related to the hearing can be found on the SRRB's Public Registry at: [www.srrb.nt.ca](http://www.srrb.nt.ca).

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board wishes to provide the following recommendations concerning a Total Allowable Harvest and Sahtu Needs Level for the Bluenose-West herd as well as additional recommendations about caribou management to the Department of Environment & Natural Resources:

1. A Total Allowable Harvest of 4% should be set for the Bluenose-West caribou herd.
2. The harvest of Bluenose-West caribou should be biased toward bulls.
3. A Sahtu Needs Level should be established and allocated to Sahtu communities based on their average share, since 2005, of total harvests of BNW caribou.
4. The Sahtu Needs Level should be enforced and monitored.
5. The current muskox quotas in the Sahtu Region should be increased.
6. There should be increased conservation education in the Sahtu communities.
7. Ensure caribou harvest data is obtained from the three communities in the Sahtu that harvest Bluenose-West caribou.
8. There should be increased management efforts on alternative game.
9. Every effort should be made to ensure community participation in management studies.
10. Barren-ground caribou hunting zones in the Sahtu should be modified to reflect herd specific management.
11. The most current population management techniques should be brought to bear in making management decisions on the Bluenose-West herd.

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board wishes to provide the following recommendations about development, habitat, and caribou management to Indian & Northern Affairs Canada:

1. Conditions on land use and water licenses should reflect the need to minimize disturbance and protect caribou habitat.
2. Caribou protection measures must be updated and implemented where practical.

Upon completion of the 2009 photo-census survey, the SRRB will review the survey results and any additional information available at that time to determine whether or not to modify, add to, or remove the above recommendations.

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board looks forward to working with other wildlife management Boards, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to address this important wildlife issue.

Respectfully yours,

Walter J. Bayha  
Chair, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board

## **2. PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) is responsible for wildlife management in the Sahtu Settlement Area and shares responsibility for monitoring and managing the Bluenose-West (BNW) caribou herd. In 2006, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), reported that, in their view, the BNW herd had declined significantly and that urgent management actions were required. Despite recommendations made by the SRRB and other wildlife management authorities, the BNW herd continued to decline and ENR requested that a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) be considered. The SRRB complied with section 13.8.21(b) of the Sahtu Agreement and held a public hearing in Fort Good Hope November 21-23, 2007. Sahtu community Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs), First Nations, Elders, and ENR provided presentations and were given opportunities to question other presenters and comment.

The SRRB has concluded, based on all available evidence, that a serious conservation issue exists and that a TAH and a Sahtu Needs Level (SNL) must be established to address the declining BNW herd numbers. The SRRB recommends that the Minister of ENR set a TAH based on 4% of the 2006 BNW herd population estimate. Harvest should be selective towards bulls in order to achieve an 80:20 ratio of bulls harvested to cows. The SNL should be allocated to Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells based on their average harvest of BNW caribou since 2005. The SNL should be monitored and enforced by ENR. The SRRB has made additional caribou management recommendations, including adjusting the current muskox quotas in the Sahtu, increasing conservation education initiatives, monitoring the harvest, and modifying barren-ground caribou hunting zones. The SRRB also recommends to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the K'asho Go'tine, Deline, and Tulita District Land Corporations and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) that land use permit and water licence conditions should protect caribou habitat and that mobile caribou protection measures should be updated and implemented.

The SRRB believes that limiting the harvest of the BNW caribou can have a great impact on the recovery of this herd. The SRRB's decision has been structured to have the least impact on caribou users and the greatest benefit to caribou that is possible at this time. The SRRB has the option of reviewing and modifying these proposed management actions as the herd recovers.

### 3. INTRODUCTION

#### 3.1 The SRRB and Management of the BNW Caribou Herd

The SRRB is the main instrument of wildlife management in the Sahtu Settlement Area (SSA)<sup>1</sup> and has shared responsibility for the monitoring and management of the BNW caribou herd. Since 2005, the SRRB has made a number of recommendations to the Minister of ENR<sup>2</sup> concerning BNW caribou management. In late 2006, ENR notified co-management authorities, including the SRRB, and caribou users across the Northwest Territories (NWT) that in their view significant declines had occurred in all barren ground caribou herds in the NWT, including the BNW herd<sup>3</sup>, and that management action was urgently required.

As part of its ongoing wildlife management responsibilities, the SRRB has consulted with Sahtu communities and RRCs and has made recommendations to the Minister of ENR (see section 4 below) in respect of barren-ground caribou management in the Sahtu. However, in light of the evidence of a continuing decline in the BNW caribou herd, the SRRB held a public hearing to consider the need for the setting of a TAH for this herd. That hearing was held November 21 to 23, 2007 in Fort Good Hope.

#### 3.2 SRRB Mandate

The SRRB was established as the main instrument of wildlife management in the SSA by the Sahtu Agreement at the time the Agreement was ratified by Parliament.<sup>4</sup> The SRRB's major authorities and responsibilities in relation to wildlife are set out in Chapter 13 of the Sahtu Agreement. Only through the SRRB may a limitation be imposed on harvesting by participants, and such action may only be taken for the purposes of conservation.

The most important provisions in relation to the SRRB's (the Board's) role in the limitation of participant harvesting are set out in the Sahtu Agreement as follows:

#### 13.5 LIMITATION OF THE HARVEST

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<sup>1</sup> Section 13.8.1 of the *Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement Between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and the Dene of Colville Lake, Deline, Fort Good Hope and Fort Norman and the Métis of Fort Good Hope, Fort Norman and Norman Wells in the Sahtu Region of the Mackenzie Valley as Represented by the Sahtu Tribal Council*, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa, 1993 (hereinafter the "Sahtu Agreement").

<sup>2</sup> The department's name and functions have recently changed from Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development (RWED) to ENR.

<sup>3</sup> See for example *Caribou Forever – Our Heritage Our Responsibility: A Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy for the Northwest Territories 2006 – 2010*, Government of the Northwest Territories, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> *Sahtu Dene and Métis Land Claim Act*, S.C. 1994, c.27. Royal assent June 23, 1994. See s.13.8.1 of the Sahtu Agreement.

**13.5.1** The Board may limit the quantity of the harvest by participants in accordance with the procedure set out in **13.5**.

**13.5.2** The Board may, in accordance with this chapter, establish, modify or remove total allowable harvest levels from time to time in the settlement area but shall establish or modify such levels only if required for conservation and to the extent necessary to achieve conservation. Unless a total allowable harvest is established, the quantity of the harvest by participants may not be limited.

**13.5.3** Where a total allowable harvest has been established, the Board shall allocate for the participants a portion or all of the total allowable harvest, hereinafter called the "Sahtu Needs Level". When the Sahtu Needs Level equals or is less than the total allowable harvest it shall constitute a first demand on the total allowable harvest. When the Sahtu Needs Level is greater than the total allowable harvest, the participants shall be allocated not more than the total allowable harvest.

**13.5.4** The Board may establish the total allowable harvest and a Sahtu Needs Level for a particular wildlife species or population applicable to the settlement area as a whole, or to particular areas or communities. The Board may adjust such Sahtu Needs Level from time to time.

**13.5.5** When establishing and adjusting a Sahtu Needs Level, the Board shall consult with Renewable Resources Councils and shall consider all relevant factors including in particular:

- (a) the usage patterns and levels of past harvests by participants;
- (b) personal consumption needs of participants, including their nutritional, clothing and cultural needs and fish for their dogs;
- (c) trade among participants to meet their needs described in (b); and
- (d) the availability of various wildlife species and populations to meet these needs

The SRRB acts in the public interest. It is an institution of public government, a co-management Board which makes its decisions on the basis of consensus. The SRRB works closely with Sahtu communities, participants and the RRCs<sup>5</sup> established in each Sahtu community.

