

# Habitat Management Initiatives in the NWT



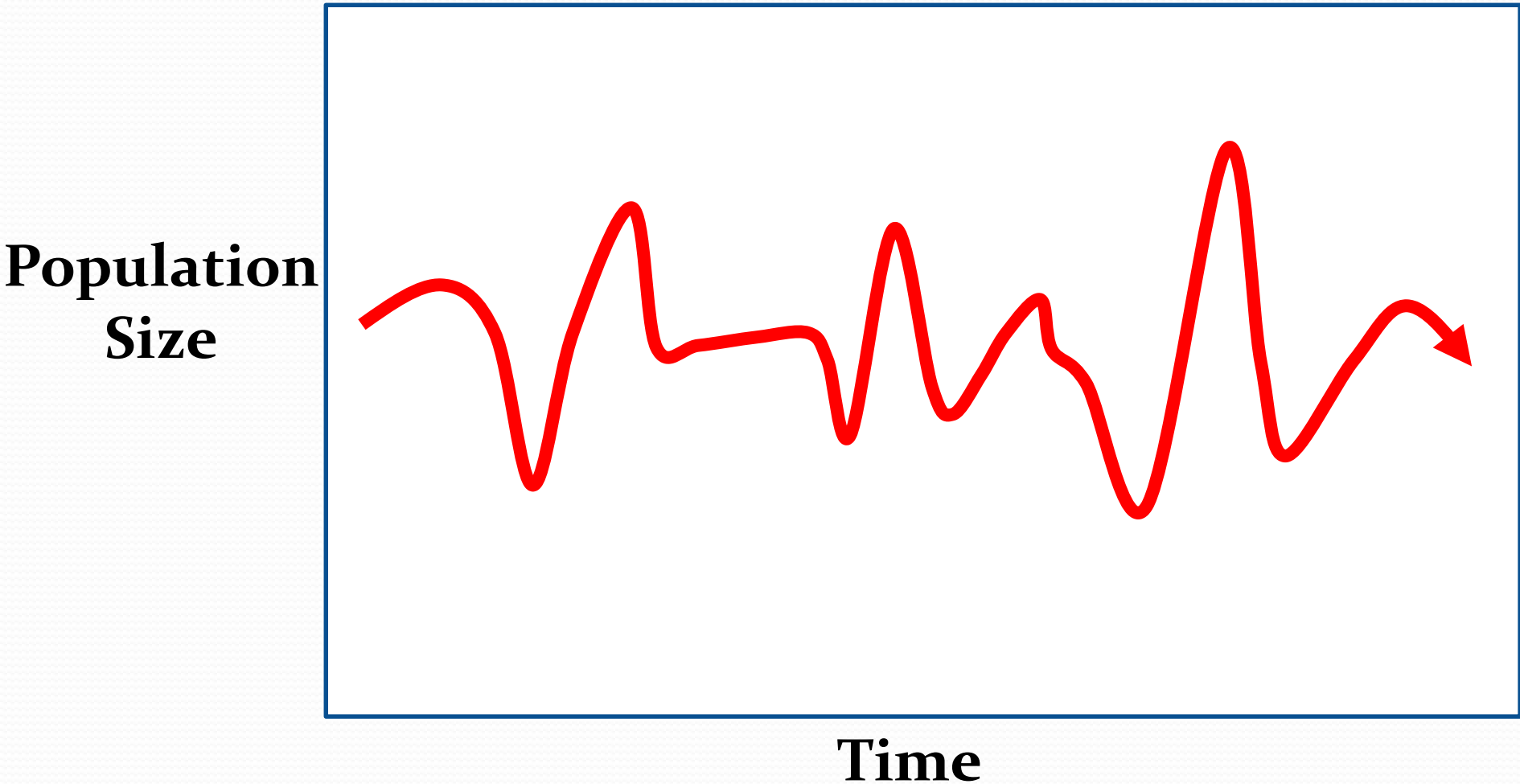
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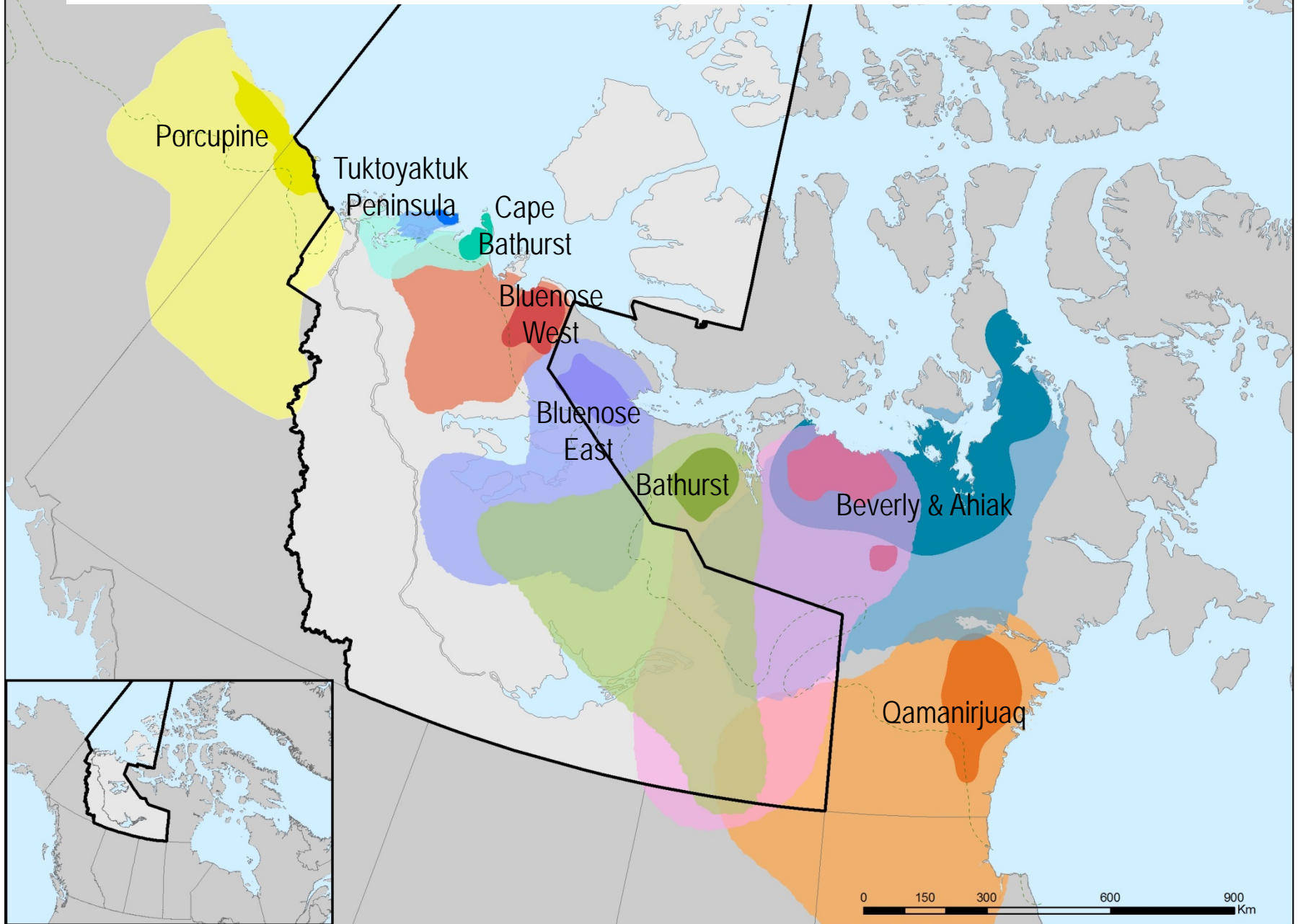
# Habitat management

