

To Whom it may concern.

My name is Reggie O'Farrell, I own trap-line #377, and along with my husband manage a fly in fishing lodge. Both the lodge and trap-line are located in southeast Yukon. I would like to take this time to give the review committee some of my thoughts concerning wolf management in the Yukon.

My husband and I have been managing Grizzly Creek Lodge for over 20 years now. When we first started working in the area, there was a trapper who was quite actively trapping line #377. During the years he was active our guests from around the world were treated to some of the finest moose photography trips in the world. We would see as many as 30 moose each day. ( it is interesting to note that these moose were in good shape, indicating a good supply of feed)

Then when fur prices dropped, the trapper stopped trapping. Moose numbers have been in a steady decline since that time. Clients of ours who return each year have noticed the downward trend as well.

I own the trap-line now and have been making efforts at trapping wolves, but with the high costs of transportation and the low price of fur it is hard to justify. What follows is a list of things I think would help Yukon manage all wildlife.

: Recognize the fact that trappers spend more time on the land than anyone else and are apt to see population trends before anyone else.

: Recognize the fact that trappers are the first ones to benefit from good management practices. ( trappers don't want wolves exterminated, just managed)

: Wild life biologists do not have a clear picture of ungulate populations. In 25 years in the Toobally lakes area, I have seen biologists on the ground twice and we are there an average of 4 to 6 months each year.

: In the southeast Yukon, ungulate populations are nowhere near the carrying capacity of the habitat.

: The first and most important thing YTG can do in my view is to educate people on the value of Yukon's wildlife. Our wildlife is a renewable resource, nothing else compares to it as long as we manage it effectively.

: Wild life is just as important to non-consumptive users as it is to consumptive users. (Moose sightings are important to tourists and photographers just as they are to hunters.)

: We know wolves are very resilient; any management plan should be long term.

: Trappers could be very effective at managing Yukons wolf population if there was an incentive program available to them. This would also cost YTG less than any other method. An incentive could be in the form of subsidizing transportation, or purchasing of equipment, like traps, snow machines etc.

: Trap-line cabin leases. Despite a letter from the Premier to trappers, stating we do NOT need leases for trap-line cabins EMR and Lands are trying to force trappers to acquire leases. Once a trapper has a lease he then is required to pay taxes on that cabin. This gets expensive, and any revenue gained by YTG is wasted when they charter aircraft out to inspect each lease. Why not require trappers to give co-ordinates of cabin locations to EMR. Trappers would then comply and YTG and trappers would save money.

I would like to say thank you to all those that have been involved with this process, the review committee has put a lot of time and effort into this review and I believe it is one of the most important projects wildlife managers have confronted in Yukon.

Reggie O'Farrell