

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)



TERM REPORT April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011

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Richard Pithier

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Mike Gill

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement recognizes the unique geographic and ecological features of the Yukon North Slope, the abundance and diversity of its wildlife populations, and the importance of the area to the Inuvialuit who have used it traditionally. The Agreement established a special management regime to achieve the conservation purposes of the area. In order to succeed, this regime assumes and requires a high level of cooperation between governments and aboriginal organizations in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Alaska, and federal governments in Canada and the United States. The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) was one of a small and early handful of joint committees or “co-management” bodies established in northern Canada to promote collaboration in wildlife management between communities, aboriginal people and federal and territorial governments.

Over the two-year period covered by this report, the Council has been most active in five areas. With regard to the first, the Council has worked hard to facilitate cooperative transboundary arrangements for the management of the harvest of the Porcupine caribou herd and the management of the Southern Beaufort polar bear subpopulation. The Council has worked more effectively to coordinate recommendations with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) to better integrate the management of wildlife, environmental conservation and Inuvialuit rights across federal and territorial jurisdictions in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

A six-year study of Yukon North Slope grizzly bears remained a major research priority for the Council. The Council views the project as a state-of-the-art study by the Yukon government, with support from Parks Canada, that should result in a greatly improved understanding of this barren ground grizzly bear population and the requirements for its conservation and use.

Over the last two years, the Council has made a major effort to assume an active role in the management of the Southern Beaufort polar bear subpopulation. This initiative was spurred by the status assessment of polar bears in Canada by the Committee for the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the associated federal listing process, and renewed management interest by the Yukon Government and increasing concerns about the impacts of climate change and offshore development on Southern Beaufort polar bears. The Council now sits as a member on the Polar Bear Technical Committee and the Polar Bear Administration Committee. The Council has been an active participant in the development of the National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy.

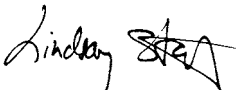
The Council continued to invest considerable attention in the monitoring program of the Arctic Borderland Ecological Knowledge Cooperative. The Council has provided ongoing recommendations for major adjustments to the program, and also recommended and supported the development of a new comprehensive community-based environmental monitoring program in all six of the ISR communities under the auspices of the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Finally, the Council has continued to provide strong support for Inuvialuit traditional knowledge studies. Studies documenting Aklavik Inuvialuit knowledge of grizzly bears and Porcupine caribou were published and a major ISR-wide traditional knowledge study of polar bears was launched in association with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and member governments, the Inuvialuit Game Council and Inuvialuit Hunters and Trappers Committees.

The Council’s activities continue to benefit greatly from cooperation and support from many quarters: the Yukon government’s Department of Environment (Fish and Wildlife Branch, Parks Branch, and Claims Implementation and Aboriginal Affairs Branch), the Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada – Western Arctic Field Unit, the Government of the Northwest Territories’ Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Inuvik Region, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Inuvialuit Game Council, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Joint Secretariat.

Once again, I offer my appreciation for the generous efforts and commitment of Council members toward the conservation of wildlife, habitat and the protection of Inuvialuit traditional use on the Yukon North Slope.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Staples
Chair

THE YUKON NORTH SLOPE

Section 12(2) of the IFA states:
“The Yukon North Slope shall fall under a special conservation regime whose dominant purpose is the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional native use.”



Richard Pither

The Yukon North Slope is located in the northern region of Canada’s Yukon territory and encompasses the western portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. It is an area of land and sea stretching from Alaska to the Northwest Territories and takes in the portion of the Yukon mainland whose waters drain into the Beaufort Sea, as well as Herschel Island, other islands, and nearshore and offshore waters.

The Yukon North Slope area is of international significance as one of Canada’s most diverse Arctic environments and is home to a host of important wildlife species. The land includes braided rivers, lagoons, mountain ranges and coastal plains. The marine environment includes near and offshore waters of Beaufort Sea. Although the region contains a number of mountain ranges, the Yukon North Slope derives its name from the gently sloping lands that drop down to the shores of the Beaufort Sea. The historic passage of the glaciers on the eastern portions of the plain makes these areas quite different from the western portions.

The North Slope is bordered to the west by the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to the south by the Old Crow Flats, and to the east by the Mackenzie River Delta. It encompasses the coastal waters and extends into the deeper waters beyond Herschel Island to the northern boundary of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

The Yukon North Slope region has no roads or towns, and there are few signs of development. The indicators of human presence include several drilling sites and isolated North Warning System radar sites, as well as many seasonal hunting camps used by Inuvialuit people.

The North Slope is an extreme environment. Winter is long, temperatures chilling, and the days short. Winters are followed by very short, dry growing seasons, making this area one of the world’s most severe environments for people, wildlife and plants. The unique interactions of land forms, climate and life make it one of the most interesting as well.



Michelle Sicotte

The Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic call this place home and have a special connection to the land and wildlife. They have relied on the region's wildlife for hundreds of years. While most Inuvialuit now live in nearby communities such as Aklavik and Inuvik, many return to the North Slope on an annual basis to hunt, trap and fish. They use traditional gathering places in the mountains and along the coast. These seasonal hunting camps are reminders of an active and enduring human occupancy.

The Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic negotiated and signed a land claim agreement in 1984 in order to ensure conservation and protection of the North Slope area. The *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* (IFA) was negotiated with the Government of Canada and brought renewed and much-deserved attention to the Yukon North Slope. This agreement also provided opportunities for the Inuvialuit to participate in economic and social development and decisions affecting the Yukon North Slope. Conservation is the paramount goal for the Yukon North Slope.

Section 12(2) of the IFA states: “The Yukon North Slope shall fall under a special conservation regime whose dominant purpose is the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional native use.”

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council for the North Slope, or WMAC(NS), was established in 1988 under the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Settlement Act*, ultimately the result of the 1984 *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* (IFA).

The Council is comprised of five members: two appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council, two by government (one by the federal Minister of Environment, one by the Yukon territorial government), and an independent chairperson. Each appointed member has an alternate. The Council employs a secretariat to oversee its business.

The Council was established to “...provide advice to the appropriate minister on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope ...” (Section 12(56) IFA).

The Council has a mandate to:

- provide advice on wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope;
- give guidance to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the Yukon Land Use Planning Commission, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee, and the Environmental Impact Review Board, to name only a few organizations;
- recommend quotas for Inuvialuit game harvesting on the Yukon North Slope; and
- recommend measures to protect critical habitat for wildlife or harvesting purposes.

Since its inception, the Council has been a catalyst for cooperative management on the Yukon North Slope. The Council continues to work with its many partners in support of this unique and important area.

THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

The Council's mandate: To conserve and protect wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use within the Yukon North Slope.



Jennifer Smith

WMAC(NS) MEMBERSHIP



Chair
Lindsay Staples

A resident of Whitehorse, Lindsay Staples serves as the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) Chair and also works as a private consultant. His expertise lies in the fields of natural resource management, socio-economic and environmental impact assessment, and land claims and self-government negotiations and implementation. Lindsay has a long-standing interest in the management of the Yukon North Slope and the implementation of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*. He possesses extensive experience in negotiation, facilitation, and consensus-based processes involving a broad range of public policy issues.



Members
Danny C. Gordon (Inuvialuit Game Council)

Danny Gordon is a resident of Aklavik. Originally from Alaska, he made the long journey to the Mackenzie Delta by foot and dog team as a young boy. Danny worked for the government in Aklavik for many years, but always made time to spend on the land. An active hunter and trapper, Danny is strongly involved in his community. Danny is currently a director of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC).



Doug Larsen (Government of Yukon)
Appointment ended December 2010

Doug Larsen represented Environment Yukon. He has worked for the Yukon government (YG) since 1978, when he began his career as a moose biologist. Prior to his government work, Doug spent time in the Arctic working for the University of Alaska and the Canadian Wildlife Service. He has helped with studies on muskox and ringed seals, and he worked on Herschel Island in the mid-1970s studying polar bears.



Rob Florkiewicz (Government of Yukon)
Appointment began January 2011

Rob Florkiewicz is the Manager of Species Programs in the Fish and Wildlife Branch of Environment Yukon. He began his career in Yukon working on bison and elk and completed his Master's degree on Yukon elk through the University of Alberta. He has worked for the Yukon government since 1990, when he worked as a regional biologist working in collaboration with the Kaska Nations in the southeast Yukon. He moved to Whitehorse with his family and continued with the regional program on community-based management programs. In 2008 he accepted a position in management, and he was appointed Yukon representative on WMAC(NS) in January 2011.



Christian Bucher (Government of Canada)

Christian has lived in the Northwest Territories for most of his life. He worked as a logger, journeyman carpenter and commercial pilot before accepting a position with Parks Canada some 16 years ago. He was the first Site Manager for Tuktut Nogait National Park in Paulatuk before moving to Inuvik, where he took on the role of Resource Conservation Manager, as well as natural and cultural resources management and protection responsibilities, for the three national parks of the Western Arctic. Christian currently lives in Yellowknife where he is on an assignment with the Northern Park Establishment Branch.

Ernest Pokiak (Inuvialuit Game Council)

Born on Banks Island, 80 kilometres northwest of Sachs Harbour, Ernest was brought up on the land. In previous years, he served as Mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, Chair of the Tuktoyaktuk Education Authority, Governor for Aurora College, and as a director for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Group. Ernest also worked as a director of the Community Corporations of Sachs Harbour and Tuktoyaktuk. Ernest has 44 years of combined service with the federal and territorial governments.



Alternates

William Storr (Inuvialuit Game Council)

William was born and raised in Aklavik. He is the current President of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, as well as Mayor of Aklavik. He has completed the Natural Resources Technology Program in Inuvik with Aurora College. He is also an active member of the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.



Dorothy Cooley (Government of Yukon)

Dorothy Cooley works in Dawson City as a Regional Biologist for the Environment Yukon. She is responsible for coordinating research and wildlife studies conducted by the Yukon government on the Yukon North Slope. Her current position is partially funded through *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* implementation funding.



Evelyn Storr (Inuvialuit Game Council)

Evelyn was born and raised in Aklavik and is currently working for the Hamlet of Aklavik. From 1993 to 2004, she worked for the Aklavik Housing Association and has also worked for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation in Inuvik. Evelyn served as President of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and is an active member of the Inuvialuit Investment Board.