Wildlife management is a central and important component of the Sahtu Agreement. One indication of the importance attached to wildlife management by the Sahtu Dene and Métis is that the SRRB was established at the time of settlement legislation and did not have to wait for subsequent legislative action.<sup>6</sup> The use of wildlife by participants for sustenance, cultural and spiritual purposes is protected by law and may only be affected in the manner set out in Chapter 13.

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<sup>5</sup> The powers of the RRCs are set out in s.13.9.4 of the Sahtu Agreement.

<sup>6</sup> The SRRB and RRCs can be contrasted with the Land and Water Boards and Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board which required separate legislation, the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* which was not enacted until 1998, four years after Sahtu Agreement legislation.

The SRRB must comply with the Sahtu Agreement if it is contemplating any limitation to participant harvesting, including any limitation to the harvesting of BNW caribou. More specifically, section 13.5.2 (see above) specifies that such limitations may only be imposed to meet the needs of conservation and that any such limitations must be proportionate to the need for conservation. The Sahtu Agreement defines conservation as follows:

"conservation" means the management of wildlife populations and habitat to ensure the maintenance of the quality and diversity including the long-term optimum productivity of those resources, and to ensure a sustainable harvest and its efficient utilization;

In addition to the substantive legal protection for participants' harvesting rights set out in the Sahtu Agreement, the SRRB is also bound by procedural requirements because paragraph 13.8.21(b) makes it mandatory for the SRRB to hold a public hearing when it intends to consider establishing a TAH and a SNL in respect of a species or a population such as the BNW caribou herd.

#### **4. PREVIOUS SRRB BNW MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS**

The SRRB has made a number of recommendations to the GNWT ENR over the past several years in order to address barren-ground caribou management concerns in the Sahtu Settlement Area (see Appendix B). A brief summary of these caribou management recommendations is set out below:

On September 23, 2005 the SRRB recommended that ENR:

- Repeat its photo-census in 2006 with the deployment of additional satellite and VHF collars to increase sample size of collared animals on each herd, and
- Establish check stations on roads between Tulita/Deline and Fort Good Hope/Colville Lake during 2006 winter road season to promote caribou conservation and collect harvest data. Stations to be manned by both ENR Wildlife Officers and RRC Wildlife Monitors.

Response: ENR deployed an additional 29 collars (15 female and 14 male) in March 2006 and conducted a photo-census survey on July 7-8, 2006. No check stations have been opened in the Sahtu to date.

On March 24, 2006 the SRRB recommended that ENR:

- Set a voluntary annual Allowable Harvest for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd at 1040 caribou and the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd at 3300 caribou until the July 2006 photo-census results are made available
- Reduce the commercial quota for barren-ground caribou in the SSA to zero until the July 2006 photo-census results are made available

- Close the non-resident and non-resident alien hunting seasons for barren-ground caribou in the SSA until the July 2006 photo census results are made available
- As a public wildlife management board, the SRRB would like to see Northwest Territories' residents have the opportunity to harvest barren-ground caribou; however, since the Minimum Needs Level, as determined by the Sahtu Settlement Harvest Study, had already exceeded the Total Allowable Harvest and to err on the side of conservation, the SRRB recommended closing the resident hunting season for barren-ground caribou in the SSA until the July 2006 photo-census results are made available

Response: ENR changed the NWT Wildlife Regulations on October 25, 2006 to close resident, non-resident, non-resident alien and commercial harvest in the Sahtu Settlement Area.

On December 20, 2006 the SRRB recommended that ENR:

- Set a total allowable harvest (TAH) for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd at 4% of the 2006 photo-census results for subsistence harvesting until a new population estimate is available in 2009 and to limit the harvest of females at 20% of the TAH. The TAH will be distributed between regions based on percentages agreed to by the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT), the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, and the SRRB.
- Reduce the commercial quota for barren-ground caribou in the SSA to zero until the July 2009 photo-census results are made available.
- Close the non-resident and non-resident alien hunting seasons for barren-ground caribou in the SSA until the July 2009 photo-census results are made available.
- As a public wildlife management board, the SRRB would like to see Northwest Territories' residents have the opportunity to harvest barren-ground caribou; however, since the Minimum Needs Level, as determined by the Sahtu Settlement Harvest Study, has already exceeded the Total Allowable Harvest and to err on the side of conservation, the SRRB recommends closing the resident hunting season for barren-ground caribou in the SSA until the July 2009 photo-census results are made available.
- ENR should determine the size of the Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herds by conducting a photo-census survey in July 2009.
- ENR should continue enforcement and compliance efforts including the enforcement of wastage legislation. Funding should be provided to the SRRB to continue the Sahtu Settlement Harvest Study to monitor caribou harvesting activity in the SSA, especially the sex ratio.
- ENR should work with the SRRB and RRCs to develop barren-ground caribou conservation-education initiatives, including the voluntary selection of bulls and ethical harvesting methods.

Response: All harvesting in the Sahtu was closed, except for subsistence harvesters, as of October 2006. ENR plans to conduct another photo-census survey in July 2009. No funding has been provided to the SRRB for collection of harvest statistics. ENR has put

significant effort into producing conservation-education materials in several media formats for the Northwest Territories.

On August 3, 2007 the SRRB requested that ENR:

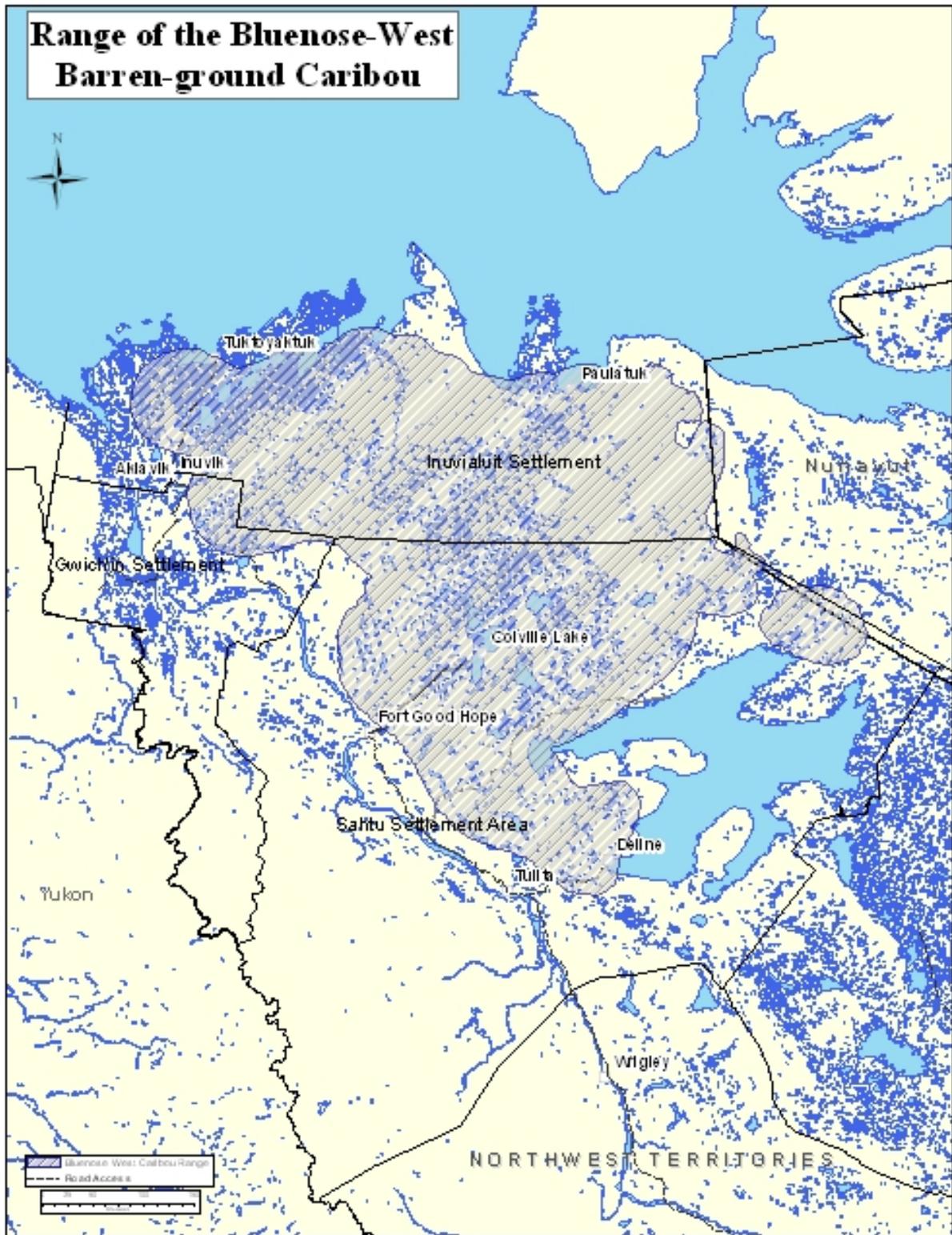
- Table the Total Allowable Harvest recommendation made in December 2006 pending the outcome of a public hearing to be held pursuant to the Sahtu Settlement Agreement.

