

Aiviit Hunters & Trappers Organization funding proposal to the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

May 5, 1997

Project Name: Southampton Island Caribou - Winter Range Study

Background:

Barren-ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) on Southampton Island provide an important nutritional and economic resource for the people of Coral Harbour. Over the past year, some local hunters became concerned over changing patterns of caribou distribution and about whether or not this caribou herd could sustain the existing commercial quota of 4,000. Because of these concerns, the Aiviit HTO recently sought additional funds to conduct their own ground based survey in order to confirm the status of this herd. Our HTO wishes to actively participate in the field studies and management of this caribou population. The GNWT Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development have identified a number caribou field studies for 1997/98 in which the Aiviit HTO could take a leading role.

Project Plan:

Local hunters want to play a meaningful role in the ground based field studies planned for March and April 1998. With some funding and training from RWED, Coral Harbour hunters would be able to determine patterns of winter caribou distribution, carry out composition surveys, and collect data on snow conditions. Staff from RWED would provide some technical training (classroom, as well as field) so that local people could start providing this data on an annual basis. In addition to providing more Inuit employment, hunters would be contributing important management information on areas of critical winter range and calf survival rates.

March / April 1998

- ▶ Hunters survey the island by snowmachine to map out patterns of caribou distribution
- ▶ Working with RWED staff, classify groups of caribou into sex and age classes
- ▶ With RWED direction, collect data on snow depth & hardness on caribou winter range

Budget: (10K unfunded)

1997/98

RWED contribution for winter distribution, composition, and snow conditions	16 K
Proposed NWMB contribution to increase local participation in above projects	10 K
	<u>26 K</u>

Breakdown of project expenses as follows:

Field equipment purchase (tents, tripod, snapper, & rammed penetrometer)	4.0 K
RWED regional biologist or technician travel and accommodation	2.0 K
Wages for 6 local hunters for 11 days @ \$150/day	10.0 K
Snowmobile rental, 5 snowmobiles for 10 days @ \$80/day	4.0 K
Gasoline & oil for above travel	2.5 K
Food & camp supplies	2.5 K
Mapping / translation of final results	1.0 K
Total	<u>26.0 K</u>

Objectives:

- ▶ To actively participate with RWED on Southampton Island caribou management projects.
- ▶ To determine March/April distribution and identify areas of critical winter habitat.
- ▶ To determine herd composition and rates of calf survival and recruitment.
- ▶ To monitor annual patterns of snow depth and hardness on caribou winter range.
- ▶ To collect information from local hunters on patterns of winter range use.

Permits:

- These research projects were discussed by RWED staff with the Aiviit HTO.
- A Wildlife Research Permit from the GNWT department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is required for this winter survey work.



Sam Eniiktowt
President
Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Association
Coral Harbour, NT

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1997/98

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