Secretariat

Michelle Christensen

Until April 2010

Michelle Christensen began her work as Secretariat in November 2007. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental and Conservation Sciences from the University of Alberta, which led her to spend years travelling through British Columbia, Alberta, Washington and California while working on various wildlife research projects. Since 2002, she has been working in Whitehorse for several organizations dedicated to environmental research and programming and natural resource management. Michelle took a leave from the Council in April 2010.



Jennifer Smith

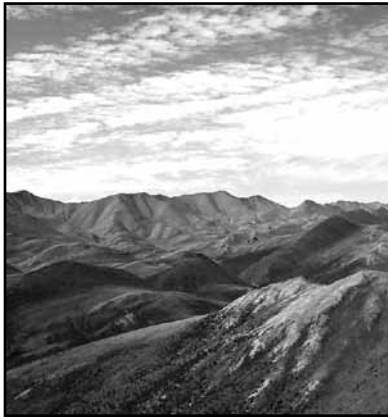
Starting April 2010

Jennifer returned to work as a Resource Person for the Council in April 2010, coinciding with Michelle's leave. She holds a diploma in Renewable Resource Management from Yukon College. Along with her diploma, she has completed complementary course work from Okanagan University College in British Columbia. Originally from the Yukon, she has worked in various conservation, forestry and wildlife positions. She previously worked for the Council in 2008.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The IFA was the first comprehensive land claim agreement north of 60. With its signing, certain requirements and responsibilities were assigned to the WMAC(NS). Included in these responsibilities was the preparation of a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Yukon North Slope consistent with the special conservation regime that had been identified under the Agreement.



Michelle Sicoite

Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan was created in 1994. The Plan offers guidance and information to government, co-management organizations, environmental assessment bodies, Inuvialuit and other aboriginal organizations, and the general public.

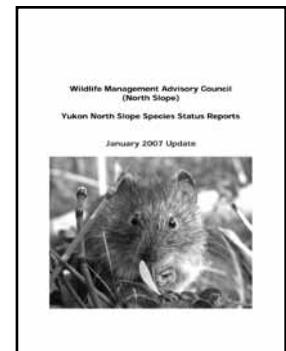
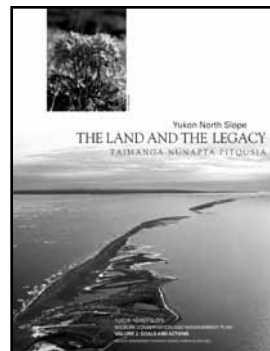
The three-part Plan provides a comprehensive look at the unique North Slope environment, highlighting the important relationship between the Inuvialuit and their land. It also outlines a series of goals, objectives and actions for the Yukon North Slope, and it serves as an important reference for anyone interested in the North Slope.

The three volumes of the Plan combine to contribute to the management of the North Slope:

- Volume One – Environmental Overview: Introduces the Yukon North Slope. It describes the region, its natural history, and the cultural adaptations of its inhabitants. It also looks at some of the ways that the wilderness is being protected today.
- Volume Two – Goals and Actions: Contains recommended management directions for all those interested in management, conservation and resource use in the area. It is a frame of reference against which the Council, the governments, the Inuvialuit, and other aboriginal, public, and private interests can assess efforts and activities on the Yukon North Slope in order to uphold IFA principles and objectives.
- Volume Three – Wildlife Status Reports: These reports provide information on 37 major species, as well as a multitude of duck, songbird, shorebird and insect species on the Yukon North Slope. They include estimated population sizes, distribution, unique population characteristics, management concerns and information gaps. The reports were developed in 1996 and last updated in 2008. They continue to be updated every three years, with the most recent update available in 2012.

All three volumes of the Conservation and Management Plan can be found on the Council's website. Hard copies are available at the Secretariat office.

Work was initiated in 2010 to update and revise the plan.



Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan

The Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan was developed by the Council to direct and support planning and research activities for resource managers and researchers, and to address the needs of those who live in the region and rely on its resources. The Plan was also designed to be an important tool to promote cooperative initiatives among government agencies, communities and universities, and to facilitate projects across land claims' boundaries and state and territorial borders in Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The components of the Plan include information about issues and actions related to research, identification of information gaps, and a guide for conducting research on the Yukon North Slope.

The research guide component of the Plan was produced in response to a changing research environment. As a result of the IFA and the increasing responsibilities devolved to territorial governments, the expectations of both researchers and communities regarding the conduct of research have changed over the last two decades. More permits, licences and review processes are now required for conducting research on the Yukon North Slope. The guide outlines ways in which researchers can work effectively with these processes as well as logistically in communities. The guide encourages research that is relevant to Inuvialuit communities, respectful of their interests, and that produces collaborative and well-received products. It was most recently updated in 2008.

The Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan was prepared by WMAC(NS) in consultation with the Inuvialuit Game Council and other co-management bodies established under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*, as well as federal, territorial and Alaskan government agencies, Canadian and Alaskan universities, non-governmental organizations, and interested residents of Aklavik, Inuvik and Old Crow. The Plan is available on the Council's website.

Muskox Research and Management

The North Slope muskox population has been of interest to managers and local people since the animals' re-introduction to Alaska in 1969 and 1970 and their spread to the Yukon in the 1980s. The North Slope population ranges across the entire North Slope from Alaska to the Mackenzie Delta. The population in the Alaskan Arctic Refuge declined and almost disappeared between 1998 and 2002. Since 2002, muskox numbers west of the Arctic Refuge have been stable or slowly declining. East of the Arctic Refuge, in the Yukon and NWT, the trend is unknown since regular surveys have not been carried out. A muskox population estimate was undertaken in 2011. The population is believed to be approximately 100 individuals in the Yukon, with another group west of the Arctic Refuge. The population in the Refuge itself increased rapidly after introduction, stabilized at around 350 individuals, and is now declining. Low calf production in recent years is one suspected factor in this decline, although other causes could be related to climate and weather.

Yukon muskoxen are studied and monitored in several ways. Aerial surveys, composition counts, satellite tracking, samples from captured muskoxen, and community observations all contribute to what we know about these animals. During this term, the Council supported genetic research into the muskox population (described later in this report).

The development of a muskox management plan for the Yukon North Slope has progressed significantly over the past term, with the plan in its final drafting stages.

The Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan is designed to work in tandem with the Council's other conservation and management initiatives, including the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. This type of long-term, comprehensive planning is consistent with the Council's mandate to contribute to the long-term effective management of the Yukon North Slope. The Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan will be revised in conjunction with updating of the Wildlife Management and Conservation Plan.



Cameron Eckert

Grizzly Bear Research and Management

WMAC(NS) continues to take an active interest in the management of grizzly bears on the North Slope. The Yukon government, Parks Canada, the Aklavik HTC and WMAC(NS) have been working together on a six-year study to learn more about North Slope grizzly bears. The study is designed to look at grizzly bear population size, birth rate, death rate, where bears can be found at different times of the year, and their movements. In order to obtain this information, the project has employed various techniques, including a DNA mark-recapture study, GPS and radio collaring, Inuvialuit observations and formal traditional knowledge interviews.

During the 2009 field season, researchers conducted telemetry surveys in May and June. They also carried out complete den surveys, with the assistance of Billy Archie of Aklavik, and collected biopsy samples from four males. These samples will be used for genetics work. Seven hunters from Aklavik took tracking units with them on their grizzly bear hunts in the spring. DNA (hair) samples collected in 2008 were submitted for analysis in order to gain an understanding of diet. Blood samples were also sent to the lab in order to assess the bears' stress levels, which can provide insight into the relationship between environmental factors and the population's reproductive rates.

A preliminary population analysis was completed by March 2010, and all collars had been removed from the bears by the end of that summer. Field work was completed by the summer of 2011. A final demographic and population analysis should be complete in 2012. A final report, merging scientific and traditional knowledge, will be complete soon afterwards.

WMAC(NS) has recommended the funding of the grizzly bear research project since its beginning and helped engage the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and other members of the community in designing and implementing research activities. The Council also contributed funds to support the involvement of Aklavik residents and the HTC in a traditional knowledge study.

WMAC(NS) used the preliminary information from the study, along with harvest trend data and consultation with the Aklavik HTC, to develop a revised grizzly bear quota recommendation in March 2011.



Stock photo

Polar Bear Research and Management

Under the terms of the IFA, WMAC(NS) has a mandate to provide recommendations to the appropriate ministers concerning the management and conservation of polar bears. In recent years, polar bears have increasingly become a priority for the Council. Among the factors leading to WMAC(NS)'s greater involvement in managing the species are:

- growing public interest in the management and conservation of polar bears, in the Arctic generally and the Western Arctic specifically, because of impacts related to climate change and the prospect of increased industrial development;
- the recent reassessment of the southern and northern Beaufort Sea populations by COSEWIC, which the Council took part in;
- growing industrial and government interest in Beaufort hydrocarbon exploration;
- increased public attention on Yukon jurisdictional responsibilities for the management of polar bears;
- greater capacity and support within the Yukon government to participate in polar bear management and in discussions and research at a population-wide level; and
- heightened interest and activity by the Yukon government in environmental and development issues in the Beaufort Sea, which could affect Yukon jurisdiction.

During the 2009–2011 term, the Council concentrated on issues associated with management of polar bears in the Southern Beaufort. During that time, WMAC(NS) participated in number of activities related to polar bear management, including those described below.

Discussions of the Polar Bear Technical Committee (PBTC) and the Polar Bear Administrative Committee (PBAC)

Each year, the two committees meet separately to discuss population status and past and current research and to provide advice on polar bear management. WMAC(NS) has been attending meetings of these two committees for the past few years and is a member of both. In 2011, the Council was involved in the redrafting of the Terms of Reference for the PBAC.



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CITES COP 15

In March 2010, the Council Chair attended the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) for Convention of the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), held in Doha, Qatar. At the conference, the United States proposed up-listing polar bears from Appendix II to Appendix I of CITES. Moving polar bears to Appendix I would have restricted all international trade in polar bear parts, which would have made it impossible for sport hunters in Canada to export their polar bear hides back to their country of origin. Effectively, this would have eliminated sports hunting of polar bears in Canada except by Canadians. However, the proposal to up-list polar bears was not accepted by the COP. The next COP will be held in 2013.

