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Wolf Management Plan Review Committee

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The Laberge Renewable Resources Council offers the following observations and suggestions for the Review Committee on the Wolf Management Plan:

1. The 1992 Plan requires updating to recognize the authorities and jurisdictions established under the UFA, Final Agreements and the RRC's.
2. The 1992 Plan was a short term response to an identified problem and requires upgrading to include a longer term vision of both wolf and ungulate management and to reflect new attitudes and research data developed since 1992.
3. A revised Plan should present a "balanced" approach to management by considering the relationships between species (wolf: ungulates, wolf: human, ungulates: human).
4. A revised Plan should recognize that wildlife management issues vary greatly between regions and local response to issues will vary. A method/process of responding to local concerns and use of local solutions must be considered.
5. Local and traditional knowledge in species management should be given equal weight to "scientific" knowledge and determine how local and traditional knowledge can be integrated with the scientific knowledge.

During public discussions there was more focus on “predator control” than on “management”. The LRRC wants to emphasise that “control” is one section of management and history of control measures in the Yukon has had limited and short term success.

A revision to reflect a more localized response to an identified problem should be considered especially in areas of wolf: human conflict. The use of trappers and outfitters for local control measures is recommended. A number of issues related to the methods / practices(tool box) and regulatory restrictions have to be resolved to allow trappers and outfitters to have a more effective role.

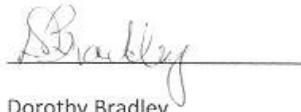
An expanded role by local RRC’s and First Nations governments in trap line allocations, education and species management should be considered.

Management of the predator: prey relationships must give more consideration to the harvest by humans. Yukon hunters seem to feel they have a “right” to harvest a moose or caribou every year – this is not a right but a privilege. With an expanding population and conflicts emerging between areas on harvest, consideration must be given to reducing this privilege.



Frances Woolsey

Co-chair



Dorothy Bradley

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