PROPOSAL REVIEW

Project Number: 2-14-02 **Applicant:**Morgan Anderson

Title: Southern Ellesmere Peary caribou and muskox aerial survey

Funding Requested: Single Year Funding - $75,000 for 2014-2015

Rank: 16 / 18
Total Score 69.84 /100
(no deductions)

Scoring Breakdown:
NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50
Regional Priority: 7.50 / 7.50
Quality: 20.50 / 35.00
Consultation: 9.00 / 15
Funding: 15.34 / 25

Project Summary:

This project aims to update the population estimate for Peary caribou and muskox on southern Ellesmere Island by: 1) determining abundance of Peary caribou and muskoxen on southern Ellesmere Island; and 2) determining indices of population trend for caribou and muskoxen, particularly calf recruitment rates.

Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	$75,000	22%
Other Contributions	$259,340	78%
Total	$334,340	100%

NWMB Staff Evaluation:

NWMB Priority: #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 – Peary Caribou: Population estimate

Project design:

In April 2014, helicopters will be flown along transects spaced 5-km apart running east and west across the study area. The study area will not include large ice caps where caribou are unlikely to occur. Aircraft will fly off the transect to groups of animals to determine the exact geographical position, but groups will only be classified to adult/calf and not circled more for more detailed classification to reduce disturbance. Where signs of recent presence by animals are spotted, the helicopter will land and researchers will collect fecal pellets that will contribute to genetic analysis by another project (proposed separately; project 2-14-04). This will either be done after caribou have left the area or the helicopter will land several hundred meters away and the group will be approached on foot to minimize disturbance. A computer program called DISTANCE will be used to estimate population numbers and adult-to-calf ratios will be calculated based on groups classified during the survey.

Application of results:

Up-to-date population estimates produced by this project will contribute to the development of a territorial management plan for Peary caribou and will provide guidance on the federal Recovery Strategy for Peary caribou, required under the *Species at Risk Act*.

Community involvement / consultation:

The application indicates that pre-survey consultation with the Grise Fiord community and Hunters and Trappers Organization have occurred by correspondence and in-person, beginning in October 2013 with consultations planned to continue into March 2014. Support from the Hunters and Trappers Organization has been requested, but no letter of support has been provided yet. Consultations are planned to continue during the research and an in-community presentation of results will occur upon completion of the project. The project will employ field assistants from the community of Grise Fiord for a total of 30 person days.

As per the NWRT policy, if the project is funded by the NWRT the project is required to: (1) provide a letter of support from all affected communities by June 30th, 2014; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30th, 2014 and provide evidence that the research has done a "conscientious" job of consulting; **OR** (3) provide the required information to demonstrate that "conscientious" consultation has been conducted by June 30th, 2014.

Recommendations: If this project is funded, the following conditions should apply:

1. Funding should be conditional on other funding, as identified in the proposal, being approved. This should be confirmed in writing; and
2. Funding should be conditional on meeting the consultation requirements identified as per the NWRT policy.

Prepared By: Danica Crystal, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

Consultations: Peter Kydd, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB
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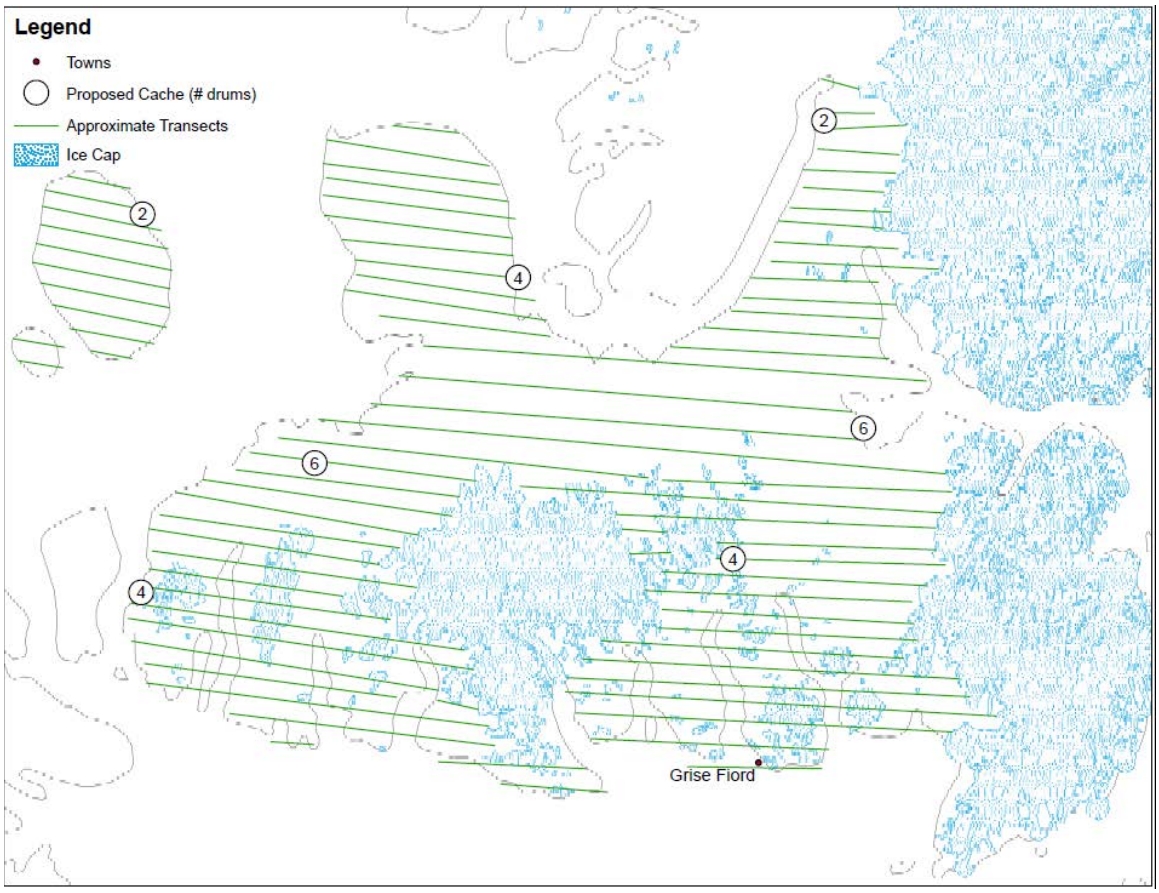

Figure 1. Proposed study area with approximate transect lines.