

SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board meeting, May 7th-9th 2013, Fort Smith, NT.

Background:

The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board held a meeting in Fort Smith, NT from May 7th – 9th 2013. The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (Board) was created to assist with the management of the two herds whose migratory routes straddle two territories and two provinces. The Boards main purpose is to help conserve the caribou herds in the interest of those who traditionally rely upon the caribou. The NWMB was represented at this meeting by Peter Kydd, NWMB Wildlife Management Biologist, and Peter Qayutinuak Sr., NWMB Board member.

Overview:

During this meeting the draft 2013 Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan (Plan) was a main discussion point. The Plan has been delayed in its production; however, NWMB staff are expecting an opportunity to review the document before it is finalized, and made public in January 2014. The Plan includes substantial changes from current and past management plans and will include sections on: principles, goals and objectives; herd condition and vulnerability assessments; monitoring; sustainable use of caribou; commercial land use and cumulative effects; and communication and education.

There were group discussions and determine the priorities of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board over the next five years. Some of the main priorities discussed included:

- Updating the caribou protection measures;
- Developing clear methods for communicating information between the Board and communities, gathering of information, and consultation;
- Developing materials and methods used to educate various individuals and groups, from school children to harvesters, on best practices for harvesting, handling meat, wasteful hunting and caribou management;
- Protection of calving grounds;
- Minimizing the long-term effects of exploration and development; and
- Encourage government to fund environmental research and monitoring.

There was also discussion on the communication strategy to be included in the 2013 Management Plan. Group discussions were used to help determine the five most important audiences to communicate with. There was consensus that (1) school children, (2) communities and active harvesters, (3) community government (e.g. Hunter and Trapper Organizations, Inuit

and First Nation Organizations, Institutes of Public Government), (4) decision makers, and (5) industry are the most important groups with whom to communicate.

Discussion surrounding land use planning brought up concerns about the current caribou protection measures, and their inadequacies.

A proposal to have the designation of the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary changed to a National Wildlife Area, which would provide stronger protection to the land within the current Sanctuary, was brought to the Board's attention. This change was initiated by an increase in mineral exploration to the east of Queen Maud Gulf, which could put added pressure on the Canadian Wildlife Service to permit exploration in the Sanctuary.

A representative from Anconia Resources Corporation presented and discussed the current exploration occurring in the Qamanirjuaq caribou calving grounds.

The Board agreed to have its next meeting in Winnipeg from November 19th – 21st 2013, where the final version of the 2013 Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan will be presented.

Prepared By: Peter Kydd, Wildlife Management Biologist

Reviewed By: Anna Magera, Fisheries Management Biologist

Dated: May 22, 2013