

**Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating
Committee
Terms of Reference¹**

1.0 Definitions

“Coordinating Committee” means the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee.

“First Nations” means the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Ta’an Kwach’an Council, the Taku River Tlingit First Nation Band, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Teslin Tlingit Council.

“Habitat” means the areas needed to sustain the Southern Lakes caribou, moose, sheep and other wildlife populations.

“Regional Wildlife Assessment” means the assessment to be prepared in accordance with section 4.2 of the Terms of Reference.

“Southern Lakes Area” means the area shown as Southern Lakes Area on Map Sheet Southern Lakes Area in Appendix B- Maps of the Kwanlin Dun Final Agreement.

2.0 Objectives:

The objectives of the Coordinating Committee are:

- 2.1 to coordinate the management of moose, caribou, sheep and other Wildlife populations and the Habitats in the Southern Lakes Area to promote the recovery and Conservation of these populations, with consideration for the future subsistence needs of the First Nations in the Southern Lakes Area, as well as the future needs of other users, both consumptive and non-consumptive; and
- 2.2 to coordinate the involvement of and improve communications among First Nations, Government, British Columbia and others with regard to all aspects of the recovery and management of caribou, moose, sheep and other Wildlife populations and their Habitats in the Southern Lakes area.

¹ The Terms of Reference are based on Schedule B, Chapter 16 of the Kwanlin Dun Final Agreement and Schedule E, Chapter 16 of the Carcross Tagish First Nation Final Agreement. In the event of an inconsistency between the Terms of Reference and the Final Agreements, the provisions of the Final Agreements prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

3.0 Composition of the Coordinating Committee:

- 3.1 The Coordinating Committee shall be comprised of no less than three and no more than nine members of whom one member each shall be designated by Canada and the Yukon and at least one member shall be designated by either the Kwanlin Dun First Nation or the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. Members of the Coordinating Committee for the First Nations and British Columbia shall be designated as follows:
 - 3.1.1 Government shall request the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation to each designate one member;
 - 3.1.2 Government shall invite the Ta'an Kwach'an Council, the Taku River Tlingit First Nation Band, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Teslin Tlingit Council and British Columbia to each designate one member.
- 3.2 A member of the Coordinating Committee shall be a delegate of the body which designated the member.

4.0 Work of the Committee

- 4.1 The Coordinating Committee shall consider and may make recommendations to the Yukon, Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations on any matters affecting caribou, moose, sheep and other Wildlife populations and their Habitats in the Southern Lakes Area, including recommendations concerning legislation, policies, programs and measures respecting:
 - 4.1.1 the coordination of the land and resource management activities of the First Nations;
 - 4.1.2 recovery, Conservation and management plans;
 - 4.1.3 harvest management;
 - 4.1.4 the need for and the review of Wildlife management and research proposals and other management and research proposals as may relate to the objectives of the Coordinating Committee;
 - 4.1.5 actions necessary to achieve the objectives described in any Wildlife management plans applicable in the Southern Lakes Area having similar objectives to those set out in 2.0;
 - 4.1.6 specific projects, plans, and activities that may impede, delay, or disrupt movements, affect behavioral patterns or reduce productivity of caribou, moose, sheep and other Wildlife populations, or affect Habitat; and

- 4.1.7 the identification of sensitive Habitat requiring special protection and the means for protecting that Habitat.
- 4.2** Within 24 months of its establishment, the Coordinating Committee shall endeavor to complete and submit to the Yukon, Canada, the First Nations and British Columbia a Regional Wildlife Assessment which shall take into account existing information and data in relation to the following:
 - 4.2.1 the subsistence food needs of the First Nations;
 - 4.2.2 wildlife harvest levels of all user groups in the Southern Lakes Area;
 - 4.2.3 wildlife harvest patterns of all user groups in the Southern Lakes Area and changes to those patterns;
 - 4.2.4 the existing regulatory framework, programs, plans and policies pertaining to Wildlife in the Southern Lakes Area;
 - 4.2.5 any previous studies of Wildlife in the Southern Lakes Area;
 - 4.2.6 the relevant knowledge and experience of the First Nations, residents of the Southern Lakes Area, and the scientific communities in relation to Wildlife in the Southern Lakes Area;
 - 4.2.7 the present state of Wildlife populations and Habitat in the Southern Lakes Area; and
 - 4.2.8 any other available relevant information.
- 4.3** For greater certainty, where the Coordinating Committee identifies additional or further studies in relation to any of the matters enumerated in 4.2 that may assist the Coordinating Committee in the completion of the Regional Wildlife Assessment, Government may, at its sole discretion, undertake such additional or further studies.
- 4.4** The Coordinating Committee shall provide information collected by it for the Regional Wildlife Assessment to Renewable Resources Councils within the Southern Lakes Area and to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board to assist in future Fish and Wildlife management.
- 4.5** The Coordinating Committee may provide advice to and seek input from Renewable Resources Councils within the Southern Lakes Area, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, any Regional Land Use Planning Commission in the Southern Lakes Area, and other appropriate boards and government agencies on land use planning, land use activities and land management practices throughout the Southern Lakes Area.

- 4.6** In carrying out its work, the Coordinating Committee shall provide for public input, which may include public meetings to receive input and to report on its findings and recommendations.

5.0 Funding

- 5.1 The Yukon Government shall provide funding within approved annual budgets to support the operations of the Coordinating Committee.
- 5.2 The payment of honoraria, travel, and other related expenses to their respective nominees is left to the discretion of the First Nations.
- 5.3 The Coordinating Committee will receive technical support including the provision of relevant traditional and technical expertise from the Parties in the development of the Regional Wildlife Assessment.
- 5.4 Costs incurred with respect to the provision of technical information will be the responsibility of each Party.

6.0 Term of the Committee

- 6.1 The Committee is formally established with the approval by the members of the terms of reference, operating procedures and a three-year work plan.
- 6.2 The mandate of the Coordinating Committee shall expire after three years from the establishment of the Coordinating Committee unless otherwise agreed by the Yukon, Canada, and those of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation who have a member on the Coordinating Committee.