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Kitikmeot regional caribou Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* (IQ) workshop

Project leader

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Summary

In anticipation of the upcoming public hearings on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan held by the Nunavut Planning Commission, the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board hosted a one-day workshop on 22 October 2021 with board members, as well as Hunters and Trappers Organizations staff. This workshop provided an opportunity to discuss potential management scenarios for caribou and review KRWB's existing community-sourced data on caribou. The workshop also included Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Kitikmeot Inuit Association staff, who provided additional perspectives on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. Workshop attendees shared experiences with and concerns about caribou, as well as their experiences with the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. The workshop facilitated regional coordination and supported capacity for communities to engage and provide feedback on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan process.

Project objectives

The main objectives of this work were to host a workshop in Cambridge Bay to: 1) prepare the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) and our Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO) for consultations regarding the Nunavut Planning Commission's (NPC) Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP); 2) review available data and information that could be used to support land use planning and other wildlife assessments requiring our input; and 3) prioritize information and capacity needs in the region to support regional engagement in land use planning.

Materials and methods

On 22 October 2021, KRWB hosted a one-day DNLUP workshop in Cambridge Bay that followed KRWB's Annual General Meeting. KRWB staff prepared an agenda (see attached "Oct2021_KRWB NPC workshop agenda.docx"), which was reviewed and approved by KRWB at the start of the meeting. Topical questions were posed informally and in an open-ended way to stimulate discussions. KRWB and HTOs were invited to share ongoing projects and initiatives in their community that are relevant for the DNLUP. KRWB also invited Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA) staff to attend the workshop and present their perspectives on and experiences with the DNLUP.

Prior to the meeting, KRWB contracted Trailmark Systems Inc. consultants to prepare a report on caribou data in KRWB's digital IQ database. These data are being documented and aggregated through KRWB's caribou IQ project funded by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC; Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring

Program) and Environment and Climate Change Canada. KRWB's growing database includes information from meetings, interviews, workshops, reports, mobile app-based monitoring, and online surveys in a broad range of formats (e.g., maps, audio files, texts, and photographs). KRWB staff also worked with NTI staff to prepare basemaps using data from NPC's DNLUP and data on mineral tenures from CIRNAC, which are publicly available.

Results

The workshop included KRWB (representation from Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Umingmaktok, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk), three KRWB staff members, and HTO managers from Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Taloyoak. One NTI and two KitlA staff members were also in attendance.

KRWB and HTOs shared their experiences with caribou sampling and monitoring programs that are ongoing with University, government, and industry partners, as well as community-based monitoring and guardians initiatives. KRWB also reviewed and discussed data from their ongoing caribou IQ program. KRWB and HTOs shared their priorities, concerns, and knowledge of changes to caribou populations in response to changes in vegetation, emigration, and predation.

Experiences with industry projects ranged across the region, depending on whether projects were active and/or occurring near communities. Workshop participants recognized the need to work more closely with KitlA to become informed on prospective and existing land use permits and, in particular, how mining operations could respond to and/or affect caribou presence and activity. KRWB and KitlA both highlighted the need to articulate overlapping opportunities and responsibilities, as their organizational roles are distinguished under the Nunavut Agreement. Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk HTOs acknowledged the need to meet and work together to discuss their shared hunting areas under the DNLUP.

Maps were displayed and allowed workshop participants to review what is currently proposed in the DNLUP, existing and potential project claims in and around their communities, and Inuit owned lands. These maps also initiated and prompted informal discussions between and among HTOs in the region, as well as with KitlA. Some HTOs recorded additional spatial data on travel routes and wildlife habitat areas for further review in providing feedback on the DNLUP.

Discussion/ management implications

KRWB and HTOs discussed and shared concerns about caribou within the context of specific harvest management practices that are being implemented by NWMB (e.g., TAH) and HTOs (through their own by-laws). KRWB and HTOs discussed ongoing threats to caribou posed by predation, as well as the potential impact of land use (mining and development) activities. Further discussions on how community-sourced monitoring and IQ data could be used to inform management initiatives is needed.

This workshop supported regional coordination and engagement with NTI and KitlA on shared concerns about caribou. This meeting also provided KRWB and HTOs with a unique opportunity to discuss the DNLUP, prior to NPC's anticipated community engagement sessions in fall 2022. The workshop allowed KRWB and HTOs to solicit information on NPC's DNLUP process and the different implications for land use in and around

communities. These initial discussions will support KRWB and HTO engagement in the DNLUP process, as well as strengthen relationships within the region for projects and initiatives to come.

Final Financial Report

Original project budget

Please see attached file "IQRF_2021-2022_caribou_IQ_pw.xls".

Original contributions

Please see table below under "Budgeted".

Explanation of changes

Funding was used to cover airfare instead. Because this workshop occurred in addition to KRWB's AGM, honoraria, translation, and accommodations were covered under KRWB's core funding.

Financial report

Budget item	Budgeted	Disbursed	Variance
Honoraria	4 900	0	4 900
Translation	2 400	0	2 400
Airfare	17 600	31 402	-13 802
Accommodations	5 100	0	5 100
Total (\$)	30 000	31 402	-1 402

I certify that this is an accurate statement of the Board project funds received and disbursed in accordance with the joint contribution agreement.



Ema Qaggutaq

22 April 2022