Response: ENR requested that the SRRB forward any recommendations from the public hearing once available, including how to manage, implement, and regulate a Total Allowable Harvest if recommended, and consideration of separating S/BC/01 into two management areas.

## **5. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT) AND GWICH'IN RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD BNW CARIBOU MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS**

The annual range of the BNW caribou herd includes a number of communities in the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Nunavut settlement areas which harvest from it at different times of the year (Figure 1). The SRRB is one of four co-management tribunals with management authority over the BNW caribou herd. The others are the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

The SRRB must recognize the management initiatives undertaken by these other co-management bodies. While the SRRB is responsible for managing wildlife in the SSA on the basis of information from the Sahtu, it must not lose sight of this overall management context. A failure to act when the evidence indicates a wildlife management need could have effects on harvesters outside the Sahtu. The SRRB is aware of this shared management context of the BNW herd and during the hearing in Fort Good Hope, ENR provided evidence about the management efforts undertaken to protect this herd in the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in Settlement Areas.



**Figure 1: Annual range of the Bluenose-West barren-ground caribou herd (Sahtu GIS Project 2008)**

## 5.1 Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) BNW Caribou Management Proposals

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) (WMAC (NWT)) has made a number of recommendations to the GNWT over the past several years in order to address barren-ground caribou management concerns in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Appendix C). A brief summary of these caribou management recommendations is set out below:

On January 20, 2006, WMAC (NWT) recommended that ENR:

- ENR should amend the NWT Wildlife Regulations to revise Barren-ground Caribou Management Area I/BC/06 to exclude the known range of the Cape Bathurst Herd within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region as identified through community consultation.
- The voluntary annual Allowable Harvest for the Bluenose-West caribou herd be set at 1040 caribou for the period July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
- Recognizing the preferential subsistence right of the Inuvialuit for caribou and that the Bluenose-West caribou herd is harvested by other aboriginal peoples with similar rights, ENR should, as soon as possible, amend the NWT Wildlife Regulations to close the resident, non-resident, and non-resident alien hunting seasons for barren-ground caribou within the revised Barren-ground Caribou Management Area I/BC/06, and ENR should, as soon as possible, amend the NWT Wildlife Regulations to reduce the commercial quota for barren-ground caribou within the revised Barren-ground Caribou Management Area I/BC/06 to zero.
- ENR should work with the Hunters & Trappers Committees (HTCs) and WMAC (NWT) to review methods to achieve the voluntary annual Allowable Harvest following July 2006 photo-census and should take into account any other information available.
- ENR should enhance enforcement and compliance efforts including increased monitoring of harvesting activity within the revised Barren-ground Caribou Management Area I/BC/06 and enforcement of wastage legislation.

Response: ENR changed the NWT Wildlife Regulations on March 14, 2006 to close resident, non-resident, non-resident alien and commercial harvest in Barren-ground Caribou Management Area I/BC/06.

On October 20, 2006, WMAC (NWT) recommended that ENR:

- Create a new zone I/BC/08 and to allow an unlimited harvest in I/BC/08, with a closure to hunting from April 15 to June 15.
- Modify proposed zone I/BC/07 as per the updated map provided to the Inuvialuit Game Council incorporating the communities' desired changes to the western boundary to exclude Richards Island.
- Establish a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of zero in the proposed zone I/BC/07 and the TAH would be enforceable by ENR.

- Allow a limited harvest in I/BC/06 with a modification of the TAH to 4% of the 2006 caribou survey for subsistence harvesting only until the 2009 survey results are available. The harvest should be made up of 80% male caribou and 20% cows as per the communities' wishes and ENR should monitor the sex ratio of the herd annually.

Response: The community HTC's changed their bylaws. ENR subsequently incorporated the HTC by-laws into the NWT Wildlife Regulations in October 2007 as well as creating the new zone I/BC/08 and requiring tags for harvest in I/BC/06.

## **5.2 Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board BNW Caribou Management Proposals**

The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) has made a number of recommendations to the GNWT over the past several years in order to address barren-ground caribou management concerns in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (Appendix C). A brief summary of these caribou management recommendations is set out below:

On March 20, 2006, GRRB recommended that ENR:

- Set the annual Allowable Subsistence Harvest for the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds at 5% level. If the 5% level has been reached or exceeded the harvest should be interrupted immediately.
- Close all commercial harvest of barren-ground caribou until the June 2006 photo-census results become available.
- Close the non-resident and non-resident alien hunting of barren-ground caribou in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) until the June 2006 photo-census results become available.
- Close the resident hunting of the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds in the GSA within the G/BC/02 Management Area until the June 2006 photo-census results become available.
- Establish a Harvest Monitoring Program in the NWT specifically for caribou and develop barren-ground caribou conservation-education programs and materials.

Response: ENR changed the NWT Wildlife Regulations on October 25, 2006 to close resident, non-resident, non-resident alien and commercial harvest in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

On October 31, 2006, GRRB provided support to the October 20, 2006 recommendations of WMAC (NWT). On February 14, 2007, GRRB recommended that ENR:

- Close hunting of barren-ground caribou in the Management Zone G/BC/02.

Response: ENR changed the NWT Wildlife Regulations on November 2, 2007 to close barren-ground caribou harvest in G/BC/02.

## **6. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Public Notice of the SRRB decision to conduct a public hearing concerning the possible setting of a TAH for the BNW caribou herd was published on October 15, 2007. The notice was also faxed to communities, band councils, RRCs and other potentially interested organizations in the Sahtu Region. Interested parties were invited to contact the SRRB for inclusion on the distribution list and to formally indicate whether they intended to participate in the public hearing in Fort Good Hope. SRRB staff made ongoing efforts to ensure that all parties were aware of the information available on the public record.

In order to obtain the information necessary for the SRRB to consider as part of the record of this proceeding, a series of Information Requests (IRs) were issued to the registered parties. The IRs and responses are all available on the public registry which can be accessed electronically at [<http://www.srrb.nt.ca/registry.htm>]. A list of the documents included in the registry and considered by the SRRB in making its decision is found below in Appendix D.

The proceeding and hearing were conducted on the basis of the SRRB's *Draft Rules for Public Hearings*. The SRRB issued instructions to the registered parties as required and on November 11<sup>th</sup> issued final Public Hearing Instructions to all registered parties. There were eight (8) registered parties including the GNWT ENR, Behdzi Ahda' First Nation, Ayoni Keh Land Corporation, Behdzi Ahda RRC, a group of Colville Lake Elders and Community Members, the Fort Good Hope RRC, the Norman Wells RRC, and the Tulita RRC (Appendix E). In addition, the SRRB heard from the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and Grand Chief Frank Andrew.