Review of the National Conservation Strategy for Polar Bears

Environment Canada has taken the lead in drafting a national strategy for the conservation of polar bears. WMAC(NS) has been involved in discussing, drafting and reviewing this document over the past term. A signed strategy is expected in 2012.

Inuvialuit-Inupiat Meetings

WMAC(NS) began attending the annual meetings of the Inuvialuit and Inupiat (I-I) in 2010. The meetings are convened to discuss the management of polar bears across the South Beaufort subpopulation pursuant to the 1988 Inuvialuit-Inupiat Agreement. The Alaskan and Canadian commissioners hear reports from researchers and then provide a set of recommendations to affected parties. The 2010 meeting was held in Tuktoyaktuk and the 2011 meeting in Anchorage.

South Beaufort Boundary Change and Quota Adjustment – Community Tour

Research on the South Beaufort subpopulation indicated that the current population boundary may not be the best way to represent how the North and South Beaufort subpopulations use the area of the south and north Beaufort Sea. A boundary analysis was conducted by Alaskan researchers and results presented at the 2010 I-I meeting. The meeting also reviewed the results of the 2001–2006 Alaska and Canada mark-recapture study. A new population estimate was produced and harvest quota revision considered. In spring 2011, the two Wildlife Management Advisory Committees participated in an ISR-wide community tour to seek input from the communities on proposed changes to the population boundary and harvest quota. After the tour, the WMACs developed recommendations to the appropriate ministers.

Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Project

This project complements existing and proposed scientific efforts (including a coastal bear survey, population survey, and denning survey) to understand how climate change might be affecting polar bear habitat and population status. Wildlife management authorities are interested in acquiring more local and traditional knowledge about polar bears, which can then be incorporated into population assessments and used to assist with management decisions.

The Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge study (PBTk) is a joint project of the governments of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Canada and the WMACs (NWT and NS). The study began in 2009 and includes all six ISR communities. The goal is to gather local and traditional knowledge about the population status of polar bears, as well as about climate change and its impacts on polar bears and their habitat in the Beaufort. The project involves:

- a search of known databases to amalgamate and review potential sources of local and traditional knowledge about polar bears in the region;
- a gap analysis of the information currently available;
- interviews with hunters, elders, locals, and individuals who have extensive experience and knowledge of polar bears; and,
- production of a report to aid in management decisions about polar bears.

In the winter of 2009, a survey of all available interview material, archives, and literature pertaining to polar bear ecology and cultural uses was conducted. The survey was used to develop a survey, which was used in 2010 in Aklavik, Inuvik and Uluhaktok. The interviews were recorded and transcribed, and coding of the material is underway. In 2011, interviews were conducted in Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour and Paulatuk. Work is currently underway to transcribe those materials. A final report summarizing the traditional knowledge will be completed in 2012, and information from the report will be integrated into management reports.

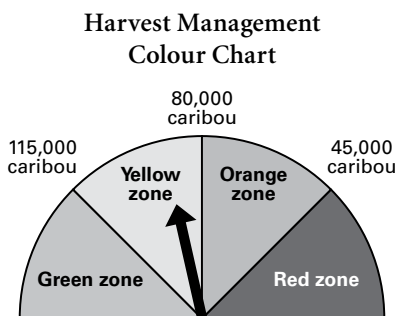
Project collaborators include Yukon and Northwest Territories governments, the Inuvialuit Game Council, WMAC(NWT), WMAC(NS), Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Other Meetings

In February 2011, WMAC(NS) attended a meeting of Inuit organizations and wildlife management boards to discuss national and international polar bear management issues. The Council also attended a Sea Ice Symposium organized by the Joint Secretariat. The meeting brought together territories, provinces, wildlife management boards, scientists and others to exchange views and knowledge about ice, seals, polar bears and climate change.

The Harvest Management Plan’s management goal is to “... try to conserve the Porcupine caribou herd by adjusting the number and sex of caribou we harvest based on the changes in the herd size and population trend.”

The plan lays out a colour chart based on herd size, which prescribes a harvest approach. There are four management regimes to be enacted for different herd sizes, as follows.



Porcupine Caribou Research and Management

The Porcupine caribou herd is an internationally significant migratory herd harvested by aboriginal groups across the North. Work began on a harvest management plan for the herd a number of years ago and the Council has been involved in providing input. In 2010, the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan (HMP) was signed by all parties, including WMAC(NS). The signing of this document was a milestone in cooperative management.

Subsequently, the parties met to develop an implementation plan. The implementation plan spells out each jurisdiction’s responsibilities in managing the herd, including harvest reporting, monitoring the herd’s status and verifying the data collected. WMAC(NS) continues to support the caribou population monitoring programs run by the Yukon government.

A herd photo census was completed in July 2010, and biologists estimated a count of 169,000 animals, which indicates a “Green Zone” with respect to harvest under the HMP.

In 2008, the Council completed a traditional knowledge study of the Porcupine caribou from the perspective of Aklavik Inuvialuit. The resulting report, *The Peoples of Aklavik and the Porcupine Caribou: A Traditional Knowledge Study*, is available on the Council’s website.



Herschel Island Park Rangers, Government of Yukon

Species at Risk

There is currently no legislated process to assess or list wildlife species at risk under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*. WMAC(NS) participated in meetings with Yukon officials regarding a proposed Yukon Species at Risk Act and its effect on wildlife management on the Yukon North Slope.

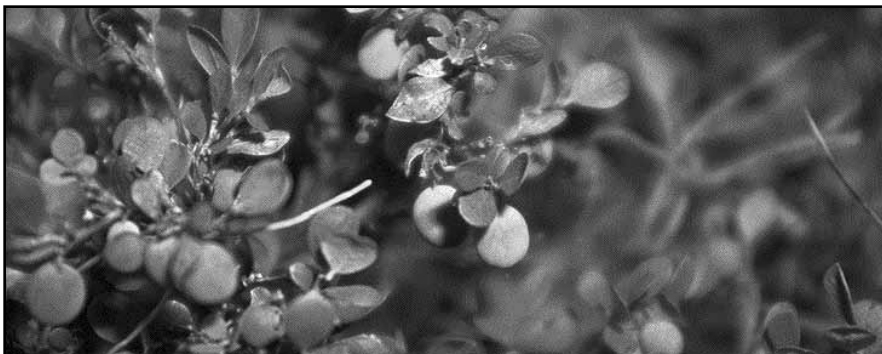
At the federal level, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) plays a central role in assessing species that may be at risk in Canada. WMAC(NS) continued to provide input to COSEWIC and to species specialist committees conducting and reviewing species status assessments. Other agencies and organizations involved in species status listings include the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub Committee under COSEWIC and Environment Yukon.

WMAC(NS) reviewed and commented on COSEWIC status reports for short-eared owls (special concern), and polar bears (special concern). The Council also provided comments on a discussion paper circulated by the COSEWIC Terrestrial Mammal Species Subcommittee, which proposed revised designatable units for the management of caribou subpopulations throughout Canada.

Monitoring

The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan speaks to the importance of monitoring observed changes on the Yukon North Slope. The Council has been engaged in the work of community-based monitoring through the efforts of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative (ABEKC). The Co-op visits communities and gathers interview-based information on species, climatic conditions and change.

In the spring of 2010, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) organized a first meeting to discuss an ISR-wide community-based monitoring program. The initial meeting engaged communities and discussed ideas for implementing a program. In September 2010, the Council hosted an ISR-wide monitoring workshop. The purpose was to assess the monitoring needs of managers and decision makers. The workshop was attended by representatives of WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT), IGC, ABEKC and FJMC, as well as technical advisors from the Yukon government and Parks Canada. The workshop produced a vision for an ISR-wide monitoring program, building on the strengths of ABEKC program. A framework for the program has been established, as well as a steering committee and working group.



Oil and Gas

WMAC(NS)'s mandate extends into the offshore Beaufort Sea, where there is renewed interest in oil and gas extraction. The Council provided input into the 2008 Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action (BSStRPA). It also provided comments to the Environmental Impact Steering Committee (EISC), related to the treatment of cumulative effects for long-term storage of vessels in the offshore. The Council has recommended, through the BSStRPA and the EISC, that a coastal moorage study be carried out.

In 2011, the National Energy Board initiated an Arctic Offshore Drilling Review in response to the Blue Horizon blow-out in the Gulf of Mexico. The Council was involved in the review process and made a submission to the NEB.



Herschel Island Park Rangers, Government of Yukon

Other Issues

In addition to the activities detailed above, WMAC(NS) has been involved in the following activities or initiatives:

- Yukon Trapline Concession boundary adjustment for the Yukon North Slope;
- screening of development activities through the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board, as well as through Yukon Science and Explorer Act permits;
- building the legacy of the International Polar Year;
- ecological monitoring in the ISR;
- monitoring future oil and gas development activities in the Herschel Island area;
- review of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Integrated Ocean Management Plan;
- Canadian Polar Bear Non-detrimental Finding review;
- Yukon government's permitting requirements for wildlife-related research; and
- Parks Canada's proposed interim guidelines regarding the use of firearms for protection in Northern National Parks and National Park Reserves and proposed amendments to the National Parks Wildlife Regulations.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Website

WMAC(NS) continues to use its website (www.wmacns.ca) as a communication and education tool. The site is a source of information about the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*, the Council, the physical and cultural landscape of the North Slope, and management regimes and priorities.

Newsletters

The newsletter, *Wildlife Watch*, produced by WMAC(NS), continued to inform communities and organizations about the Council's activities.

The Council also contributes regularly to the *Common Ground* newsletter, which is produced twice a year by the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat. The newsletter summarizes the activities of all Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees. *Common Ground* is available on the Joint Secretariat website at www.fjmc.ca/js_newsletters.htm.

Fact Sheets

WMAC(NS) has produced fact sheets to inform people about the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* and the Yukon North Slope, as well as harvesting rights and enforcement on the Yukon North Slope. With the publication of the fact sheets, the Council hopes to increase public knowledge about the Yukon North Slope, as well as improve the understanding of Inuvialuit, government officials and others who have an interest in management of the area. Printed on the fact sheets, and also available separately, are maps showing game management subzones, ISR and park boundaries, as well as major landmarks and features. Contact the office or visit the Council's website for copies.

