

To The WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE:

I was fortunate to attend the meetings in Haines Junction and Whitehorse and just wanted to follow up on comments that were made at both meetings and offer a few more for your consideration.

From the talk and being at the meetings there were several suggestions and to me it was obvious that there was a problem with Wolves and people wanted a higher harvest on them.

Some folks wanted a longer season, like offering the Wolves up to the middle of June again, or no season at all.

Another suggestion was having the ability for a trapper to trap on trap lines that were not being used especially in areas where Wolves are a problem or decreasing a game population.

If a trapper were to trap on someone else's line they would have to be able to trap what ever fur was available, because it is too costly to pass up fur bearers such as Lynx, Wolverine and Martin if you are only allowed to trap Wolves

There should be some way for Government or Government aiding in the management of Wolves at any time of year if they are a problem, say like killing live stock or killing all the calves in a small ungulate population.

If there were times when Wolves were a big problem there would have to be a way to deal with the problem in a timely matter. As an example if you had Wolves killing an ungulate population or say the calves, after a week it may be too late.

In the information that was provided by the committee it talked about the number of Wolves in the Yukon and how healthy they are and also how resilient the Wolf is. There was talk about how fast the Wolf rebounded after a control kill, but there was never any talk about how many Wolves should be harvested each year or especially in an area where Wolves become a problem.

There was information about there being 4500 to 5000 Wolves in the Yukon and that hunters and trappers take about 2% of the Wolves each and every year.

There needs to be a percentage that are needed to be harvested each and every year.

What about setting the percent of Wolves harvested at 30% each and every year.

If we don't make the 30% then Government has to come up with other ways to get to that percent the following year.

Another suggestion is to give incentives to trappers or hunters that are successful in harvesting Wolves each year, and maybe start encouraging the hunters to shoot a Wolf when hunting.

As a hunter and trapper of several decades I feel that if this committee and Government don't make some strong choices about harvesting more Wolves each and every year, Government will be back to coming up with some sort of costly management program, like we have seen in the past.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these suggestions and I look forward to changes in the way Wolves are being managed in the Yukon.

David Dickson