

I would like to comment on the recent meeting in Haines Junction and on the Review of the 1992 Wolf Management Plan.

First off, I found it odd to advertise the review of the wolf management plan and a wolf snaring workshop at the same time. This in itself may have affected some people's attendance and opinions about the meeting. It seemed that the most vocal people were in one way or another in favour of doing some type of wolf reduction, whether it was using the old type of glycol (not the new stuff as it is non lethal) in baits or still doing an aerial hunt or some type of sterilization, or subsidised trapping or offering incentives for dead wolves.

And like the First Nation lady at the meeting, I'm unsure of the real situation and think that it would be a very big mistake to make a decision based on that meeting. I have never liked the idea of managing wildlife and in turn the ecosystem, based on comments at a public meeting or by voting. Decisions should be made by utilizing science and credible knowledge, some of which may very well come from members of the public.

I think that we are missing some of the real facts, such as how many wolves, how many moose, and how large a moose population can the land withstand? Is it already overcrowded?

Was the "yardstick for moose numbers" in the seventies and early eighties actually a false high?

Is it a fact that bison hunters and recreational snowmobilers who are putting in all kinds of snowmobile trails are just making it easier for wolves to get around their hunting grounds?

Should we not give credence to the wildlife biologist who did wolf reduction and sterilization program for twenty years in the Yukon, and now says that massive wolf culls are not the way to go? Or to the two first nation elders who spoke at the meeting and actually said that wolf numbers are down.

Other questions that should be considered:

- Why is there a major reduction in wolf numbers in the area to the east of Zone 7, ie. Al Baer's, "Wolf Survey in the Coast Mountains, 2009". That area doesn't seem too far from the west side of Kusawa Lake, and the rest of Zone 7. Moose numbers in the national park to the west of Zone 7 appear to be stable or going up.
- What are the affects of a wolf reduction on the furbearer populations?

- Will a wolf cull actually allow the coyote population to rise and become a problem that we would have a hard time dealing with?
- Have bears been researched as a component of the supposed lower moose numbers?
- Are bison in fact competing with moose, either directly for food, or for habitat?
- Are wolf populations increasing because they are feeding on bison carcasses?
- Will wolves eventually switch their prey species from moose, sheep and caribou over to bison?

In other words, I think that there are way too many unanswered questions about the current populations and the ecosystem to leap right into a wolf cull. Culling wolves is the easy part, but what about the long term effect on the other complex components of the ecosystem?

I think that humans are really not that good at managing wildlife and the ecosystem but are much better at managing human activity and until such time as we have the research done, we should stick to managing humans and their activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

**Yours truly**

**Lloyd Freese**

**Haines Junction**