Herschel Island Park Rangers, Government of Yukon



RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Wildlife Research Funded Through the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*

Each year WMAC(NS) reviews proposals for research projects related to wildlife management and ecological monitoring on the Yukon North Slope to ensure they are consistent with the goals of the IFA, the wildlife conservation and management goals for the North Slope and the interests and rights of Inuvialuit. The Council makes recommendations, as appropriate, to support projects. In some cases, it will also recommend that projects proposed by Parks Canada, the Yukon government and the Canadian Wildlife Service receive IFA implementation-funding support.

Recommendations are based on research priorities identified in or by:

- the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan;
- the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research Plan;
- the Porcupine Caribou Management Plan;
- the Inuvialuit Settlement Region Grizzly Bear Management Plan;
- priorities identified by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the community of Aklavik; and
- priorities identified at the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op's annual gatherings.



Wayne Lynch

The Council monitors the progress of all recommended projects by requesting presentations and final reports from all agencies that receive IFA implementation funding. IFA funding was recommended by the Council in 2009–2011 for the following projects:

Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring and Report

Organization Responsible: Government of Yukon

The Herschel Island (Qikiqtaruk) Territorial Park Management Plan identifies ecological monitoring as a priority. The current ecological monitoring program on Herschel Island has been operating since 1999. Researchers have standardized data collection and expanded the program to include projects related to ecological change and wildlife use of the park. The program now consists of 11 related projects.

Three main areas of study make up the monitoring program: vegetation, permafrost and wildlife occurrence. To monitor vegetation, permanent plots and annual transects have been established. Ground temperature and thaw slumps are measured in these plots as well. Wildlife sightings are recorded, along with notes about the surrounding vegetation and terrain. Breeding bird, guillemot and raptor surveys are also conducted.

Information from the program has fed into numerous graduate student theses. It is also shared with the Canadian Tundra and Taiga Experiment (CANTTEX). Herschel Island and Old Crow are currently the only sites in northern Yukon in this network.

In 2009–2011 work was significantly advanced on the compilation of a summary of all data collected to date. This report is in draft and is expected to be finalized in late 2011.



Michelle Sicotte

Muskox Genetics

Organization Responsible: Government of Yukon

Samples from Yukon North Slope muskoxen (including samples collected in the NWT portion of the Richardson Mountains) have been collected in order to compare the genetic relationships among several muskox populations across North America. Feces and hair samples were collected and sent for genetic analysis over the 2008/09 winter. The analysis shows three distinct groups (Mainland, Archipelago, and Greenlandic). The positive identification of group by origin may allow for future monitoring of muskox populations.



Parks Canada

Richardson Mountain Sheep Survey

Organizations Responsible: Government of Yukon, Government of Northwest Territories

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Yukon government (YG) have been monitoring the Dall's sheep population in the Richardson Mountains since 1984. The entire area was surveyed in June 1984, June 1985, June 1986, August 1991, June 2001, August 2003 and June 2006. In August 1997, bad weather restricted the survey to the blocks that fell primarily in the NWT.

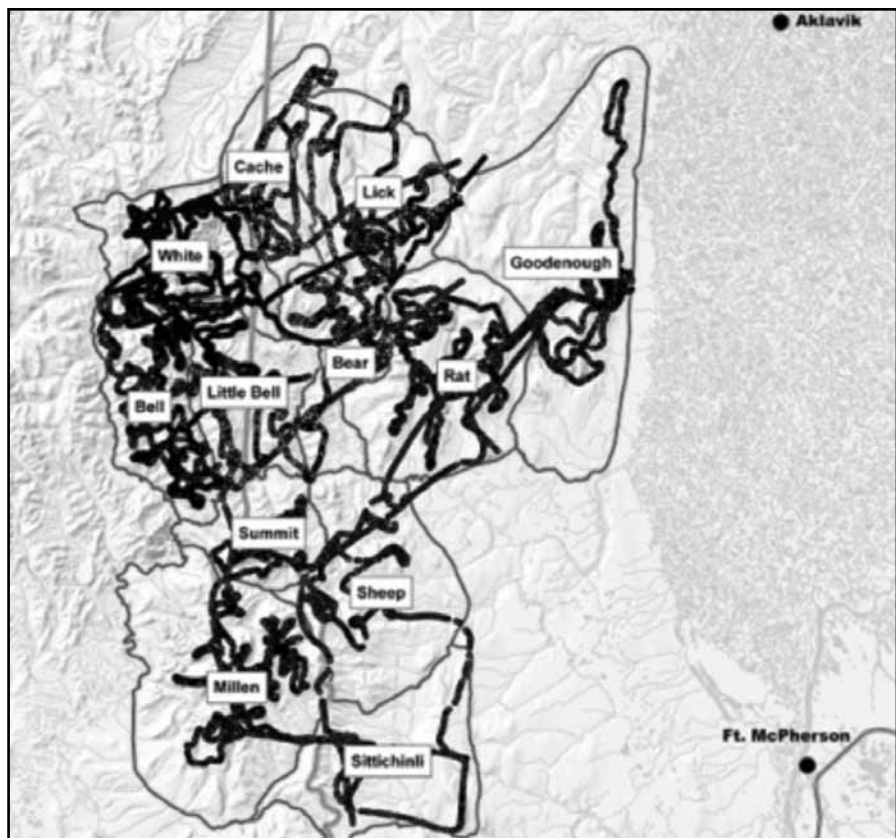


Parks Canada

The objectives of the survey are to obtain an estimate of population size and structure and an estimate of recruitment. The survey aircraft flies the contours and drainages in survey blocks. One trained biologist sits on either side of the aircraft to spot and classify the sheep. Sheep are classified as ewes, lambs, half-curl, three-quarter-curl and full-curl rams.

The draft management plan for Dall's Sheep in the Northern Richardson Mountains calls for an estimate of population size every three to five years. The draft plan states that if the population is at 500 or below, population estimates and lamb counts must be done more frequently, harvest by beneficiaries is voluntarily closed and all other harvest is closed.

At the time of the 2006 survey, the population was estimated at just over 700 sheep. The northern Richardson Mountains were surveyed again, by helicopter, in July 2010. The survey was conducted jointly by staff from GRRB, GNWT and YG (see the map). It took six days of flying between June 22 and July 9 to complete the survey. Preliminary results show a minimum of 697 sheep in the survey area. The report is currently being drafted and will be distributed once finalized.



Map 1. Survey flight lines, 2010 Richardson Mountain sheep survey

Porcupine Caribou Breeding Female Population Estimate

Organization Responsible: Government of Yukon

Partner Organizations: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service

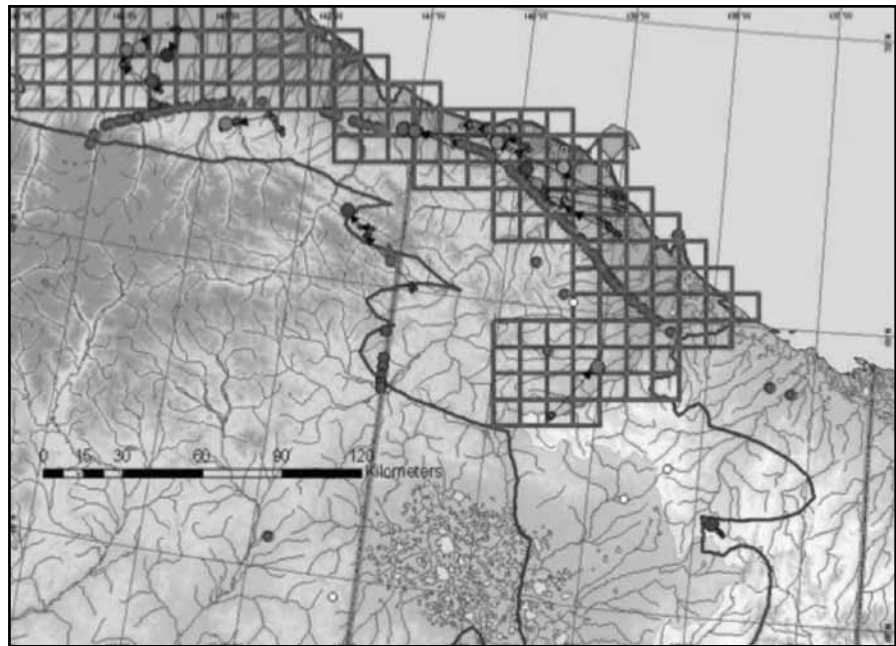
A photo census of the Porcupine caribou herd in 2001 showed that the herd had continued to decline at a relatively slow rate since its peak in 1989. Biologists tried to get another population estimate each year from 2003 to 2009 without success.

The standard photo census is done in late June or early July, when the caribou form large groups in response to warming weather that brings the biting insects out. Because groups are very dense and concentrated in a relatively small area, it is quite easy to photograph the entire herd and count the animals in the photographs. However, for most of those years, the weather failed to warm up when the majority of the caribou were still on the coastal plain, resulting in the herd failing to form very large post-calving groups. A herd photo census was finally completed in July 2010, and biologists estimated a count of 169,000 animals.

Because of concerns with the long gap between population size estimates during a period of decline, the researchers proposed another approach to estimating the herd size. The method, used for the Bathurst Herd in NWT, estimates the number of breeding females on the calving grounds and corrects for the estimated numbers of non-breeding females and bulls to get a total population size. Cows with calves generally stop moving or greatly reduce their movements for five or six days immediately following the birth of their calves. The goal was to survey the herd at the peak of calving, when half of the cows have given birth—generally at the beginning of June. Breeding females are counted by observers and from photographs. A composition count done at the same time or immediately after the survey is needed to correct for non-breeding females. Another composition count during the rut allows the biologists to correct for the proportion of males in the herd.



The survey was planned for 2010, but the field portion was not conducted, mainly due to poor weather, limited access to aircraft, and the fact that signals from radio and satellite collars showed the herd was still widely dispersed at peak calving time. Before they were forced to cancel the survey, the team members had established a fuel cache at Komakuk, consisting of seven drums of fuel purchased by INP as a contribution to the survey. The fuel and the temporary containment system were moved out in late May 2010. To date, three drums have been used for other field programs. The remaining drums will be used or moved out in late summer 2012, along with all the empty drums. This project is now concluded.



Map 2. Locations of collared caribou two days before peak of calving. The map is centred on Ivvavik National Park. Small dots are conventional collars heard during the telemetry flight. Close locations were not obtained. Remainder are satellite locations. The squares above correspond to the survey grid.