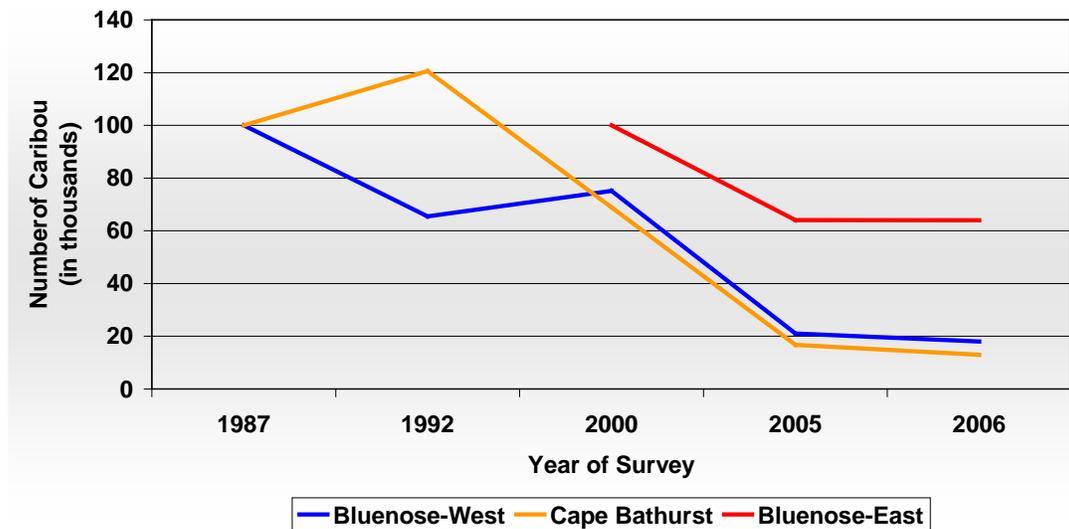
The registered parties submitted written presentations and, at the hearing in Fort Good Hope, each registered party was also allowed to make an oral presentation, to ask questions of the other presenters, and to make a closing statement. Elders were accommodated throughout the hearing and were given the opportunity to speak and to ask questions. Members of the public were also given the opportunity to address the SRRB in the hearing. A full written transcript of each day of the hearing was produced and is available on the public registry.

The SRRB adjourned the hearing on November 23, 2007. The public record was closed subject to receipt of undertakings from ENR. The SRRB's deliberations followed.

## **7. IS THERE A CONSERVATION CONCERN FOR THE BLUENOSE WEST CARIBOU HERD?**

Based on the SRRB's review of Section 13.5 of the Sahtu Agreement, the first question which must be answered is whether there is a conservation concern with respect to the BNW caribou herd. If the SRRB is not convinced that there is a BNW caribou management problem, it does not have the authority to impose a TAH on Sahtu Agreement participants.

There was evidence presented in this proceeding indicating a progressive decline in barren-ground caribou numbers across the NWT since 2000, including the BNW herd (Figure 2). ENR indicated that this trend is based on several caribou surveys and on other information available to the department including traditional knowledge, adult and calf caribou survival, pregnancy rates, body condition, herd sex ratios and winter distribution information. Other testimony presented at the public hearing suggested that caribou were missed during the ENR photo-census and that caribou moved to other areas; however, no direct evidence for these propositions was presented to the SRRB.



**Figure 2: Population Trends, 1987-2006 (GNWT ENR. November 2007. *Caribou Forever – Our Heritage, Our Responsibility*, PowerPoint Presentation. Slide 32.)**

Questioning at the hearing indicated that ENR uses the most recent scientific techniques to estimate herd sizes, supplemented by the other information listed above. It appears from ENR’s evidence that the BNW herd has declined from nearly 100,000 animals to approximately 18,000 animals in the period between 1987 and 2006.

Although harvesting success is affected by a variety of factors, the evidence from harvesters also indicates that caribou have been less available in the last few years. Average Sahtu subsistence harvests of the BNW caribou herd have declined consistently since 1999 with averages for 2004 and 2005 being about half of the average annual harvests during 1999-2003 (Table 1).

	Colville Lake	Fort Good Hope	Norman Wells	Total
1999	355	641	26	1022
2000	245	727	31	1003
2001	120	505	53	678
2002	169	185	9	363

2004		237	153	18	408
2005		98	107	65	270
Total		1553	2667	219	4,439
Average	All Years	222	381	31	634
Average	2004 & 05	168	130	42	339

**Table 1: Subsistence Harvest of BNW Caribou in the Sahtu (GNWT ENR. November 2007. *Caribou Forever – Our Heritage, Our Responsibility*, PowerPoint Presentation. Slide 32.)**

The SRRB received written submissions from Behdzi Ahda’ First Nation which suggested that there was conflicting information between the results of a caribou survey conducted in late 2006 by that First Nation and the 2006 ENR photo census. The SRRB heard a presentation from Behdzi Ahda’ RRC outlining how the census was conducted and the results. The SRRB wishes to commend the First Nation for its initiative and the obvious time, effort, and expense committed to managing caribou on behalf of community members. Upon review of the methods used by ENR and the First Nation, the SRRB notes that the ENR estimate of the BNW caribou population (exclusive of calves) was approximately 18,050 animals plus or minus 527 animals. The Behdzi Ahda’ estimate included calves and resulted in an estimate of approximately 20,000 caribou. Although the methods differed, what is important to the SRRB is that the numbers counted are similar. Unfortunately, the Behdzi Ahda’ First Nation has only been able to count caribou in the Colville Lake area once, but their numbers support the ENR survey results.

The Fort Good Hope RRC’s submission also confirmed a “rapidly declining” caribou population and a number of members of the public and elders confirmed this trend in their submissions to the SRRB.

It is the SRRB’s opinion that the balance of evidence indicates there has been a serious decline in the BNW caribou herd over the last 9 years. Despite efforts by the Behdzi Ahda’ First Nation and Fort Good Hope harvesters to limit caribou harvesting by way of self-regulation, the decline has continued. In the SRRB’s opinion, there is still a serious conservation concern with respect to the BNW herd and more must be done to address it.

The traditional knowledge shared with the SRRB at the public hearing supports the SRRB’s view that once a serious concern for wildlife is confirmed, appropriate action must be taken. Elder Charlie Barnaby stated, “... [Dene] look after everything: wildlife, fish, fur animals, their land. They don’t try to kill everything in one part of the country. They know it’s getting less, they go to the other part. They don’t stay in one place for years and years until they kill everything.”

## **8. NEED FOR A TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST**

Having considered the management options for the BNW herd, the evidence available at this time, and the seriousness of the situation the SRRB has formed the opinion that it is necessary to impose a TAH to limit Sahtu participants' harvesting of the BNW caribou herd. The SRRB must strive, however, to strike a balance between a TAH that presents a tolerable level of risk to the declining BNW herd and avoiding unnecessary hardship in communities that harvest the herd. A sustainable harvest level is one that will not result in a decline in herd size. When a herd is in decline from a combination of factors, then the sustainable harvest on the herd is zero. A complete closure of harvesting would, however, impose undue hardship on the communities. Consequently, the SRRB must ensure that harvest levels are conservative and allow for herd recovery, while at the same time enabling reasonable harvesting opportunities for communities. ENR suggested that a harvest level of 2-5% of mostly bulls may lead to a slow increase over many years. It is the SRRB's view that the TAH should be in effect at least until the results of the ENR 2009 photo census of the BNW herd are available.

The SRRB must also be mindful of management proposals from other users of the BNW caribou herd. In 2006, the WMAC (NWT) and GRRB proposed to the SRRB a division of a TAH between regions. This proposal was Gwich'in: 3% of the TAH and Inuvialuit & Sahtu: 48% each of the TAH, with the remaining one percent being available to any of the three regions in cases of over harvest.

