

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Promote respect of the Wolf as prey. Those who hunt or trap wolves know that they are an extremely shrewd adversary. The knowledge, skill and patience to harvest a wolf does not come readily, easily or to the lazy. There is reason it's such a part of First Nation culture. As humans we should respect those among us who are adept enough to harvest a wolf. This shows that we as hunter gatherers respect the wolf for its predatory role; to the point that we must manage it to have a greater balance of prey to predators. And that we value the skill set of the hunter/trapper. Without valuing this ability it falls from our culture as not important and we risk losing part of who we are on this planet.

Promote the issuance of Special Permits to Trap under Section 69 of the Wildlife Act. Allowing for trapping where there is no concession. Also promote Special Permits under section 71 trapping to assist a Conservation Officer.

Decisions take courage but they must be made. Ignoring the majority of Yukon residents desire for more wolf-prey balance will not make the issue go away but rather will make the situation worse. Tools for timely response to crashing ungulate populations should include some wolf reduction as well as no hunting requirements.

There are other pressures affecting survivability of calves and lambs. Of particular concern are the as yet indefinable cumulative effects of mining and exploration. Not all species are as resilient as the wolf. Perhaps it is time we err one side on behalf of pressured ungulates and help reduce predation through more active wolf management.

Regards,

Doug Burgis