Porcupine Caribou Computer Population Model Revisions

Organization Responsible: Government of Yukon

Partner Organizations: Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee

In the late 1990s, a group of Porcupine caribou researchers developed a population model for the herd called the Caribou Calculator. The model was intended to encourage discussion about harvest management at a 2001 workshop involving local hunters, aboriginal organizations and governments. As the Porcupine Caribou Management Board progressed with their harvest management planning process, planning participants wanted some indication of population size, even in years when a photo census of the herd was not done. The Harvest Management Plan directs biologists to use the Caribou Calculator to provide an estimate of herd size during annual harvest management discussions. Since the Caribou Calculator was not intended for this use, the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee contracted the developer to revise the model as an appropriate tool for harvest management.



Parks Canada

Yukon North Slope Raptor Survey

Organization Responsible: Parks Canada

Peregrine falcons and other raptors were surveyed in Ivvavik National Park as part of the wildlife management portion of the park's five-year management plan and as part of the National Peregrine Falcon Survey. All raptors were surveyed by three observers and a pilot from a Jet Ranger helicopter on July 28, 2010. In addition, other raptor nests were observed in the park and were included in this report. A total of 20 occupied raptor territories were documented: nine peregrine falcon, nine golden eagle and two rough-legged hawk. The numbers of territories are comparable to previous surveys and indicate a stable population. Productivity was high with 2.5 peregrine chicks per successful nest and 1.0 eagle chicks per successful nest. The proportion of successful nests could not be determined from the single survey, since we do not know how many pairs attempted to nest but were not successful. The information from this survey will be combined with other Yukon surveys of the North Slope and submitted to the national compilation of the five-year survey.

Ecological Integrity Monitoring in Ivavik National Park Forests

Organization Responsible: Parks Canada

The Arctic is experiencing dramatic environmental impacts due, in part, to changing climate. Plant communities are the foundation for terrestrial trophic webs and animal habitat. Changes in vegetation composition occur when factors such as climate change reduce a location's suitability for some plant species and increase its suitability for others. Changes in vegetation, in turn, affect other parts of the ecosystem, including birds, insects and other wildlife.



Aileen Horler

This integrated baseline and monitoring project in the forests of Ivavik National Park investigated variation in the physical drivers of forest systems and the biological responses to them in the short term. It also tried to assess the long-term consequences of climate warming by comparing current conditions with earlier baseline data. The project objectives were:

- to inventory the area's biodiversity, particularly vegetation, insects and birds; and
- to collect data on factors, such as air temperature and soil moisture, that might influence forest biodiversity.

Briefly, the project has, so far, produced the following information:

- Soil moisture varied considerably. Preliminary analyses indicated that higher elevations had lower moisture. However, this trend did not hold for tundra plots, suggesting that complex interactions with topography and soil properties are likely at work.
- Seasonal soil temperature at 10 cm below the surface was less extreme than air temperature.
- Preliminary analyses show a wide variation in forest structure, based on tree sizes, probably affecting bird and insect habitat.
- To date, 121 families of insects have been identified, most of them new additions to the park's list of insects. So far, 627 samples have been submitted to the Canadian Centre for DNA Barcoding (University of Guelph). From these, 110 species have been identified and two species are new to the database. More samples will be forwarded in the future.

- Fourteen species of birds were identified from audio recordings. The most common breeding birds in the Sheep Creek area were American robins, white-crowned sparrows, rock ptarmigans and common redpolls. In total, 92 nests were found for 11 species.

Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op (ABEKC)

Organization Responsible: Canadian Wildlife Service

Partner Organizations: WMAC(NS), Parks Canada, Aklavik and Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committees, Government of Yukon, Government of Northwest Territories, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, and North Yukon Renewable Resource Councils, University of Alaska Fairbanks, NWT Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program, Canadian Heritage, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board.

The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op Community-based Monitoring Program runs annually and includes the communities of Aklavik, Inuvik, Old Crow, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Arctic Village, Tuktoyaktuk and Kaktovik. The program began in 1996 and has continued through the 2009–2011 term. It tracks changes in environmental conditions across the range of the Porcupine caribou herd, as well as the Mackenzie Delta and adjacent marine areas.

Local researchers in each community conduct interviews with community experts about conditions and changes observed during the year. Information is collected about berries, fish, caribou, other animals, weather conditions and general observations. Results from all communities are compiled into a summary report, to be discussed at the Co-op's Annual Gathering. A detailed report of Aklavik Inuvialuit observations is provided to the Aklavik HTC.

The project is important to both WMAC(NS) and the Inuvialuit as it provides information about environmental trends, historical context, and possible causes of these trends.

Throughout the term, ABEKC has dedicated itself to producing analyses of results from its 10-year dataset, as well as reviewing its organizational structure and program mandate. In October 2008, the Borderlands Co-op hosted a one-day meeting where partners and selected community monitors gathered to discuss the program's future and its recently-produced synthesis products. In the spring of 2010, analysis products were brought to the communities for verification and feedback.

Reviewing and redesigning the Co-op's survey is a current priority. In 2009–10, survey monitoring was stopped at WMAC(NS)'s recommendation, and a subcommittee of Co-op members and external survey experts started working on the redesign. The group was guided by, but not limited to, the following issues identified by WMAC(NS):

- clearly defining the needs of data users as they apply to survey questions and vice versa;
- duplication of information collected from community-based interviews and administrative data sources;
- consistency in the interviewee population over time;
- length of the questionnaire;
- consistency and frequency of questions asked over time;
- ambiguity in the meaning of questions that contributes directly to errors in interpretation;

- appropriate use of open and closed questions;
- methods for verifying survey observations with the broader community;
- ease in analysis of data; and
- data collection methods and repeatability/ data integrity.

For further information on the program and the status of the redesign process, go to www.taiga.net/coop.

Porcupine Caribou Rut Composition Count

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Environment, the Yukon government and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Arctic National Wildlife Refuge conducted a composition survey of the Porcupine caribou herd (PCH) on its winter range in October 2009.

At the time of the survey, the herd was distributed over a large geographic area extending from the foothills in the upper Coleen River drainage, Alaska, southeast to the Ogilvie Mountains, Yukon. The survey was flown near the peak of rut to take advantage of the mixing of bulls, cows and calves. Caribou groups were located by tracking radio-collared caribou (both bulls and cows) from fixed-wing aircraft. Thirty different groups were identified, and composition information was collected. A total of 6,897 caribou were classified, of which 6,000 were adults.

Initial results show a calf-to-cow ratio of 21 calves per 100 cows and a bull-to-cow ratio of 40 bulls per 100 cows. After adjusting for uneven distribution of collars (more collars on females than males) and variation between groups and regions, it is estimated that the bull-to-cow ratio is 42 to 46 bulls per 100 cows and the calf-to-cow ratio is 22 to 24 calves per 100 cows.

Information about the composition of the PCH will be helpful for computer population modeling and in assessing the effects of a bull-dominated harvest on the herd.



Stock photo

Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Program

Organization Responsible: Government of Yukon

Partner Organizations: Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Canadian Wildlife Service, Government of the Northwest Territories, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Parks Canada (Western Arctic and Yukon Field Unit), WMAC(NS) and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

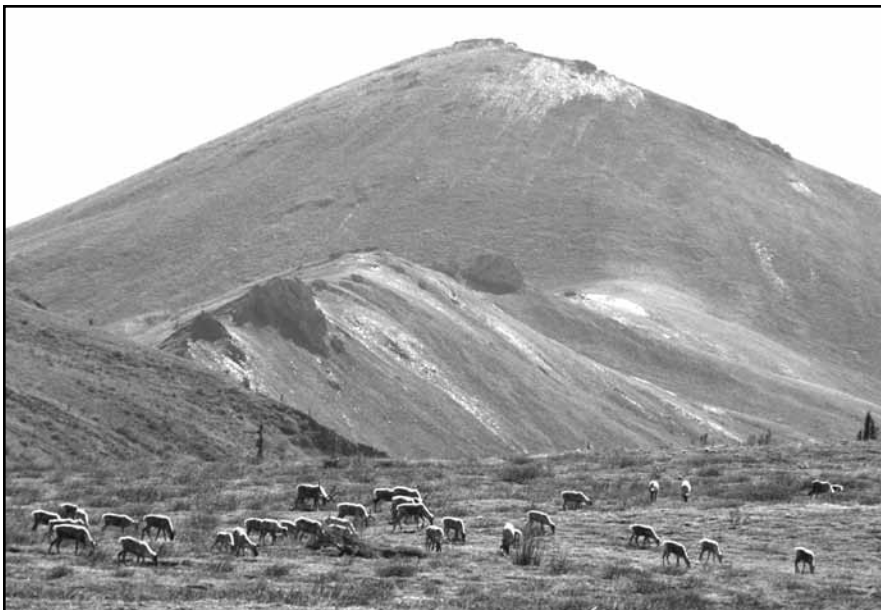
The Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program began in 1997. It is a cooperative program involving a number of wildlife agencies and boards. Satellite radio collars are used to track seasonal range use and migration routes of the herd. Currently, there are about 12 satellite collars in the program. The dataset to date consists of almost 109,000 locations for 82 individual caribou since 1985.

Maps and other relevant information are online at www.taiga.net/satellite/index.html.

