

Having listened to most of the comments, here is my wolf management plan for the Yukon.

Goal 100,000 moose. We have approximately 65,000 moose now with habitat for three times the number and we need 100,000 to have the approximately 2500 harvested moose each year represent a 2 to 3 % harvest. In order to do this we need to get the moose population pattern in the 30 to 40 calves per 100 cows range possibly for as much as 10 years. We would need to target several areas, most of them are high hunting pressure spots along most of the Yukon's highways and rivers.

METHODS

1. Wolf trapping Incentives for wolves trapped. This can be done today with support of all councils. I would suggest a \$500 a wolf hide properly prepared and sealed run through the resource councils and or trappers association. Running this through the Trappers Association would be easiest, plus would show the world we support the industry.

2. Hunting pressure. This can start today but we have to give hunters a couple tools. The first is to go back to pre 92 seasons, Aug 1st to June 15th. This would allow spring bear hunters to harvest wolves that are hunting moose calves. The wolves taken in May and June don't have the hair quality of February but the hunter is just as proud and the wolf mount looks great in his den. This reg change should be put in process immediately. I believe a hunter is allowed to sell their wolves, if not this would also have to change.

3. Hunting pressure, This needs reg and or wildlife Act changes. The 48 hour wait after spotting from the air has to be changed so one can fly, spot and radio a guy on the ground to get to the wolf killed moose or caribou sight. This may be worded the same as the baiting exemption for wolf and coyote but may require a change of the Act. A second step would be to remove the 6 hour wait from Nov 1st to April 15 for wolf hunters.

CONTROLS AND BALANCE. According to most fur biologists harvesting up to 30% of the wolf population is sustainable. This would mean about 1,500 for a 5,000 Yukon wolf population. I would suggest that we put a warning flag up when we reach 500 trapped wolves and 300 hunted three years running. The where taken records and the local knowledge will pin point the possible overharvested areas. The easily accessed areas will be hit hardest which is also where the moose are most harvested. This will leave the remote areas for the wolves replenish from.

Moose and caribou cow calf ratios are the best indicators of population health. 20 calves per 100 cows is just holding on, 30 per hundred it is stable to increasing. We should be targeting 30 to 40 per hundred to slowly raise the moose population. Once we hit 100,000 we may be able to reduce pressure on the wolf but still have to keep on top as the more moose the faster the wolf will reproduce. In real life we will find that we will probably be able to increase the wolf harvest to keep the balance.

MONITORING Local trappers (could be paid for this knowledge to help support their industry), outfitters and others who spend lots of days in the bush could be monitors. Some official game counts in November can be used to build the data base. Game counts must be done so no animal is harrassed. If they run they are harrassed.

Terry and Ruth Wilkinson