## **9. THE SAHTU NEEDS LEVEL**

If a TAH is set, the SRRB, in conjunction with territorial government, is responsible for deciding how many of the animals are available for the Sahtu Agreement participants to harvest. This is called the Sahtu Needs Level (SNL).<sup>7</sup>

If the SNL is less than or equal to the TAH, Sahtu Dene and Métis needs will be met first. However, if the SNL is higher than the total number of animals available to harvest, Sahtu participants will get no more than the TAH.

The SRRB is required to consider all relevant factors when establishing a SNL, including harvest levels, community usage patterns, and availability of wildlife populations to meet Sahtu participants' needs.

It appears from the evidence available to the SRRB that Deline and Tulita participants either do not, or only rarely, hunt the BNW herd. The primary harvesters of the BNW herd are Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope participants, with a small harvest by Norman Wells participants. The average harvests in 2004 and 2005 were 168 by Colville Lake, 130 by Fort Good Hope and 42 by Norman Wells, with a 4 to 6 ratio of cows:bulls harvested.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See section 3.2 above for the relevant provisions of the Sahtu Agreement.

<sup>8</sup> Bayha, J. and J. Snortland. 2006. Sahtu Settlement Harvest Study Data Report 2004 & 2005. 63 pp

## **10. SRRB RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING A TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST & SAHTU NEEDS LEVEL**

After reviewing all of the evidence available on the record from this proceeding, the SRRB has concluded that there is a serious conservation concern in respect of the BNW caribou herd and that management action is necessary to conserve it.

The evidence indicates that there is no longer any commercial, non-resident or resident BNW caribou harvesting permitted under the *Wildlife Act*. If further mandatory reductions in harvest are to be achieved, a TAH must be established in accordance with Chapter 13, Part 5 of the Sahtu Agreement. Furthermore, the SRRB must also set the SNL.

Having thoroughly reviewed the options available and considering the vital importance of caribou, and the BNW caribou herd in particular, to the people of the Sahtu and neighbouring regions and in light of the SRRB's conclusions about the severity of the conservation concern for that herd, the SRRB makes the following recommendations:

- 1) A TAH of four percent (4%) be set for the BNW herd.

### *Rationale:*

The SRRB has determined that a TAH of 4% of the estimated BNW caribou population, based on the 2006 photo census, should be set. ENR biologists suggested that a TAH of three percent (3%) represents an appropriate level of risk. However, ENR indicates that a TAH of 4%, provided the harvest consists primarily of bulls, can be considered although the period for herd recovery may be extended.

It is the SRRB's view that a TAH of 3% would impose undue hardship on participants and their communities. The SRRB also feels that Sahtu participants should bear the same harvest cutbacks proposed by others. The WMAC (NWT) has implemented a 4% TAH and the GRRB has suspended all harvest of the BNW herd.

This means that there are 722 caribou to allocate to all BNW users in the NWT. Based on the division of the TAH between regions agreed to by WMAC (NWT), GRRB, and SRRB, Sahtu participants should be allowed to harvest 350 caribou.

This TAH must be reconsidered by ENR and the SRRB after the results of the 2009 census of the BNW herd is available. This review should take place in November 2009 and the results of this reconsideration shall be made public by the SRRB and will be discussed with the RRCs in each Sahtu community. If adjustment to the TAH or its removal is warranted, the SRRB will consider such actions.

- 2) The harvest of BNW caribou herd should be biased toward bulls.

### *Rationale:*

ENR provided information about computer modeling of harvest rates using the Porcupine caribou herd as an example. The model suggests that a harvest of mostly cows could lead to a continued decline, while a change to a mostly bulls harvest could lead to a slow increase.

Therefore, harvest should be selective towards bulls in order to achieve an 80:20 ratio of bulls harvested to cows. This means a harvest of 280 bulls to 70 cows.

3) A SNL should be allocated to Sahtu communities based on their average share, since 2005, of total harvests of BNW caribou.

*Rationale:*

The SRRB and ENR have worked with, and heard from, the RRCs over shared concerns about the BNW herd (Appendix A). It appears from the evidence available to the SRRB that Deline and Tulita participants either do not or only rarely hunt the BNW herd. Norman Wells participants have other choices available to them and do not harvest the BNW herd heavily. Consequently, the initial allocation of the SNL for the BNW herd should be set as follows: 200 caribou to Colville Lake, 130 caribou to Fort Good Hope and 20 caribou to Norman Wells. These allocations are close to average harvests for the 2004 and 2005 seasons as estimated by ENR. Each community harvest should be subject to the bull:cow ratio set out in 2 above. If during the course of the hunting seasons between the effective date of this decision and the 2009 reconsideration of the TAH, an adjustment of the SNL allocations is required, any of the RRCs may apply to the SRRB to that effect.

4) The SNL should be enforced and monitored.

*Rationale:*

The allocation set out in 3 should be enforced and monitored on the basis of BNW caribou tags provided by ENR to RRCs in each of the communities with a share of the SNL. The RRCs should develop a process for allocating the tags among participants in their communities and for ensuring that BNW caribou harvesters are advised when the community's limit is reached. Harvesting should cease once the limit is reached.

## **11. ADDITIONAL SRRB RECOMMENDATIONS ON CARIBOU MANAGEMENT**

In addition to the TAH and SNL decisions made by the SRRB, a number of other actions should be undertaken to manage the BNW herd. The SRRB has the following recommendations for the Minister of ENR:

1) The current muskox quotas in the Sahtu Region should be increased.

During the public hearing, the SRRB heard much concern about increasing numbers of muskoxen in the Sahtu Region and their ever expanding movements southward. The SRRB heard concern that muskoxen will compete with caribou. Although the present quota is not filled each year, the SRRB recommends that the quota for beneficiaries be lifted to encourage the additional hunting of muskoxen. The quota for commercial harvesting should be set at 30 animals and the quota for residents should be increased from two to five.

2) There should be increased conservation education in the Sahtu communities.

The SRRB believes that better knowledge among caribou users of both the practical and technical aspects of caribou management is an important component of a caribou conservation program designed to facilitate the recovery of the BNW herd. A conservation education program aimed at better hunting and handling practices, better knowledge of both traditional and scientific management practices, and better knowledge of caribou and their role in the eco-system, especially directed at the youth, will foster an increased appreciation of the resource. Although the SRRB believes that the GNWT should provide much of the resourcing for this program, the SRRB acknowledges its role and is prepared to contribute resources to the extent possible.

3) Ensure caribou harvest data is obtained from the three BNW communities in the Sahtu.

The SRRB believes that obtaining accurate harvest data will contribute to the successful implementation of the TAH. Consideration should be given to hiring caribou monitors during November – April for the next two years in Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells. This person could also serve as the RRC's caribou tag administrator.

4) There should be increased management efforts on alternative game.

There is evidence that the scarcity of caribou the last several years around some communities (e.g., Fort Good Hope) has led to the increased hunting of alternative game. The SRRB believes that ENR should begin an intensified management program for species such as moose. This should include the consideration of aerial surveys, community-based harvest monitoring, and specimen collection for assessing physical condition. The SRRB is prepared to provide resourcing for this program to the extent possible.

5) Every effort should be made to ensure community participation in management studies.

While ENR has done a good job of this in the past, the SRRB believes that in order to foster better community trust and cooperation in management efforts that community people should be engaged as much as possible in a hands-on matter in all caribou research and science based monitoring (e.g., aerial surveys, classification counts, radio-collaring).

6) Barren-ground caribou hunting zones in the Sahtu should be modified to reflect herd specific management.