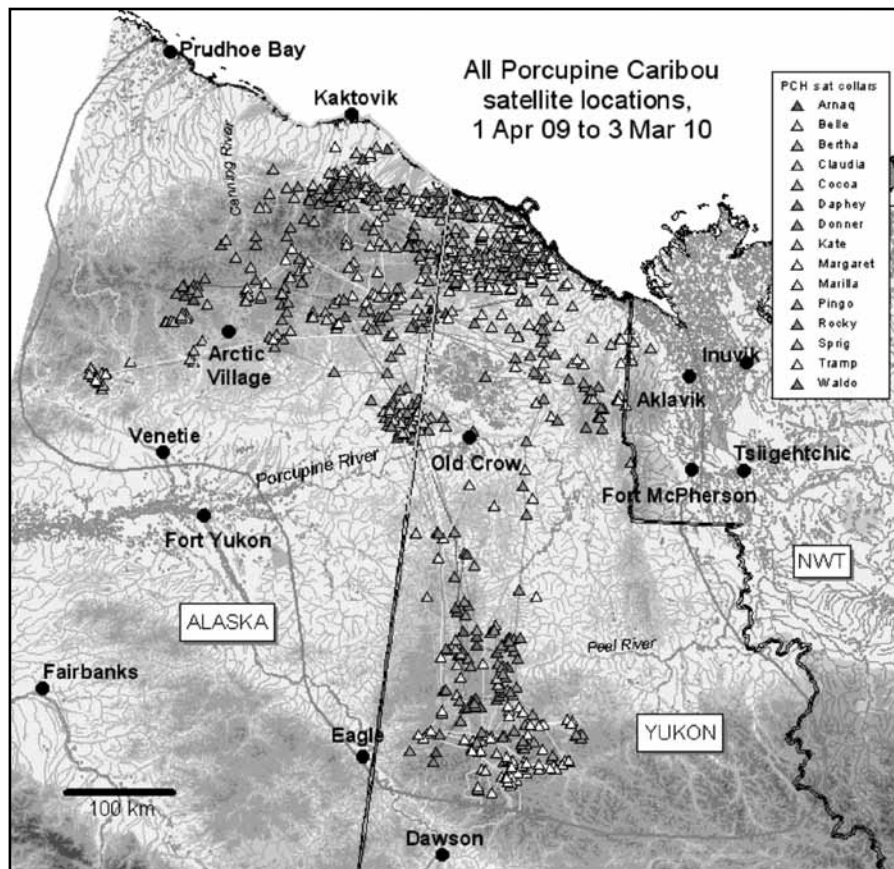
Radio collars, both conventional and satellite, are used to find the herd in order to do composition fieldwork. Since 1979, ADFG and USFWS have monitored calf birth and survival rates each year using the radio-collared cows. Each March since 1991, YG and USFWS document over-winter calf survival with a full composition count, guided by the radio collars.

Satellite collars have also proved valuable and cost-effective in recording routes used and timing of the migrations. Documenting range use is important for a variety of reasons, including:

- analyses of the information shows a loose pattern of shifting winter-range use over the years;



- the PCH data is being used to update CWS's caribou movement animation, in which the Porcupine herd is showcased;
- the PCMB leads educational programs aimed at permanent protection of the PCH calving grounds from oil and gas exploration and development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and calving surveys are critical in showing the importance of these ranges; and
- both conventional and satellite telemetry data are used to determine whether there is a pattern in winter range use so that managers can address hunting concerns on the Dempster Highway and possible related changes in winter range use.



Map 4. Porcupine caribou satellite locations, April 1, 2009 to March 3, 2010

Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Research Project

Organization Responsible: Government of Yukon

Partner Organizations: Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Parks Canada and WMAC(NS)

This six-year research project, which began in 2004, focuses on grizzly bears between the Firth and Blow rivers. The study was designed to look at grizzly bear population sizes, birth rates, death rates, where bears can be found at certain times of the year and how much they move around. The information is important to wildlife managers, boards and community organizations for use in making management decisions. Population information is especially important for setting harvest quotas.

The Yukon North Slope Research and Monitoring Plan and the Co-management Plan for Grizzly Bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Yukon and Northwest Territories also indicated a need to update population estimates for grizzly bears and to review harvest rates using population-specific information.

The goals of this study are to estimate the grizzly bear population size on the Yukon North Slope, estimate the growth rate of the population, determine the sustainable harvest rate for the population, and determine if there are any conservation concerns relating to issues typical of the Arctic and carnivores (for example, contaminants affecting reproductive health, climate change affecting habitat and others).

To track bears and monitor reproductive rates and survival, GPS and VHF collars were deployed within the study area. Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines were followed for all procedures involving handling of animals. Regular telemetry flights were conducted to monitor cub survival.

A 7km-by-7km hair-trapping grid was conducted in the core study area in two consecutive years. Hair from the snag stations was sent to a commercial genetics laboratory, and lab analysis was completed in 2009.

Traditional and local knowledge of grizzly bears and bear habitat in the area was gathered in 2005, 2006 and 2007. A report summarizing the findings was produced in 2008.



Government of Yukon

Grizzly bear den



Stock photo

The study is now winding up. In 2010, telemetry work was completed. Collars were removed from all study bears, and new bears were biopsy darted. In 2011, lab analyses of samples (fat, fecal, hair) were completed. Den survey work was finished, and GPS collar-correction activities were done. Data are being entered, and final analysis and report writing are underway.

Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Study

Organizations Responsible: WMAC(NS) , WMAC(NWT), Government of Yukon, Government of Northwest Territories, Environment Canada

Partner Organizations: IGC, Parks Canada (Western Arctic Field Unit), HTCs

This multi-year project is intended to gather local and traditional knowledge related to climate change and its potential influence on polar bears and their habitat in the southern Beaufort. Traditional knowledge studies in the region have not focused on this species, yet there is a rich Inuvialuit history associated with this species and, therefore, there is strong oral history about ice conditions and habitat use.

This project complements existing and proposed efforts (coastal bear survey, population survey and denning survey). Wildlife management authorities want more local and traditional knowledge on this species, so that the information can be incorporated into population assessments and used to assist management decisions.

Primary interviews took place in 2009/2010 and follow-up interviews and reporting took place in 2010/2011.

Special Projects



Ramona Marci, Government of Yukon

A portion of the WMAC(NS) budget is allocated to special projects including wildlife management, community participation, traditional knowledge and outreach and education.

Grizzly Bear Traditional Knowledge Report

A component of the IFA-funded grizzly bear research project was a traditional knowledge study. Interviews with Aklavik Inuvialuit grizzly bear harvesters were conducted in the summers of 2006 and 2007. A report summarizing traditional knowledge was printed in spring 2009 and distributed to the community of Aklavik. It is also available on the WMAC(NS) website.

Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge Report

The purpose of this project was to collect traditional knowledge from Aklavik Inuvialuit about Porcupine caribou. WMAC(NS) worked with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and conducted interviews in the winter of 2008/2009. The report was printed and distributed in fall 2009 and has been made available on the WMAC(NS) website. It is hoped that the information will inform future strategies for the conservation of Porcupine caribou.

It is an important time to record the knowledge held by Aklavik Inuvialuit and others, especially the wisdom of the Elders. We are grateful to the Aklavik experts who participated in this study and shared their knowledge so openly.

Tuktoyaktuk Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Project

In October 2009, Inuvialuit elders and hunters from ISR communities gathered in Tuktoyaktuk for a workshop and to participate in one-on-one interviews. Another set of interviews was conducted in Sachs Harbour in March 2009 by a contractor. The results were analyzed and compiled into a report jointly produced by WMAC(NWT), WMAC(NS) and IGC. The report *Inuvialuit Knowledge of Nanuq: Community and Traditional Knowledge of Polar Bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region* is available on the Council's website, www.wmacns.ca

Yukon North Slope Wildlife Atlas

As part of its communications program, the Council is reproducing a collection of maps originally created in the late 1990s to document a variety of values: geopolitical areas and ecoregions; wildlife habitat; vegetation and terrain; coastal; geophysical; and cultural, conservation and traditional land use. Where possible, more updated information is being added. As digital copies become available, they will be posted to the Council's website.

Ecological Monitoring

WMAC(NS) has been a regular contributor to the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op monitoring program in the past. The program has been collecting community data for over 10 years within the range of the Porcupine caribou herd in order to monitor and record changes on the land.

Jurisdictional Review

Management arrangements for Southern Beaufort polar bears are complex and span a number of onshore and offshore jurisdictions. The Council engaged an independent legal expert to review the complicated jurisdictional arrangements and legal basis that inform polar bear management on the Yukon North Slope.

Digital Archiving

The Council has collected a vast number of recorded audio files over time, from traditional knowledge studies to conferences. In order to store these securely for all time, the Council converted the audio cassette tapes to digital files and archived them.

Herschel Island Book

Dr. Christopher Burn is producing a factual book about Herschel Island. It includes historical and current use of Herschel Island by people, as well as information about the flora, fauna, geography and more. The Council has made a financial contribution towards the publication of this book, as well as providing some content.

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS
AND CONFERENCES

North Slope Conference

The Yukon North Slope Conference is a requirement of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* (IFA) and is typically held every three years. The conference was scheduled to be held February 2010 with the theme: Arctic Wildlife Management – Lessons Learned and Future Challenges. The conference was postponed and will be held in the fall of 2012 in Whitehorse.

Co-management IFA Research Day

The Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Inuvialuit Game Council and the Wildlife Management Advisory Councils (North Slope and Northwest Territories) hosted IFA Research Day in Inuvik in March 2011. This workshop provided an opportunity for agencies and individual researchers receiving IFA funding for wildlife and fisheries projects to communicate their progress and findings back to members of Inuvialuit Renewable Resource boards, committees, councils and the wider research community. The lead scientists for each research project presented summaries of the research activity, the timeframe, results to date, partners and potential management implications.

WMAC(NS) Council Meetings

The Council held the following meetings this term:

June 6–7, 2009	Marsh Lake, YT
July 20, 2009	Teleconference
September 19–21, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
December 8–10, 2009	Aklavik, NWT
February 16–19, 2010	Whitehorse, YT
May 5, 2010	Teleconference
June 16–22, 2010	Sheep Creek, YT
September 7–8, 2010	Whitehorse, YT
December 8–9, 2010	Inuvik, NWT
February 14, 2011	Teleconference
March 15–17, 2011	Whitehorse, YT

Other Meetings, Workshops and Conferences

Throughout the term, the WMAC(NS) Chair, members, representatives and Secretariat attended numerous meetings, workshops and conferences relevant to the Council and the Yukon North Slope. They are summarized as follows:

Access to Genetic Resources and Sharing the Benefits of Their Use in Canada Information Session	May 14, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
Yukon Environment Forum	May 21, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
2030 North Conference	June 1–4, 2009	Ottawa, ON
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Planning Meeting	September 3, 2009	Iqaluit, NU
Joint IGC/WMAC(NS)/WMAC(NWT)/Yukon Government Meeting	September 21, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
Joint WMAC(NS)/WMAC(NWT) Meeting	September 22, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
Porcupine Caribou Herd Cumulative Effects Assessment Project Update	September 22, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
Technical Review of Yukon <i>Species At Risk Act</i>	October 30, 2009	Calgary, AB
3 rd International Bear–People Conflicts Workshop	November 15–17, 2009	Canmore, AB
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Planning Meeting	November 18, 2009	Inuvik, NWT
Canada–US Polar Bear MOU Oversight Group Meeting	November 19–20, 2009	Inuvik, NWT
CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring And Assessment Network Meeting	December 4–6, 2009	Vancouver, B.C.
Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting	December 11, 2009	Inuvik, NWT
Polar Bear Technical Committee Meeting	February 2–4, 2010	Ottawa, ON
Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op – Review Meeting	February 11–13 2010	Whitehorse, YT
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): 15 th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	March 13–25, 2010	Doha, Qatar

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

20 th Annual Meeting of the Joint Commissions of the Inuvialuit Game Council and the North Slope Borough for the Management of Polar Agreement for Polar Bears of the Southern Beaufort	July 29–30, 2010	Tuktoyaktuk, NWT
Meeting of IFA-based Organizations Concerning ABEKS Monitoring and Information Requirements	September 9, 2010	Whitehorse, YT
Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting	September 11–12, 2010	Whitehorse, YT
Outcomes of the International Polar Year	November 3–6, 2010	Edmonton, AB
Inuvik Game Council Meeting	December 5–6, 2010	Inuvik, NWT
Polar Bear Technical Committee	February 1–3, 2011-05-18	Winnipeg, MB
Sea Ice Symposium	February 5, 2011	Ottawa, ON
IFA Research Day	March 4, 2011	Inuvik, NWT

The Council also participated in a number of ongoing meetings, including Polar Bear Technical Committee, Polar Bear Administrative Committee, COSEWIC teleconferences and CITES preparation teleconferences.

