

Written submission to the
“ Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Review 2010-11”

From : Madeleine Caissy and Sylvain Asselin

Sylvain Asselin and I are trappers. On March 28 we were present and listened at the meeting for, “ Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Review”.

Where we come from we were trappers. We came to the Yukon four years ago, only for trapping on a trapline, to live on it, from it and with it, full time. Each of us has not only requirements that Yukon regulations ask but also full trapping equipment. For four years we have been looking for a trapline whether it was far or with no direct access, but a profitable one with enough renewable resource to have a good life on the trapline.

By doing our own research we passed through 12 traplines. We dealt with YTG, 2 RRCs, and with many users who wanted to sell their trapline. But we never had been able to buy one. What is sad is that we are not the only ones searching for a trapline worthy of that name. More sad is that most of them got discouraged and gave up.

Many reasons cause that situation. We may summarize them into one sentence : access problems and free for all with trapping regulations. In such a way that trapping in Yukon is right now dying. Nobody seems really concerned or interested by what is happening and its consequences.

Between documentation given at the meeting, each received, “ Hunting and trapping wolves in Yukon”. In the paragraph entitled, “Trapping as a method for managing wolves”, it is said :..to be an effective way to manage wolf populations, trappers need appropriate wolf-trapping skills, interest..., and access to wolves across several adjacent traplines.” Those conclusions are of short term solutions.

To regulate wolves populations -if we talk only of that specie -, one must consider doing concrete efforts toward the beginning of things, that is to say : stop the mortal agony of trapping in the Yukon's Territory.

We would suggest:

- 1) open trapline's doors
- 2) increase trappers number
- 3) that each and every kind of concerned authorities respect their own regulations

4) and finally, prepare the youth to learn, take over and run the trapline when you're not able to for whatever the reason.

Some others share our problem's understanding. We wish it to be looked into otherwise all solutions one may get forward will soon die in the same time than the trapping.