



Southern Lakes Area Regional Wildlife Assessment and Recommendations

Draft for public review

February 2, 2012

The Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee is working to complete the Southern Lakes Regional Wildlife Assessment and recommendations in fulfillment of our mandate under Schedule E, Chapter 16 of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement and Schedule B, Chapter 16 of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Final Agreement. The committee will conclude its mandate on March 31, 2012.

This work represents an assessment of the status of all wildlife and their habitats in the Southern Lakes area. It provides recommendations for their conservation and sustainable use. It also provides recommendations on how to continue to improve cooperation and communication among the parties and on matters pertaining to habitat management. This work is meant as advice and supporting information for the parties, relevant wildlife management bodies, and the other interested parties.

The assessment will be organized into two volumes. Volume 1 provides will provide the context for the work of the committee and contain the recommendations. Recommendations will be separated into key and supporting recommendations. Key recommendations will largely address the main items the committee believes need to be advanced in order to provide for coordinated management of wildlife and their habitats. These are often recurring themes in the supporting recommendations. It is anticipated that collaborative work pursued by the parties in the coming years would focus on these key recommendations. Supporting recommendations are meant to provide advice on what actions are necessary to support the key recommendations and enhance the conservation of those species.

Volume 2 will provide the status assessments prepared and used by the committee to consider and develop recommendations. Volume 2 is currently in progress and will be available March 31, 2012.

The committee recognizes the complexity and challenges around the conservation and management of wildlife and habitat in the Southern Lakes area. We are aware that in order for the key recommendations to be successfully implemented there will need to be good will and collaboration on the part of the parties and other affected wildlife management bodies and organizations. We appreciate your feedback on this work.

Key Recommendations

Key recommendations were developed by the committee after deriving the supporting recommendations. They largely address recurring themes in the supporting recommendations. It is anticipated that collaborative work pursued by the parties in the coming years would focus on these recommendations.

Recommendations

1.1	The parties should continue to develop and advance cooperative and coordinated management of wildlife and their habitats among responsible governments.
1.2	The parties should develop and implement complimentary legislation, policies, guidelines, and standards to manage wildlife and their habitats.
1.3	The parties should develop and implement a managed harvest framework that integrates rigorous and verifiable information on licensed and subsistence harvest to ensure long term sustainability of all harvested species, with an immediate focus on caribou and moose.
1.4	The parties should identify, map, and carefully manage key wildlife habitats. The focus should be on sensitive ecological areas (e.g., wetlands, riparian, sand dunes, salt flats, older forests), and habitat for traditionally used species and species at risk that require a higher duty of care with respect to human development and disturbance.
1.5	The parties should work towards developing tools to use in land use planning that take into account wildlife and their habitats in the Southern Lakes area.
1.6	The parties should develop and implement effective monitoring protocols for traditionally used species and species at risk to ensure their long term conservation, using scientific, local and traditional knowledge.
1.7	The parties should continue to develop and implement outreach and education materials and programs to reduce human-wildlife conflicts (e.g. road collisions, disturbance to calving ungulates, and carnivores in communities).
1.8	The parties should continue to develop and implement education and outreach programs and materials aimed at increasing knowledge and appreciation of wildlife and their habitats, with a focus on furthering management and conservation objectives. An emphasis should be placed on youth and schools, where appropriate.