PARKS MANAGEMENT

Herschel Island–Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park

The *Parks and Land Certainty Act* requires each territorial park to have a management plan, prepared in consultation with the public, which reflects not only Yukon government policies and legislation, but also the provisions laid out in the land claims agreements. The original Herschel Island–Qikiqtaruk Management Plan was completed in 1991, and a revised version was finalized in September 2006. The 2006 version reflects changes, such as increased visitor numbers, increasing oil and gas interests in the offshore and increasing environmental impacts on historic resources, and identifies the need for the development of other strategies or plans. The plan is available at the Yukon Department of Environment, the Council’s website or from the WMAC(NS) office.

The Council meets regularly with the Chief Park Ranger at Herschel Island–Qikiqtaruk Park to discuss current and planned park activities. Prior to the beginning of the field season, the Council receives briefings on park priorities, the season’s visitors, research and monitoring programs, heritage site maintenance and other activities. Herschel Island staff provide updates to the Council in the spring and fall related to that year’s activity.

The Council works with Yukon Parks Branch on wildlife research, management and ecological monitoring in Herschel Island Territorial Park. WMAC(NS) continues to support research and monitoring projects on Herschel Island, including the Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring Project and Black Guillemot Population Monitoring.

Herschel Island (Qikiqtaruk) Territorial Park was the first territorial park created by the Yukon government. The island is the largest on the Yukon North Slope and lies five kilometres offshore, almost directly opposite the Firth River.



Cameron Eckert

Ivvavik National Park

The WMAC(NS) has continued to work in partnership with Parks Canada (Western Arctic Field Unit) on issues related to wildlife research, management and ecological monitoring in Ivvavik National Park. A representative from Parks Canada sat on the Council as the member for the Government of Canada over the past term.

Over the past 50 years, the Stokes Point area in the park has seen a variety of industrial activities, including a short-lived Distant Early Warning (D.E.W.) Line Station, an airstrip in support of Beaufort Sea hydrocarbon exploration and a Department of National Defence short-range radar facility. The community of Aklavik and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation have raised concerns about possible pollution left behind at Stokes Point from these activities.

Located on the western portion of the Yukon North Slope, Ivvavik National Park boasts 10,168 square kilometres of unspoiled beauty. It is the first Canadian national park created by a land claim. Parameters for Ivvavik National Park were set out in the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA)*, and made official via the *National Parks Act*.

In response, Parks Canada has partnered with the Department of National Defence and the Royal Military College of Canada in a three-year project to complete a site investigation looking for possible contamination. The project is guided by the Stokes Point Steering Committee, composed of appointed representatives from the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Aklavik Community Corporation, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Parks Canada, Department of National Defense and the Royal Military College of Canada. WMAC(NS) alternate member, Evelyn Storr, is a member in the group. Site clean-up started in 2010.

In 2011, the Council reviewed and provided recommendations for the Sheep Creek Backcountry Station Site Plan for Ivvavik National Park.



Parks Canada

PARTNERSHIPS

WMAC(NS) continues to work with its partners toward the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use on the Yukon North Slope.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories), or WMAC(NWT)

WMAC(NWT) was established under the same land claim as WMAC(NS). It has a mandate to “to conserve and protect wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use” in the NWT portion of the ISR. Particularly over the past term, the Councils have increased their communication and collaboration on matters related to transboundary species such as polar bear, grizzly bear and caribou. Maintaining a close relationship helps to create strong and informed management decisions.

Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC)

The Council works with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to develop and promote wildlife management on the North Slope. Concerns, including harvesting needs of the Aklavik Inuvialuit, are addressed through regularly scheduled joint meetings. The Aklavik HTC helps to inform research priorities on the Yukon North Slope. WMAC(NS) worked with the Aklavik HTC on a number of issues this term, including the draft Muskox Management Plan, the North Slope Grizzly Bear Project, trapline boundaries and grizzly bear quotas.

Inuvialuit Game Council

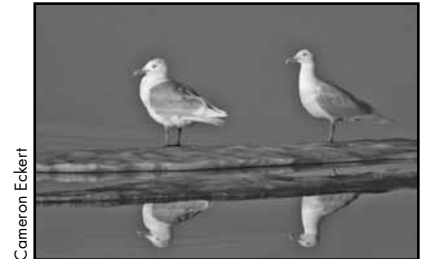
The Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) represents the collective Inuvialuit interest in matters concerning wildlife management and habitat in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The IGC appoints Inuvialuit members to all co-management bodies under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*. The IGC assists WMAC(NS) and all other co-management bodies when requested, advising on any issue that concerns the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The IGC appoints two Inuvialuit members to the WMAC(NS). The WMAC(NS) Chair attends and presents at IGC meetings on a regular basis, which provides a chance to report on Council activities, as well as hear issues and concerns raised from the IGC.

Porcupine Caribou Management Board

The Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) is a joint management board established under the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* in 1985. WMAC(NS) works with the PCMB to develop strategies and recommendations to conserve and protect the Porcupine caribou herd on the Yukon North Slope. The Council continued to support the PCMB’s Porcupine Caribou Collaring Program. It provided input into the preparation of a harvest management strategy initiated by the PCMB due to concern over the declining population of the herd. A successful caribou count in the fall of 2010, indicating over 165,000 animals, was welcome news for the Council.

Other Partnerships

WMAC(NS) also works with a number of other partners such as the Arctic Research Institute, the Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board, the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op, state, federal and Inupiat organizations in Alaska, and the Government of Northwest Territories, as well as other councils, boards, and committees throughout the Yukon and Canada.



Cameron Eckert

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, MARCH 31, 2011

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
REPORT

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Management
Advisory Council (North Slope):

I have reviewed the statement of financial position of Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) as at March 31, 2011, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Council.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that operations in the year are not, in all material respects, in accordance with the terms of the contribution agreements entered into with Government of Yukon during the year.



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Whitehorse, Yukon
June 27, 2011

Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2011 (unaudited)


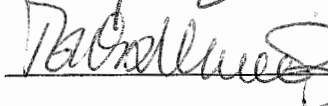
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2011
(unaudited)

	<u>2011</u>	March 31, 2010 and April 1 <u>2010</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 84,515	\$ 71,235
Accounts receivable	19,000	15,150
GST receivable	<u>2,931</u>	<u>3,166</u>
	<u>106,446</u>	<u>89,551</u>
EQUIPMENT (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	37,940	39,142
Less accumulated amortization	<u>34,515</u>	<u>34,585</u>
	<u>3,425</u>	<u>4,557</u>
	<u>\$ 109,871</u>	<u>\$ 94,108</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 27,773	\$ 48,398
Wages and employee benefits payable	2,777	2,140
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	<u>75,420</u>	<u>38,537</u>
	<u>105,970</u>	<u>89,075</u>
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	476	476
INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT (note 2)	<u>3,425</u>	<u>4,557</u>
	<u>3,901</u>	<u>5,033</u>
	<u>\$ 109,871</u>	<u>\$ 94,108</u>

APPROVED BY:

 Councillor
 Councillor

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year Ended March 31, 2011 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011
(unaudited)

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
REVENUES		
Government of Yukon - contribution	\$ 192,917	\$ 214,988
Government of Yukon - Polar Bear Research	-	3,360
Environment Canada - Arctic Borderlands	19,000	19,000
Interest income and other	-	10
	<u>211,917</u>	<u>237,358</u>
EXPENDITURES		
ADMINISTRATION		
Bookkeeping	4,266	2,681
Honoraria - chair	44,043	45,202
Honoraria - council members	875	2,423
Interest and bank charges	99	20
Newsletter	526	169
Office and telephone	11,427	11,592
Professional fees	3,234	2,500
Rent	5,390	5,289
Subcontracts	17,291	3,231
Term report	-	1,077
Travel and meetings	27,170	22,257
Wages and employee benefits	<u>65,103</u>	<u>64,792</u>
	<u>179,424</u>	<u>161,233</u>
PROJECT COSTS		
Bylaws, Regulations, Legislation	-	6,269
Environment Canada - Arctic Borderlands	17,100	17,100
Grizzly Bear Traditional Knowledge	-	3,203
Herschel Book	1,952	-
Jurisdictional Review	4,288	-
North Slope Conference	-	2,191
North Slope Wildlife Atlas	2,928	-
Polar Bear TK Report	1,750	2,235
Polar Bear Research	-	3,360
Porcupine Caribou TK Report	-	26,148
Website	815	1,458
Wildlife Conservation Management Plan Update	987	-
Workshops, conferences and studies	<u>2,673</u>	<u>11,190</u>
	<u>32,493</u>	<u>73,154</u>
	<u>211,917</u>	<u>234,387</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES		
FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,971</u>

Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2011 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

 FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011
 (unaudited)