Currently, the Sahtu has two zones for barren-ground caribou: S/BC/01 and S/BC/03. Both zones are closed for resident, sport, and commercial harvesting. The SRRB believes the zones should be adjusted as follows: eliminate zone S/BC/03 and separate the Sahtu into two zones, S/BC/01 and S/BC/02, which reflect the annual distribution of the BNW herd and the Bluenose-East caribou herd. This will make monitoring and enforcement more straightforward.

7) The most current population management techniques should be brought to bear in making management decisions on the BNW herd.

The SRRB and ENR should work together to develop computer models of selected harvest scenarios for the BNW herd over the next 20 years. The computer model should be completed before the 2009 photo-census.

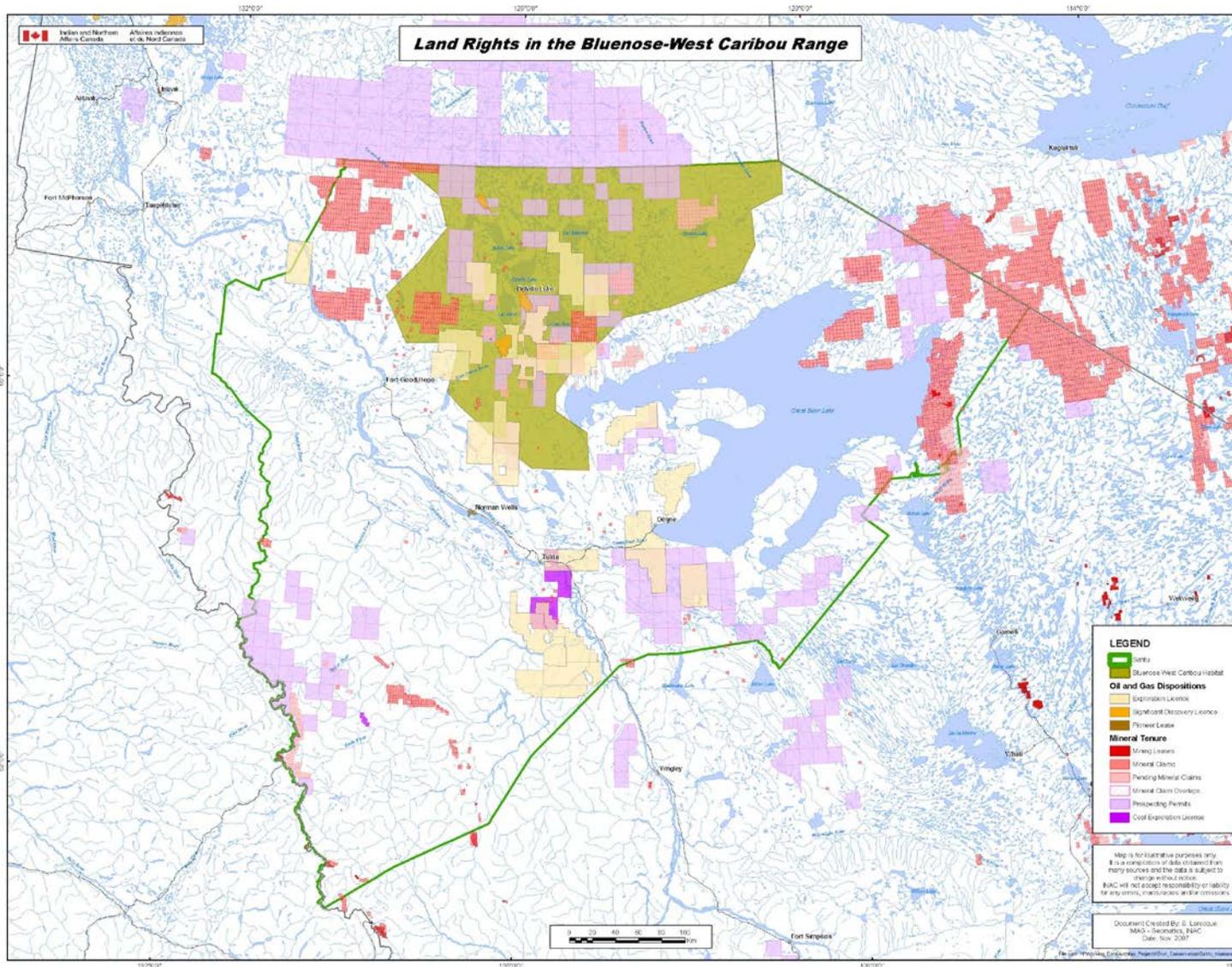
## **12. SRRB RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT, HABITAT AND CARIBOU MANAGEMENT**

During the public hearing in Fort Good Hope, the SRRB heard a number of persons express concern about the level of development activity in the BNW caribou winter range (Figure 3). Elders, in particular, mentioned the potential effects of aircraft activity and other disturbance on caribou distribution and health. The SRRB is aware that the responsibility for the regulation of development activity does not rest with the Minister of ENR and wildlife managers only advise the regulators responsible for making development decisions in the Sahtu Settlement Area.

The SRRB has advisory powers set out in section 13.8.36 of the Sahtu Agreement. This includes the authority to make recommendations to government officials responsible for caribou habitat. The primary regulator of land and water use in the Sahtu Settlement Area is the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) established by the Sahtu Agreement and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*<sup>9</sup>. The SLWB is required under subsection 64(2) of the MVRMA to seek and consider the advice of the SRRB in respect of wildlife and wildlife habitat before making permitting or licensing decisions. Likewise, the SRRB has a responsibility to work with land corporations established under the Sahtu Agreement and expects cooperation from these corporations in working to achieve the wildlife management goals of Sahtu Agreement participants.

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<sup>9</sup> S.C. 1998, c.25 as amended.



**Figure 3: Land Rights in the Bluenose-West Caribou Range (IMAG – Geomatics, INAC 2007)**

Wildlife management must include habitat management and consideration of the potential effects of development activities on caribou populations. Wildlife management is an inclusive process. Land owners and managers must be involved. Early recovery of the BNW herd will depend on the efforts of all parties with the authority to influence those activities which may adversely affect the herd. In consideration of these basic wildlife management principles, the SRRB has the following recommendations to make to the Minister of INAC, the K’asho Go’tine, Deline, and Tulita District Land Corporations and the Sahtu Land and Water SRRB:

- 1) Conditions on land use and water licenses should reflect the need to minimize disturbance and protect caribou habitat.

The BNW caribou herd winters in the Sahtu Region. Energetic stresses on the caribou are greatest at this time, especially the pregnant cows. During the public hearing, the SRRB heard much concern about disturbance to caribou by development activity. The SLWB issues permits for on the land activities, including resource exploration and development much of which occurs during the winter period. The SRRB wishes to work closely with the SLWB to ensure that there are enforceable conditions on these permits designed to minimize disturbance to caribou at all times, but particularly during the winter, and to mitigate impacts on caribou habitat.

2) Caribou protection measures must be updated and implemented where practical.

During the public hearing, the SRRB heard much concern about disturbance to caribou by development activity. It was brought to the SRRB's attention that the community of Deline has initiated discussions on implementing 'mobile caribou protection measures' when development activity occurs in proximity to caribou. The SRRB recommends and supports Sahtu communities and caribou management partners to explore the efficacy of employing caribou protection measures.

### **13. CONCLUDING COMMENTS**

Sahtu harvesters must do their part and share in the effort to ensure the recovery of the BNW barren-ground caribou herd. The evidence from the hearing shows that Inuvialuit harvesters acting through the Wildlife Management Advisory Council and their Hunters and Trappers Committees have already implemented a limit on the Inuvialuit share of BNW harvesting based on a total harvest of 4% of the BNW herd. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has indicated that the limited Gwich'in harvest of BNW caribou will be suspended to allow the herd to recover. Unless the co-management boards work together to protect this wildlife population, these efforts will be wasted.

