

CARCROSS/TAGISH FIRST NATION



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Heritage and Natural Resources



Wolf Management Review Team
Department of Environment
Yukon Government

May 13, 2011

Re: Carcross/Tagish First Nation Comments on the Yukon Wolf Management Plan of 1992

Dear Review Team,

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation Land Use Team would like to communicate to you our deep regret and frustration that the populations of animals upon which our people have always depended for their livelihoods, have been decimated by others over harvesting in our traditional territory. Yukon residents have taken our fish, caribou, moose and now the sheep are decreasing. Soon we will have nothing left.

We would like to draw your attention to 7.1 in the plan regarding future management of these species. It states that "Future management of caribou, moose and sheep and their habitat in the Yukon must have the objective that populations are not allowed to reach levels where wolf reduction might be considered necessary. This management responsibility is considered part of the 'public trust' which the Environment Act (Yukon) requires the Government of the Yukon to protect."

It would appear that Yukon government has broken the 'public trust' by letting the management of these populations decline to a point where now the public is asking for wolf reduction. We are holding you accountable. We would like to invoke our right to Total Allowable Harvest for moose as per *Schedule C, Allocation of Total Allowable Harvest for Moose*, page 300 of our Final Agreement.

The Land Use Team feels that the review of this management plan is well overdue, and would like to offer the following comments regarding changes to it:

- a) That there seems to be mixed messages coming in regarding the wolf and ungulate population numbers. The people on the land are seeing more

wolves than before but the surveys tell us there are fewer packs and that they are smaller. If there are any BC studies done, what are their numbers?

- b) That BC is not willing to stop allowing harvesting of caribou in our Traditional Territory, even though they have a representative sitting on the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee, a committee whose member governments have always been dedicated to the temporary (though 15 years now) moratorium on the hunting of the Southern Lakes herds.
- c) That incentives for trappers should be enhanced. Help with the cost of fuel, cabin building and traps should be offered.
- d) That more snaring workshops be offered and that they take place in the field. A wolf awareness program should be developed.
- e) That the hunting season for wolves be open year round for residents, and that they be required to submit the scalp and the ears only.
- f) That no tags or seals be required from residents and that the bag limit be raised to seven for residents only.
- g) That .22 magnum calibre with a tripod be allowed.
- h) That there be more incentive offered for pelts.
- i) That, if reduction is done, pups be removed from the dens. Shooting from aircraft is too expensive, as is neutering. If there is money for aircraft, it should be used for incentives for trappers instead.
- j) That regarding 8.2, more work should be done regarding conflict with agriculture.
- k) Regarding 7.3, and roads and access to habitat, a review should be done of all proposals. This should be enforced and there should be no new access created into critical habitat.
- l) That all relevant predators be studied, including coyotes, and a spring bear hunt be actively promoted.
- m) The following areas we consider at risk for high predation and could be areas of wolf reduction: Tarfu and Snafu Lakes, Mt. Skookum, R13 block, north and south of Squanga Lake; Teenah Lake and Jericho Lake.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation is taking steps to collect harvest data from our citizens in order to promote better co-management.

We thank you for this opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,



Leslie Kerr
Natural Resources Manager