

As per the recent mail flyer I cannot attend the Carcross meeting hence my written comments.

I am not familiar with the YT Wolf Conservation and Management Plan as of yet but I do not feel that population control by killing or sterilizing is the answer and I believe in the ethical treatment of animals. The combined change/impacts brought about by human development and climate change are the core issues to a "problem" that should not exist. Linear development such as roads and habitat fragmentation (forestry, seismic lines, mining) that are particularly harmful to ungulates such as caribou and the overhunting of moose near population centers are altering the predator/prey relationship. Land use planning and development that are truly based on the principles of sustainability combined with big game management that takes into consideration both humans and wolves is the only true long term solution. Wolf population control plans are indicative of our inability to manage both development and ecosystems in a balanced manner.

Currently the Yukon is undergoing another "gold rush" and the sheer number and spatial size of the activities on the ground will lead to environmental impacts in the short and long term regardless of mitigation measures which tend to be short sighted. If we continue to focus more on the economy and less on the ecology then most wildlife populations will continue to be pushed to the "brink" such as the southern lakes moose and caribou populations currently are.

After all.....the presence of wolves are indicative of a healthy ecosystem.

Thank-you for your time!