While many harvesters prefer not to impose a TAH, the SRRB concludes that there are no other options available for conservation of the BNW caribou herd at this time. Our Dene forefathers lived their lives using the conservation principle to balance harvest throughout the Sahtu. These practices must be continued. The SRRB believes that limiting the harvest of the BNW caribou can have a great impact on recovery. The SRRB's decision has been structured to have the least impact on caribou users and the greatest benefit to caribou that we can provide at this time. The SRRB has the option of reviewing and modifying these proposed management actions as the herd recovers.

**APPENDIX A      Chronology of Events since the 2005 Photo-Census of the BNW Caribou Herd**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Who Was Involved</b>	<b>What Was Done</b>
Jul 2005	Photo census	Near Paulatuk	ENR	Photo census conducted
9 Sep 05	Meeting	Norman Wells	ENR, SRRB staff & Chairman, RRC Presidents (Norman Wells, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, & Deline)	Census results presented and initial recommendations received
14 Sep 05	SRRB regular Meeting	Fort Good Hope	ENR, SRRB, RRC representatives	Census results presented
23 Sep 05	Letter		SRRB to RRC Presidents	Asked to take results to members and get recommendations
14 Oct 05	Meeting	Tulita	ENR, SRRB staff, RRC and public	Census results presented
22 Nov 05	Meeting	Colville Lake	ENR, RRC and public	Census results presented
26 Nov 05	Meeting	Deline	ENR, SRRB, RRC, and public	Census results presented
23 Jan 06	School Presentation	Colville Lake	SRRB, ENR	Census results; recommendations
25 Jan 06	School Presentation	Fort Good Hope	SRRB, ENR	Census results; recommendations
27 Jan 06	School Presentation	Norman Wells	SRRB, ENR	Census results; recommendations
30 Jan 06	School Presentation	Deline	SRRB, ENR	Census results; recommendations
01 Feb 06	School Presentation	Tulita	SRRB, ENR	Census results; recommendations
7-9 Feb 06	SRRB regular Meeting	Deline	SRRB, RRC representatives, ENR	Summary of recommendations from communities and schools
Jul 06	Photo census	Near Paulatuk	ENR	Photo census conducted
20 Sep 06	SRRB regular Meeting	Tulita	ENR, SRRB, RRC representatives	2006 census results presented
24 Oct 06	Meeting	Colville	ENR, RRC, public	Census results

Date	Event	Where	Who Was Involved	What Was Done
		Lake		presented
25 Oct 06	Meeting	Fort Good Hope	ENR, RRC	Census results presented
26 Oct 06	Meeting	Norman Wells	ENR, RRC	Census results presented
1 Nov 06	Meeting	Deline	ENR, RRC, public	Census results presented
2 Nov 06	Meeting	Tulita	ENR, RRC, public	Census results presented
22 Nov 06	Meeting	Inuvik	SRRB staff, Fort Good Hope RRC, Inuvik HTC, Aklavik HTC, Paulatuk HTC	General agreement on need to have reductions in harvest
27 Nov 06	School presentation	Fort Good Hope	SRRB staff	Census results; recommendations
29 Nov 06	School presentation	Norman Wells	SRRB staff	Census results; recommendations
12 Dec 06	School presentation	Tulita	SRRB staff	Census results; recommendations
14 Dec 06	School presentation	Deline	SRRB staff	Census results; recommendations
23-26 Jan 07	<i>NWT Caribou Summit</i>	Inuvik	All shareholders, including representatives from SRRB and Sahtu RRCs, ENR	Workshop to discuss caribou decline and potential management actions
14 Feb 07	SRRB regular meeting	Norman Wells	ENR, SRRB, RRC representatives	Funding proposal for BNW surveys supported by RRCs and approved by SRRB

**APPENDIX B**

**Previous SRRB BNW Caribou Recommendations tabled with  
Minister of ENR**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2005 LETTER - 2 PAGES**



**MARCH 24, 2006 LETTER – 2 PAGES**



**DECEMBER 20, 2006 LETTER – 3 PAGES**





**AUGUST 3, 2007 LETTER – 2 PAGES**



**APPENDIX C**

**Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) & Gwich'in  
Renewable Resources Board BNW Caribou Recommendations  
tabled with Minister of ENR**

**WMAC JANUARY 20, 2006 LETTER – 3 PAGES**





**WMAC OCTOBER 20, 2006 LETTER – 4 PAGES**







**GRRB MARCH 20, 2006 LETTER – 2 PAGES**



**GRRB OCTOBER 31, 2006 LETTER – 2 PAGES**



**APPENDIX D      List of Documents on Public Record**  
**[<http://www.srrb.nt.ca/registry.htm>]**

1. 21 December 2007, "Population modeling for the Porcupine Caribou herd - the caribou calculator" (322 KB) - This is additional information provided by ENR in their response to Undertaking #1.
2. 21 December 2007, ENR Undertakings #1 to 3 (166 KB) - This is ENR's response to all three undertakings requested during the November 2006 public hearing in Fort Good Hope
3. 21-23 November 2007, Hearing Transcripts - This is a link to the Digi-Tran Inc - Digital Transcription Services website. Click on Transcript Repository and then on Sahtu Renewable Resources Board.
4. 23 November 2007, Hearing Exhibit #2 (6.54 MB) - Hunters and Trappers Committee Regulations that resulted from the bylaw changes by Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour, Inuvik, Aklavik and Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committees.
5. 23 November 2007, Hearing Exhibit #1 (594 KB) - Letter from the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to Minister Michael McLeod dated February 14, 2007.
6. 19 November 2007, Final List of Registered Parties (66 KB) - This is the final list of registered parties for the SRRB's public hearing.
7. 19 November 2007, Sahtu Harvest Study and Minimum Needs Level Information (75 KB) - This is Sahtu Harvest Study and Minimum Needs Level data for Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells.
8. 16 November 2007, Tulita Renewable Resource Council Submission (117 KB) - This is the Tulita Renewable Resource Council's written submission for the SRRB's public hearing.
9. 16 November 2007, ENR Response to Information Request No. 2.1 (97 KB) - This is ENR's response to the SRRB's information request of 9 November 2007. The following are published and draft reports on the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd.
  - a. Estimates of the number of barren-ground caribou in the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds and reindeer/caribou on the upper Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula derived using post-calving photography, July 2006. (2.74 MB) (Nagy and Johnson 2006; MR#(171) (KB)

- b. Seasonal ranges of the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds. (3.18 MB) (Nagy, Wright, Slack, and Veitch 2005; MR #167)
- c. Estimates of the number of barren-ground caribou in the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-west Herds, July 1986 & 1987: a reanalysis or post-calving photography. (889 KB) (Nagy, MacLean, and Russell 2007; MR draft)
- d. Estimates of the number of barren-ground caribou in the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds derived using post-calving photography, July 1992. (545 KB) (Nagy and Fraser 2007; MR draft)
- e. Estimates of the number of barren-ground caribou in the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds derived using post-calving photography, July 2000. (1.36 MB) (Nagy and Bucher 2006; MR draft)
- f. Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herds calving ground classification survey, June 2000 & 2001. (4.56 MB) (Nagy 2002; Draft report)
- g. Estimates of the number of barren-ground caribou in the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds derived using post-calving photography, July 2005. (2.10 MB) (Nagy and Johnson 2006 ; MR draft)
- h. Calf:cow ratios estimated at or near the peak of calving for the Bluenose-west herd, 2002 to 2005. (12.6 MB) (Nagy and Johnson 2007; MR draft)
- i. Defining herds within the range of 'Bluenose' barren-ground caribou in Canada's Northwest Territories and Nunavut. (140 KB) (Nagy, Veitch, Zittlau, Branigan, Larter, Wright, Gunn, Cooley, Patterson and Strobeck 2001; Journal of Wildlife Management draft)
- j. Barren-ground caribou distribution in late winter 2004, western NWT. (1.95 MB) (D'Hont, Gunn, Nagy, Popko and Veitch 2005; MR draft)
- k. April 2007 recruitment survey field summary - Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, and Bluenose-west herds. (403 KB) (Davison and Popko 2007; Field report draft)
- l. June 2007 calving ground survey - Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, and Bluenose-West herds. (528 KB) (Davison and Popko 2007; Field report draft)
- m. July 2007 productivity field summary - Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, and Bluenose-West herds. (1.04 MB) (Davison, Adams and Branigan 2007; Field report draft)