- Maintaining food, water, shelter and space for wildlife
- healthy habitat = healthy populations
- But.....
  - interactions with other species
  - changing environment
  - changing human land use

# Wildlife Populations are Variable



# Barren-Ground Caribou Herds Found in NWT (from NWT SARC Caribou Report 2015)





# Settled & Unsettled Land Claims in NWT 2015: Complex Land Use Environment



# GNWT approach to Habitat Management

- Range Plan(s)
- EA and regulatory recommendations
  - Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans
- Involvement in Land use planning



# Range planning: Bathurst caribou herd

- Collaborative planning process (including Nunavut participants)
- Recommendations to management authorities
- Considers economic implications of habitat management





# Range planning: Bathurst caribou herd

- Types of recommendations:
  - seasonal/timing restrictions
  - disturbance thresholds
  - access management
- Guide GNWT input into EAs and CEAs (including transboundary projects occurring in Nunavut)
- Feed into Land Use Planning process





# EA and Regulatory recommendations

- Provide comments on land use permits/water license applications
  - seasonal/sensitive timing restrictions (calving, migration)
  - setback distances (water crossings)
  - shutdown operations when caribou groups come within a certain distance



# Interveners in recent EAs

- NWT
  - Fortune Minerals – NICO project
  - Dominion Diamonds Ekati Corporation - Jay project
- Nunavut
  - Sabina/Glencore - BIPR
  - MMG - Izok Corridor
  - Sabina - Back River
  - Glencore – Hackett River
  - Agnico Eagle - Meliadine



# Industry Requirements

- S. 95 Wildlife Act - legal requirement for Wildlife Mitigation and Management plans in NWT
  - address site specific impacts of project
  - monitoring programs
  - guidelines under review





# Land Use Planning

- Participant in the Nunavut Land Use Planning process
- GNWT position
  - No development on calving grounds
  - Consistent with GN
- Wekeezhii (under consideration)
- Sahtu (review)



Photo: J. Boulanger



# Conclusion

- GNWT has several approaches to habitat management:
  - Range plan
  - EA/regulatory
  - Land Use Planning
- shared wildlife populations = shared responsibilities
- continued partnerships and communications with Nunavut





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