

Responses to Round 1 Information Requests

Tulıt'a Community Panel
January 25, 2021

Information Request (IR) 1.1:

Tıch'ádıı hé Gots'edı – Caribou, Predators and Competitors

A. The Conservation Picture: Caribou, People and Planning

SRRB IRs to all interested parties

1. How are the caribou doing? Have you noticed any changes over the past year?
 - We haven't been seeing caribou around so it's hard to say
 - The prophets gave us direction and these are the plans and directions we need to keep following. It is when we start making decision against these directions that we start to see that the caribou aren't returning
 - We are very interested to see how the shúhta gozepe are doing after a year without the outfitters hunting them. Outfitters are always after the trophies and it is these large bulls that repopulate the herd so we think there might be a big difference after this.
2. How are the people doing? Have you noticed any changes over the past year?
 - People were really scared with the pandemic when it first hit so they headed out into the bush and they have really begun to pray.
 - We are aging faster these days because we aren't taking care of the land and wildlife as we are meant to and that means we aren't taking care of ourselves.
3. How is the community conservation planning approach progressing?
 - We need to do it with the whole community playing a role, not just representatives from each organization. The support being provided to hold community workshops will help with this process.
 - These plans need to be based on our land claim and be considered as we develop our plans. Land claim education needs to be part of any plans we develop.

B. Predators

SRRB IRs to all interested parties

1. What stories or knowledge would you like to share about the past and present relationships between caribou, díga (wolf) and Dene/Métis?
 - The elders out in caribou flats used to say:
 - Don't bother the animal that isn't bothering you.
 - The Dene way is to take care of everything, habitat, predators, etc.

- When caribou are around, the wolves are around. There are no caribou around so we don't know if the wolf population is high
2. Should people play a role in controlling díga populations to help caribou now? If so, what should this look like?
 - From stories from our elders wolves are helping caribou to stay alive. They balance the caribou and we should make sure we don't disturb the wildlife and that we make good agreements and decisions that consider our future generations.
 - The Tulit'a RRC responded no when asked by outfitters in the Sahtú if it would be ok to bait wolves. They should be left alone.
 3. Are there any concerns that you have about other predators and their impacts on caribou?
 - Grizzlies also follow the herds

C. Competitors

SRRB IRs to all interested parties

1. What stories or knowledge would you like to share about the relationships between caribou, ʔejire (muskoxen) and Dene/Métis?
2. Should there be more encouragement to harvest ʔejire for food security and commercial harvest, and to help caribou? If so, what should this look like?
 - We don't know much about muskox, we need to learn how to hunt and harvest muskox because it is now accessible to us. We need to evolve with the environment so it should be part of our plan to learn to harvest them.
 - This would be a great idea for the Ne Ke'dike program – for the younger generation to learn to harvest and hunt muskox and share the meat around the communities.
3. Are there any other concerns that you have about other competitors and their impacts on caribou?

Information Request 1.2:

Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting

The following IRs arise from SRRB decisions and recommendations from the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session.

SRRB IRs to all interested parties

1. The SRRB made five recommendations related to barren-ground caribou hunting areas in the Sahtú region (Recommendations 7.1-7.5). Further evidence is needed to address area boundaries appropriately with respect to community jurisdictions. How should the Sahtú region define jurisdictions for barren-ground caribou harvest regulation?
 - We feel that the Sahtú regional should define jurisdiction for barren-ground

caribou harvest regulation by District Boundaries

2. Oral submissions to the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session indicate that *Wildlife Act* residency provisions and hunter education remain a “hot topic” within the Sahtú region. The SRRB wishes to consider this topic at the 2021 Public Listening Session. What roles do residency requirements and hunter education play in fostering or inhibiting respect for Dene harvesting protocols?
 - Current residency requirement of 1 year means that short-term community members have access to wildlife that long-term community residents rely on. Short-term residents don’t rely on the wildlife in the same way as long-term community members do.
 - Another major concern is where permits are given out. Residents are able to get permits in Fort Simpson but then can come to the Sahtú region to do their hunting. This can lead to an over-harvesting of wildlife in one area. This permitting system should be overhauled to allow regions to be giving out permits to those hunting in that region. It could follow a similar process to the general hunting licence where ENR directs residents wanting a general hunting licence to the local RRC. If the local RRC provides them with a support letter, then ENR will provide them with a general hunting licence.
 - Funding for programs such as the Ne Ke’dike should be funded to set up monitoring programs in the areas that are most frequented by hunters with residency permits. For example, on the Mackenzie River, on the Keele River, Mile 222, Redstone River, Caribou Flats and road leading towards the park, etc.