
HARVEST ISSUES

Concern 1

Existing methods for wildlife harvest monitoring are inaccurate and obtaining First Nation harvest information is a management priority.

Our ability to evaluate and manage the harvest of moose and caribou in the NND traditional territory is limited by missing hunting information from NND. Designing a harvest monitoring system for the NND traditional territory was recommended in the last plan, but it was not done. NND has begun collecting harvest information, but the information remains incomplete. Part of the problem is that some NND members are reluctant to share their information because they are not confident it will be properly used. There needs to be an agreement between YTG and NND about how harvest information will be shared and used for management.

Solution Design and use a harvest monitoring system for NND traditional territory.

YTG, the RRC and NND need to develop the sharing agreement for harvest information soon. Once the agreement is in place, they need to find ways to cover the costs to collect First Nation harvest information and agree on what harvest information will be collected.

Commitment

By who? By when?

NND/YTG/RRC
2002

Develop a harvest information sharing agreement between NND/YTG/RRC. [48]
NND will discuss the idea of a sharing agreement at the 2002 General Assembly to see what needs to be included.

NND/RRC/YTG
2002-2003

Discuss ways to cover the costs to collect First Nation harvest information. [49]

NND
2002-2007

Collect First Nation harvest information for all species. [50]

NND
2002-2007

NND will hire a Game Guardian. [51]
NND will hire a Game Guardian who will travel on the land to monitor the distribution of wildlife and First Nation harvest in NND traditional territory. The Game Guardian will be employed each year of the plan, providing NND can find funding.

Concern 2

Mayo people would like to have more local hunting opportunities.

People in Mayo feel that there should be more local opportunities for them to hunt in the areas close to Mayo. There are many roads in the area, and people from outside Mayo come to the area to hunt moose. Local people complain that they are often competing with other hunters for moose. YTG will not agree to a local preference for hunting, or exclude any Yukoners from going anywhere in the Yukon to hunt. However, many communities in the Yukon feel there should be special places for them to hunt, and the problem will not go away. There needs to be a broader discussion that includes Yukon-wide communities, including Whitehorse, to try to see what can be done to solve this problem.

Solution The RRC and NND will register this local concern with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and Yukon Fish and Game Association.

These two groups represent Yukon-wide interests and they need to be kept informed and involved about the problems of local hunting opportunities in the NND traditional territory.

Commitment

By who? By when?

RRC
2002

The RRC will raise the issue at their June 2002 public meeting to discuss local hunting opportunities and get direction from the community. [52]

NND
2002

NND will discuss the problems of local hunting opportunities at its General Assembly in 2002. [53]

RRC
2002

The RRC will request including local hunting opportunities as a topic at the annual Yukon-wide RRC meeting. [54]

NND/RRC
2003 - 2006

RRC will hold a meeting to develop a strategy with other rural stakeholders in the Yukon. [55]

Concern 3**Increases in the number of hunters residing or working in NND traditional territory could result in additional harvest restrictions to protect wildlife populations.**

Levels of harvest of moose and caribou in accessible areas of the traditional territory are already close to upper sustainable limits. Large developments such as new mines will bring increased human populations and hunting pressure. This could lead to new restrictions on hunting opportunities.

Solution Make sure that increased hunting pressure in NND traditional territory is minimized.

There has been good progress made on minimizing hunting by employees of New Millennium, Keno Hill, and Anderson Resources. Hunting controls have been dealt with through Project Impact/Benefit Agreements. These types of agreements need to continue whenever a new development project is being proposed on NND traditional territory.

Commitment

By who? By when?

RRC/NND
2002-2007

Participate in industrial development proposals to minimize hunting pressure by employees. [56]

The RRC and NND need to express their concerns about hunting by industrial employees through the present environmental assessment processes and, when it is implemented, the Development Assessment Process.

Concern 4**Distribution of meat provided by outfitters needs to be improved.**

Meat wastage by outfitters was a concern of the community, and an important part of the 1997-2001 plan. The distribution and care of outfitter meat has improved in the last few years.

Solution Provide better information to outfitters about who in the community wants to receive meat.

There are some people who would like to receive meat, but who do not. The RRC needs to provide a list of people to various outfitters to ensure all interested people are receiving meat.

Commitment

By who? By when?

RRC
2002-2007

The RRC will arrange details of meat distribution during outfitter quota negotiations. [57].

RRC
2002-2007

The RRC will maintain and provide lists of community members interested in receiving meat to all outfitters. [58]