	2011			2010
	INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT	UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	TOTAL	TOTAL
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ <u>4,557</u>	\$ <u>476</u>	\$ <u>5,033</u>	\$ <u>6,632</u>
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	-	-	-	2,971
Purchase of equipment	-	-	-	-
Disposal of equipment	-	-	-	-
Amortization of equipment	<u>(1,132)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,132)</u>	<u>(4,570)</u>
	<u>(1,132)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,132)</u>	<u>(1,599)</u>
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$ <u><u>3,425</u></u>	\$ <u><u>476</u></u>	\$ <u><u>3,901</u></u>	\$ <u><u>5,033</u></u>

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended March 31, 2011 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011
(unaudited)

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received from Government of Yukon	\$ 233,160	\$ 225,000
Cash received from Government of Canada	4,000	15,000
Cash received from other sources	-	9
Cash paid for administration costs	(181,066)	(149,841)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	<u>(42,814)</u>	<u>(44,307)</u>
	<u>13,280</u>	<u>45,861</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,962)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	13,280	42,899
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>71,235</u>	<u>28,336</u>
CASH AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 84,515</u>	<u>\$ 71,235</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2011 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011
(unaudited)

1. NATURE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) was incorporated under the Societies Ordinance of the Yukon as a non-profit entity. It was created pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement to advise federal and territorial governments on matters pertaining to Yukon North Slope wildlife and habitat issues.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) uses Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations as the basis of its accounting and financial statement presentation. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used by management in the preparation of these financial statements.

a) First Time Adoption

Effective April 1, 2010, the Council chose to early adopt the new standards for Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. A restatement of any prior year figures is required if there are differences arising as a consequence of any resulting changes in accounting policies. As a result of adopting the new generally accepted Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, no changes were required to be made to the opening Statement of Financial Statement, as no changes in accounting policies affected these opening figures. No restatement was necessary.

When an entity first adopts the new standards, it is required to provide an opening statement of financial position at the date of transition to the new standards. As no figures are different from the closing statement of financial position for the year ended March 31, 2010, a separate statement has not been presented. Rather, the statement of financial position show both dates in the heading for the column of comparative figures.

b) Revenue Recognition

The Council follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2011 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011
(unaudited)

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

c) Equipment

Equipment is recorded in the statement of financial position at cost. Amortization is provided at rates sufficient to amortize the cost over the estimated useful lives of the equipment. Equipment is amortized using the declining balance method at rates set out in note 3.

The investment in equipment reflects the total net amortized cost of all equipment owned by the Council.

d) Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue represents funds received under a contribution agreement or a specific project which are available to cover expenses in the next fiscal year as described in note 4.

3. EQUIPMENT

	2011				2010
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	\$ 21,703	\$ 21,232	\$ 471	\$ 673
Computer equipment	45%	3,574	3,237	337	613
Office equipment	20%	<u>12,663</u>	<u>10,046</u>	<u>2,617</u>	<u>3,271</u>
		<u>\$ 37,940</u>	<u>\$ 34,515</u>	<u>\$ 3,425</u>	<u>\$ 4,557</u>

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2011	2010
Government of Yukon	<u>\$ 75,420</u>	<u>\$ 38,537</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2011 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011
(unaudited)

5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Council's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and deferred revenue. Unless otherwise noted, it is the Council's opinion that the Council is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

6. MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make assumptions and estimates that have an effect on the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could be different from those estimates.

7. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Council is economically dependent upon the Government of Yukon, which provides funding for administration and implementation.

APPENDIX 1

Extracted from Western Arctic Claims (The Inuvialuit Final Agreement) Settlement Act (1984)

YUKON NORTH SLOPE

12.(1) For the purposes of this section, “Yukon North Slope” means all those lands between the jurisdictional boundaries of Alaska and the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, north of the height of land dividing the watersheds of the Porcupine River and the Beaufort Sea, and including adjacent nearshore and offshore waters and islands.

PRINCIPLES

12.(2) The Yukon North Slope shall fall under a special conservation regime whose dominant purpose is the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional native use.

12.(3) Subject to subsections (5) to (15):

- (a) all development proposals relating to the Yukon North Slope shall be screened to determine whether they could have a significant negative impact on the wildlife, habitat or ability of the natives to harvest wildlife;
- (b) other uses within the Yukon North Slope shall be considered and may be permitted if it is shown that there would be no significant negative impact on wildlife, habitat or native harvesting;
- (c) other uses within the Yukon North Slope that may have a significant negative impact on wildlife, habitat or native harvesting shall be permitted if it is decided that public convenience and necessity outweigh conservation or native harvesting interests in the area; and

As amended January 15, 1987

- (d) development proposals relating to the Yukon North Slope that may have a significant negative impact shall be subject to a public environmental impact assessment and review process.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

12.(46) In order to provide for joint planning by the native people and the governments in the Yukon North Slope with respect to the principles set out in subsections (2) and (3), a Wildlife Management Advisory Council shall be established as soon after the execution of this Agreement as is practicable.

12.(47) The Council shall have as permanent members a Chairman and an equal number of native and government members.

12.(48) The permanent members of the Council shall include at least one person designated by the Government of the Yukon Territory and one person designated by the Minister of the Environment of Canada.

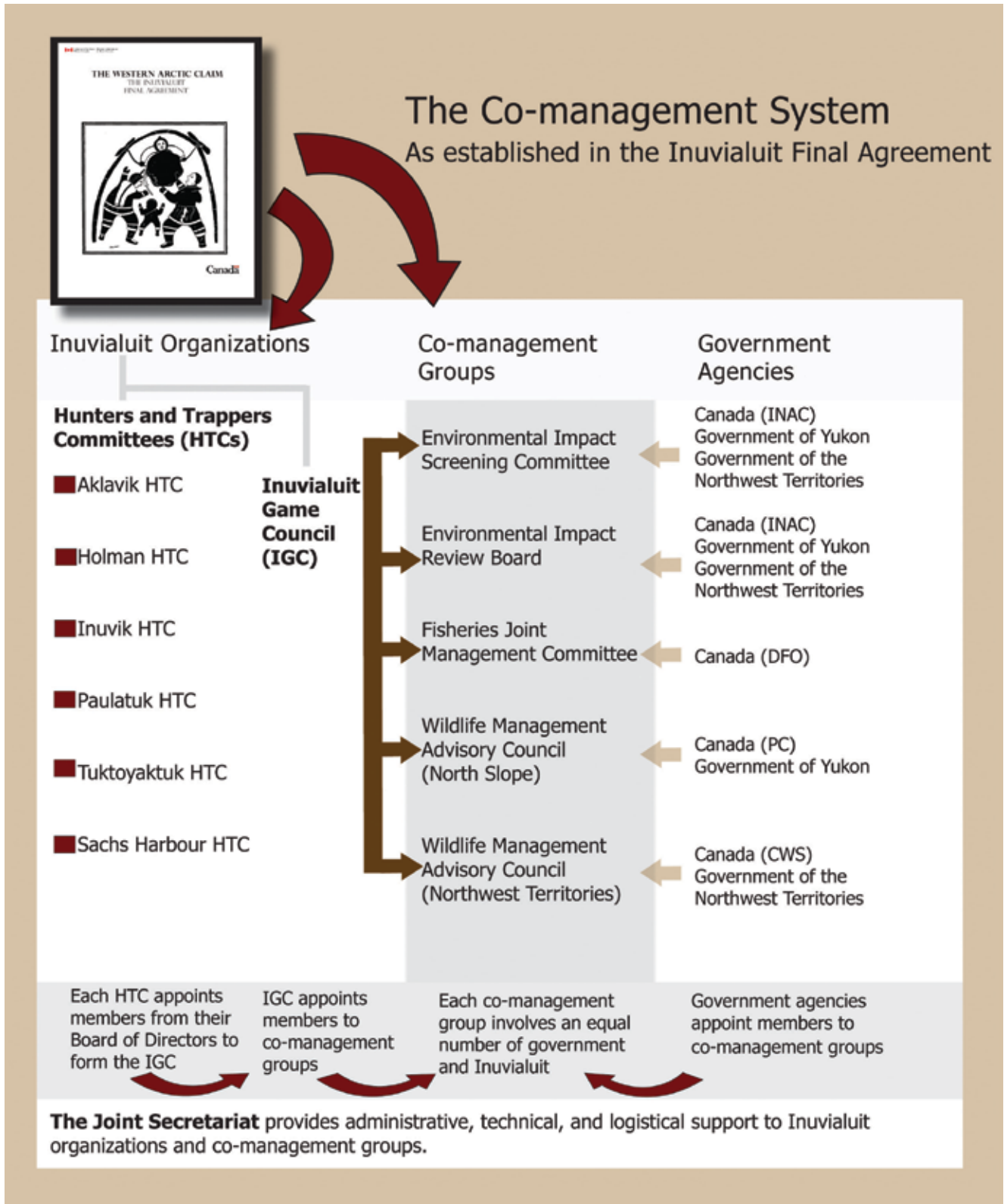
12.(49) In addition to permanent members of the Council representing government, temporary members may be co-opted from government departments as they may be required from time to time.

- 12.(50) The permanent members of the Council appointed to represent the native interests shall include persons designated by the Inuvialuit, and, subject to agreements, by other native groups that have acquired harvesting rights in the Yukon North Slope under their land claims settlements.
- 12.(51) The Chairman of the Council shall be appointed by the Government of the Yukon Territory, with the consent of the native members and Canada.
- 12.(52) The permanent members of the Council shall each have one (1) vote. The Chairman shall have a vote only in case of a deadlock. Temporary members shall not have a vote.
- 12.(53) The Council may establish rules and adopt by-laws regulating its procedures.
- 12.(54) The Government of the Yukon Territory agrees to provide a secretariat to assist in meeting the administrative needs of the Council.
- 12.(55) Each party shall pay the remuneration and expenses of the members of the Council that it appoints or designates.
- 12.(56) The Council shall provide advice to the appropriate minister on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Council shall:
- (a) provide advice on issues pertaining to the Yukon North Slope to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the Yukon Land Use Planning Commission, the Review Board and other appropriate groups;
 - (b) prepare a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Yukon North Slope for recommendation to the appropriate authorities as a means for achieving and maintaining the principles of conservation set out in subsections (2) and (3);
 - (c) determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting of game in the Yukon North Slope; and
 - (d) advise on measures required to protect habitat that is critical for wildlife or harvesting including those referred to in subsection 14(3).

As amended January 15, 1987.

*Refer to act for complete references.

APPENDIX 2





Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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