- n. Photocensus of the Bluenose Caribou Herd in July 1986 and 1987. (1.35 MB) (MacLean and Russell ; MR #108)
  - o. Defining herds within the range of Bluenose barren-ground caribou. (576 KB) (Nagy, Veitch, Branigan, Larter, Wright, Gunn, Cooley, Patterson and Strobeck)
10. 16 November 2007, Letter to DIAND Regional Director General (387 KB) - The SRRB has requested that DIAND provide a response to Information Request No. 1.3.
  11. 15 November 2007, List of Registered Parties (160 KB) - This is the list of registered parties as of this date.
  12. 14 November 2007, Letter to ENR Deputy Minister (292 KB) - The SRRB has requested that ENR ensure that senior management level staff are in attendance at the public hearing.
  13. 13 November 2007, Behdzi Ahda' First Nation Hearing Submission (100 KB) - This is the Behdzi Ahda' First Nation's written submission for the SRRB's public hearing.
  14. 13 November 2007, Behdzi Ahda' First Nation Revised Response to Information Request No. 1.2 (390 KB) - This is Behdzi Ahda' First Nation's revised response to the SRRB's information request of 22 October 2007.
  15. Caribou Forever - Our Heritage, Our Responsibility: A Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy for the Northwest Territories 2006-2010 (1.08 MB) - This is ENR's management strategy to unify herd specific management planning and provide principles to guide barren-ground caribou management in the NWT.
  16. 12 November 2007, ENR Hearing Submission (7.25 MB) - This is ENR's presentation for the SRRB's public hearing.
  17. 9 November 2007, Information Request to ENR (131 KB) - The SRRB issued an information request to ENR for additional information about the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd.
  18. 9 November 2007, Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council Hearing Submission (381 KB) - This is the Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council's written submission for the SRRB's public hearing.
  19. 9 November 2007, Behdzi Ahda' First Nation Intervenor List (74 KB) - This is an email forwarded to the SRRB listing community organizations and elders wishing to participate during the hearing.

20. 7 November 2007, Behdzi Ahda' First Nation Response to Information Request No. 1.2 (390 KB) - This is Behdzi Ahda' First Nation's response to the SRRB's information request of 22 October 2007.
21. 5 November 2007, ENR Response to Information Request No. 1.1 (151 KB) - This is ENR's response to the SRRB's information request of 22 October 2007.
22. 5 November 2007, Letter to ENR Minister (149 KB) - The SRRB has provided confirmation to ENR that a public hearing will be held on November 21-23, 2007.
23. 30 October 2007, Public Registry Announcement (94 KB) - The SRRB announced that its public registry for the SRRB public hearing was up and running.
24. 22 October 2007, Information Request to Parties (140 KB) - The SRRB issued several information requests to obtain additional information for consideration prior to the Hearing.
25. 15 October 2007, Public Hearing Advertisement (105 KB) - This notice invites individuals and organizations to attend the Public Hearing Nov. 21-23, 2007 in Fort Good Hope, NT as well as detailing deadlines for registering and filing submissions.
26. 9 October 2007, ENR Response to BAFN (195 KB) - This is ENR's response to the Behdzi Ahda' First Nation regarding the proposed fall composition survey for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd.
27. 9 October 2007, Behdzi Ahda' First Nation Letter (184 KB) - This letter from Behdzi Ahda' First Nation expresses concerns about a proposed fall composition survey for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd.
28. 26 September 2007, Response from ENR Minister (204 KB) - This letter acknowledges ENR Minister's receipt of August 3, 2007 letter from the SRRB to table any recommendations related to total allowable harvest for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd.
29. 3 August 2007, Letter to ENR Minister (219 KB) - The SRRB has requested the ENR Minister to table any recommendations related to total allowable harvest for the Bluenose-West Caribou Herd until a public hearing is held.
30. 15 January 2007, Ayoni Keh Land Corporation Letter to ENR Minister (478 KB) - This letter is from the Ayoni Keh Land Corporation to the Minister of ENR about the Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herd Recommendations.

31. 20 December 2006, Letter to ENR Minister (423 KB) - The SRRB has prepared several recommendations for the Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herds and forwarded these to the ENR Minister.
32. 20 September 2006, ENR Power Point Presentation (10.1 MB) - ENR 2006 presentation to the SRRB on the photocensus results for Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herds.
33. 24 March 2006, Letter to ENR Minister (374 KB) - This letter indicates the SRRB's request to the ENR Minister to amend four of the six recommendations made on February 17, 2007.
34. 17 February 2006, Letter to ENR Minister (437 KB) - The SRRB made recommendations to the ENR Minister to be considered for the Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herds in the Sahtu Settlement Area.
35. 25 October 2005, Response from ENR Minister (194 KB) - The ENR Minister responds to the SRRB's September 23, 2005 letter containing two recommendations for 2006.
36. 23 September 2005, Letter to RRC Presidents (173 KB) - This letter from the SRRB encourages RRCs to gather information about the Bluenose-West & East Caribou Herds. This information will be used in the development of specific recommendations to the ENR Minister.
37. 23 September 2005, Letter to ENR Minister (210 KB)) - This letter from the SRRB indicates two immediate recommendations with respect to the 2006 photocensus and check stations to the ENR Minister.
38. 14 September 2005, ENR Power Point Presentation (26.5 MB) - ENR 2005 presentation to the SRRB on the photocensus results for Bluenose-West& East Caribou Herds.

## **APPENDIX E      List of Registered Participants in the Hearing**

### Registered Participants

- Department of Environment & Natural Resources, GNWT
  - Susan Fleck
  - Alasdair Veitch
  - Boyan Tracz
  - Marsha Branigan
  - Jan Adamczewski
  
- Behdzi Ahda' First Nation
  - Chief Richard Kochon
  - Joseph Kochon, Band Manager
  
- Ayoni Keh Land Corporation
  - Wilbert Kochon, President
  - Alvin Orlias, Vice-President
  
- Behdzi Ahda' Renewable Resource Council
  - David Codzi
  
- Colville Lake Elders & Community Members
  - John B. Gully (elder)
  - Hyecinthe Kochon (elder)
  - John Blancho Sr. (elder)
  - Joe Martin Oudzi (elder)
  - Marie Kochon (elder)
  - Simone Kochon (elder)
  - Mary Rose Drybone (elder)
  - Alexis Blancho (elder)
  - Sarah Kochon (elder)
  - Charlie Kochon (elder)
  
- Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council
  - Roger Boniface, President
  - Harry Harris, Member
  - Tammy Proctor
  
- Norman Wells Renewable Resource Council
  - Roger Odgaard (did not speak)
  - Edward Oudzi (elder)
  
- Tulita Renewable Resource Council (did not attend)
  - Wilfred Lennie Sr., President

General Public

Charlie Barnaby (FGH elder)

Barthy Cotchilly (FGH elder)

Jim Pierrot (FGH elder)

Thomas Manuel Sr. (FGH elder)

Jonas Kakfwi (FGH elder)

Michel Lafferty, Fort Good Hope

Lawrence Manuel, Fort Good Hope

Chief Raymond Tutcho, Deline

Grand Chief Frank Andrew, Tulita

George Grandjambe, Fort Good Hope

James Caesar, Fort Good Hope

Jim Tobac, Fort Good Hope

Isadore Manuel, Fort Good Hope