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Hunters' and Trappers' Organization
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NWMB INTERIM PROJECT REPORT – Effects of Development on Movements of Caribou

1. PROJECT NUMBER: NWSF Project # - 250-10-01
2. PROJECT TITLE: Effects of Development on Movements of Barren Ground Caribou
3. SUMMARY: To collect Traditional Knowledge and scientific data on collared caribou to report the movements of caribou around development areas, and how this may have affected the caribou decline.
4. INTRODUCTION: The project was something that the Kugluktuk HTO felt strongly about, and felt that a study was necessary to assist in better understanding the decline of caribou on the barren-ground caribou, especially the Bathurst and Bluenose East herds. The most concerned herd was the Bluenose East herd.
5. PROJECT OBJECTIVES: To collect data and provide a report on traditional knowledge, with scientific based data collection from collared caribou to better understand the factors of caribou decline on the barren-ground caribou, especially the Bathurst and Bluenose herds.

Also, to document local expertise on the current state of the caribou in the region, to identify concerns and provide recommendations and management suggestions, and the collection of local knowledge will be completed through interviews with local hunters, harvesters, and elders and the HTO in Kugluktuk.

Provide a project that transfers ecological knowledge from elders to youth; the transfer of knowledge will be to hire two youth who will train with scientists from Golder Associates out of Edmonton, AB. They will then conduct local interviews with the harvesters and elders from the community and HTO members.

Golder will provide a scientific study and report that examines the effects of human developments on caribou behavior using collared caribou data and the movements of the caribou around development areas.

Two reports are expected to be produced; one to be produced specifically for the HTO and the community of Kugluktuk, and the other report will be produced in a more scientific ecological form and the reports to be reviewed by the Kugluktuk HTO before their completion.

6. Materials and Methods:

- Collared caribou data using Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Scientific data collection (Golder Associates Ltd).
- Topographic Maps used during interviews to identify areas of concern.
- Recording equipment to record interviews.
- Presentation equipment.
- Questions were put together and discussed with HTO and also with the local Kitikmeot Inuit Association, traditional knowledge collectors.

7. RESULTS: To date, things have gone very well. The Kugluktuk HTO and Board of Directors were very pleased with the outcome of what has been collected so far. The two students were Robyn Atatahak and Pauline Anablak, who did a very good job so far. They were sent to Edmonton to do some training on data collection, and to better understand how the scientific data was collected. And during this time they were trained in understanding of maps and how they are used, they were also trained on how interviews are conducted and what equipment will be used and how to use them. They also took some training on how to conduct a presentation, which they did very well in front of the Kugluktuk HTO Board of Directors. The boards of directors were very impressed on how well they understood the caribou data collected and the methods that were used to collect the data and all the areas (using maps) that were covered.

The two youth, and Natasha Thorpe, TK coordinator, conducted interviews with harvesters, and elders for at least a week, which went very well. Now the data is to be interpreted into a report form by Natasha and her expert crew.

I also asked Robyn Atatahak, to do a presentation to the junior high and the senior high school students, which she did and the principal of the school was very impressed with what she presented. I would like to encourage her to go to the elementary school to do a smaller presentation at a lower level so these students too can learn about how data is collected, even if a little.

8. DISCUSSION: During and after the presentation of the data collected by the two youth, a question and answer period was held with the two youth and the board of Directors, and the two youth, along with Natasha, answered all their questions to better understand what was presented. The board of directors felt that this report that will be presented to the community at a later date, is the most understandable data collection to date, that inuit (or community) can understand. We are very impressed with it and look forward to the final report.

9. MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS: So far so good, and impressed with the results to date. The traditional knowledge report is being worked on as we speak and will hopefully be completed by the summer or fall (before the deadline date). I would like to continue to see the two youth working with Golder Associates on this project, so will push them to continue to use the two students as much as they can.

10. REPORTING TO COMMUNITIES/RESOURCE USERS: At some point, once the presentation has been updated, from direction and question/answer period with Directors, Natasha will be updating the presentation so it can be better understood by the community and most likely again, be presented to the schools. There are implications that the Kitikmeot Inuit

Association, would like to the traditional knowledge collected to update their TK data collected on the caribou and we would accept this, as it is very important information and it would be a way for safekeeping this information.

A final report is expected to be given by Golder Associates Ltd. by this summer/fall, approved by the Kugluktuk HTO and finalized. Afterwhich, the Kugluktuk HTO, with the assistance of Golder Associates Ltd, would like to present this to the community and other invited agencies involved to provide the final report.

11. REFERENCES:

- Natasha Thorpe, Traditional Knowledge
- Cam Stevens, Edmonton Office, Golder Associates Ltd.
- Jim O'Neill, Edmonton Office, Golder Associates Ltd.
- Damian Panayi, Yellowknife Office, Golder Associates Ltd.
- Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (HTO), Board of Directors

Barbara Adjun
Manager

Attachment – Financial Report to date