## **SUBMISSION TO THE**

## **NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

#### **FOR**



Information: Decision: X

Issue: 3 new project proposals for the Nunavut Wildlife Study Fund (NWSF) funding for 2013-2014

**Overview:** The NWMB is being asked to make decisions on whether to fund three new projects applying for Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund (NWSF or Fund) funding during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

**Background:** The NWMB's Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund (Fund) is used to provide funding for Nunavut community groups or individuals conducting wildlife research in the territory. Recent changes to the application process that were approved by the Board allow for Fund applications to be submitted throughout the year. Projects are evaluated using the criteria outlined in the updated Fund Policy based on the information submitted by the applicant, and then ranked based on their total score.

Overview of proposed projects: The NWMB recently received three new project proposals from the Hunters and Trappers Organizations in Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, and Arctic Bay. All three Hunters and Trappers Organizations proposed projects on the same topic: conducting ground-based surveys in March 2014. All three proposals received the same score since they all had the same project description, just in different communities. The requested funding for all 3 projects is \$77,160 total. The Board determined in its 2013-2014 budget \$100,000 is available for NWSF for this fiscal year, and of this \$70,000 remains. A summary of the scores and projects are provided in Appendix 1. Project reviews are included in Appendix 2.

**Prepared by:** Anna Magera, A/Director of Wildlife Management

Consulted: Sarah Spencer, Wildlife Management Biologist

# **Appendix 1**

3 New Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund Proposals for 2013-2014.						
Project #	Title	Amount Requested	Score			
204-13-1	Clyde River HTO Caribou Ground Survey March 2014	\$28,810	72.91			
206-13-1	Arctic Bay HTO Caribou Ground Survey March 2014	\$28,810*	72.91			
211-13-1	Qikiqtarjuaq HTO Caribou Ground Survey March 2014	\$19,540	72.91			
	Total Funds Requested:	\$77,160				
	Total Funds Available:	\$70,000				
	Funds Requested that Exceed Total Fund Available:	\$7,160				

<sup>\*</sup>This is the amount specified in the budget, but in another section of the proposal the request is \$30,000.

#### **Appendix 2**

## **REVIEW OF 3 PROPOSALS<sup>1</sup>**

**Project Numbers:** 201-13-1 (Clyde River), 206-13-1 (Arctic Bay), 211-13-1 (Qikiqtarjuaq)

Applicants: Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Organization, Arctic Bay Hunters and Trappers

Organization, Qikiqtarjuaq Hunters and Trappers Organization

**Titles:** Clyde River HTO Caribou Ground Survey Arctic Bay HTO Caribou Ground Survey Qikiqtarjuaq HTO Caribou Ground Survey

Funding Requested: \$28,810 (Clyde River)

\$28,810 (Arctic Bay) \$19,540 (Qikiqtarjuaq)

Ranks: All the same Scoring Breakdowns: NWMB Priority: 7.50 / 7.50

**Total Scores:** 72.91 /100 Regional Priority: 17.50 / 17.50

(0 points deducted) Quality: 29.00 / 35.00

Consultation: 8.50 / 15.00 Funding: 10.41 / 25.00

**Project Summary:** There is concern over low Baffin Island caribou numbers, and no caribou population estimate for caribou for all of Baffin Island. The Government of Nunavut plans to conduct an aerial survey, and communities wish to conduct a ground survey. Objectives of the ground survey are: (1) determine whether caribou are in the study area and other important information (e.g. caribou condition), (2) use observations to inform the Government of Nunavut aerial survey, and (3) encourage local participation in research and ensure research is compatible with Inuit values.

#### **Project Contributions:**

Requested from NWMB 100%
Other Contributions (only in-kind) 0%
Total 100%

#### **NWMB Staff Evaluation:**

<u>NWMB Priority</u>: #1 - Contributes to the establishment, modification or removal of levels of Total Allowable Harvest (S 5.6.16 to S 5.6.18) for stocks or populations where there is believed to be a conservation concern or that are priority species for harvest by Inuit.

Regional Priority: # 1 Baffin – Caribou: Population estimate (Baffin Island).

<u>Project design</u>: Areas within a 200km area out from the community will be surveyed by a ground crew of 3 to 6 hunters travelling by snowmobile. Survey areas will be identified in pre-survey consultations with the communities and Government of Nunavut. The ground survey crew will use expert knowledge and IQ to locate caribou or signs of caribou. They will communicate their observations to the Government of Nunavut aerial survey crews. Ground crews will also collect

<sup>1</sup> Normally separate reviews are provided for each proposal, but since the project description was the same for each proposal (aside from the Hunters and Trappers Organization that applied, the amounts requested, and the project numbers), they will all be described together in one review.

information on location, group size, sex and age, and condition (health) of observed caribou. When possible, ground crews will also collect caribou scat samples for genetic analysis. The ground survey should take 5-7 days dependent on weather.

Application of results: The ground surveys will provide information on caribou distribution on Baffin Island from IQ and community knowledge that will hopefully help to provide more accurate estimates of Baffin Island caribou numbers. Ground survey crews will report observations regarding caribou distribution to Government of Nunavut aerial survey crews. Findings will also be summarized in interim and final reports to the NWMB, and included in a Government of Nunavut file report. The results of the study will also help in developing community caribou management plans.

Community involvement / consultation: Representatives from each of the Hunters and Trappers Organizations have reviewed their respective proposals. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board also reviewed the Clyde River and Arctic Bay proposals. Consultations with the communities are also planned for January 2014, but no additional detail was provided. Before the ground survey, survey crew members will consult with the Hunters and Trappers Organization, elders and local caribou experts. Consultation will also occur once the research is completed, but there was no detailed information on the consultation.

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