



Southern Lakes Wildlife Newsletter

Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee

November 2011



Regional Wildlife Assessment Nears Completion

The Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee (SLWCC) has made considerable progress over the past four years. Its work is set to conclude by the end of March 2012.

The committee's key responsibility is to develop a Regional Wildlife Assessment. This in turn will form the basis of the committee's recommendations to the parties responsible for wildlife management.

The SLWCC's recommendations are intended to provide a common approach and direction for the nine governments in the region – First Nations, territorial, provincial and federal.

In preparing the assessment the SLWCC is taking into consideration existing information and data about wildlife and their habitats. The committee has strived to respect the values and concerns of all users, as well as improve communications among the nine governments.

The assessment will be organized by chapters focused on the following species groups:

- Ungulates (eg. caribou and moose)
- Large carnivores (eg. wolves and bears)
- Furbearers and small game
- Raptors
- Migratory and resident birds
- Waterfowl
- Amphibians

Each chapter will summarize the status of knowledge, stressors and threats, and existing management plans and activities for the species group. The assessment will describe overarching habitat issues that affect the Southern Lakes area.

Between 2008 and 2010 the SLWCC worked on recommendations on best ways to manage and help with the recovery of caribou and moose populations in the Southern Lakes area. These recommendations will be incorporated into the Regional Wildlife Assessment.





Next steps

The SLWCC expects to have a draft of the Regional Wildlife Assessment ready for review by early 2012.

The nine governments, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and the Southern Lakes area Renewable Resources Councils will be invited to provide feedback on the draft recommendations in the assessment.

The committee will incorporate this feedback into the final version of the Regional Wildlife Assessment and its recommendations.

Caribou recommendations address harvest, habitat

The SLWCC's recommendations were guided by the work and experience of the Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee. Recommendations address:

- managing human use of caribou habitat,
- harvest management,
- reducing caribou losses due to collisions with traffic,
- the need to track herd status,
- the need to review wolf trapping in the area,
- promoting communication and outreach, and
- maintaining support for community game guardian programs.

Moose recommendations intended to increase numbers

The SLWCC developed recommendations to reflect what it learned after meeting with local communities, renewable resources councils and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, with the goal of promoting moose recovery.

These draft recommendations are intended to provide a common direction for management of moose and include:

- harvest management,
- the need to better understand and consider predation pressure on moose,
- identifying and protecting key moose habitats from human development and disturbance, and
- promoting community support for moose recovery.

About the committee

The Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee (SLWCC) meets monthly, to coordinate the management of moose, caribou, sheep and other wildlife in the Southern Lakes area, and to improve the communications among the parties. The committee's mandate will conclude in March, 2012

The Final Agreements of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Kwanlin Dün First Nation called for the creation of this committee in order to promote the recovery and conservation of wildlife populations.

SLWCC members represent nine governments: Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Teslin Tlingit Council, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Canada, Yukon and British Columbia.

Thank you for your continued support

Contact us online at southernlakeswildlife.ca or by mail to PO Box 32087, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P9. You can review past newsletters at this website as well.

Thank you for your continued commitment to wildlife in the Southern Lakes area. We look forward to sharing our assessment and recommendations with you in the near future.