

# POPULATION GOOCH WOLF

## Concern

### Wolf numbers are high in moose harvesting areas and around town

Survey information for wolf populations in the Teslin area is about 15 years old. At the time of that survey, wolf numbers were similar to what they were in other parts of the central Yukon. Community knowledge indicates high wolf numbers at present. Wolves have often been seen in town and many people have lost their pets. High wolf numbers were also noted in the Teslin River area, presumably because a lot of moose are available. Moose harvesting in Teslin Tlingit traditional territory is concentrated along the river and road corridors. The combined resident and First Nation harvest for the whole area is not excessive, there could be considerable hunting pressure in the harvesting corridors. This, combined with high wolf numbers, may mean that the local moose populations are at some risk.

### Solution Reduce wolf numbers in moose harvesting areas

A condition of the Memorandum of Understanding for this plan was that any wolf management must be consistent with the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for the Yukon. Further, the Yukon government indicated that it was not prepared to undertake any full-scale wolf program such as required in crisis situations (e.g. Aishihik Caribou recovery plan). Management options, therefore, are more community-based to meet the nature of local concerns.

## Actions

Responsible parties, Time line

RRC  
May 2001

Submit proposals to the *Wildlife Act* amendment process

- a) Change the *Wildlife Act* to permit it to direct specific trapping in a specific area for an assistant trapper.
- b) Reduce trapping course requirements for specific trapping (e.g. two days for wolf only).
- c) Expand trap checking period to accommodate a five-day work week.
- d) Review the current three-wolf bag limit for hunters in 2003/2004 when Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) issues are considered for *Wildlife Act* amendments.

These suggestions were made during the workshop as a way to promote community-based wolf management. These proposals were submitted to the Yukon government and also to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) for consideration in the *Wildlife Act* amendments that were presented to the Yukon Legislature in the fall of 2001. [2001-Tes-AI-10]

YG  
March 2001

Public presentation on wolf ecology

This may be deferred to coincide with snaring training (see next action). This presentation on wolf ecology would provide an opportunity for an information exchange about wolf and moose predation and population dynamics. This would establish a common understanding and agreement in the community about how the wolf snaring program works. [2001-Tes-AI-11]

YG  
Fall 2001

Provide instructions on wolf snaring to local trappers

A wolf snaring method designed in Alaska has been used in several Yukon locations over the past few years. Wolf snaring can be effective in reducing packs in key areas (such as post-calving areas for caribou) and can be monitored through the relative levels of trapping success and efforts. [2001-Tes-AI-12]

continued...

<b>YG, TTC</b> Fall 2001	<b>Identify wolf packs and areas to focus snaring</b> This information will come from past wolf survey data and community knowledge and is a key component in focussing efforts where moose are under greatest potential pressure. [2001-Tes-AI-13]
<b>Local trappers</b> Fall 2001	<b>Begin wolf snaring</b> Wolf snaring will be undertaken by local trappers either on their own lines or with permission of other trappers. [2001-Tes-AI-14]
<b>YG, TTC</b> 2001/02	<b>Keep track of pack populations from trapping results in the Teslin Tlingit traditional territory</b> A population estimate for wolves costs about \$10,000 to \$20,000 for a 5,000 to 10,000 square kilometre area like the Cassiar Block. This information is not really necessary for the community-based approach to wolf management provided in this plan. A cruder but satisfactory measure of wolf densities can come from monitoring trapping success via the various harvest information programs in the overall plan. Wolf populations are robust and will not be threatened by the management measures in this plan. [2001-Tes-AI-15]
<b>Local trappers, YG, TTC</b> 2002/03 2003/04 2004/05	<b>Continue a wolf snaring program as required</b> An annual evaluation of this program would help to determine how long it should run. (A2001-Tes-AI-17)

**Concern**

**Current harvest is inadequate**

Low fur prices and the difficulty of trapping wolves means that few wolves are harvested in the Teslin Tlingit traditional territory. Wolf population are thus uncontrolled by harvesting at present in this traditional territory. Although wolf populations are self limiting via their own social controls, high wolf populations can still threaten prey species such as moose, especially when alternate prey (caribou) are also available.

**Solution** Reduce wolf numbers around town

The proximity of people and their dwellings (and pets) limits the available solutions for dealing with wolves in and around town. Thus, this becomes primarily the responsibility of local conservation officers.

<b>Action</b>
Responsible parties, Time line
<b>YG Conservation Officer</b>
2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05

**Reduce wolves in Teslin as required**  
 The Yukon government conservation officer already works to reduce wolves around the community of Teslin. The officer will respond to wolf reports and use good judgement related to public safety in dealing with them. [2001-Tes-AI-16]



*Wolves*