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Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Update on the development of the Recovery Strategy for Peary Caribou in Canada



In February 2011, Peary caribou were listed as Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*. Under SARA, when a species is listed as Endangered, a recovery strategy must be developed. The recovery strategy is due to be posted as proposed on the federal Species at Risk Registry by March 2017.

- Work is continuing on the collaborative development of the Peary caribou recovery strategy and the knowledge assessment to help inform critical habitat identification.
- Community knowledge and input have been included in all aspects of the recovery planning process from the beginning of the process through:
 - Introductory meetings in each community – Nov 2011
 - Community technical meetings held in each community – Feb 2013
 - HTO/A involvement in the All-Chairs meetings held in Yellowknife (2012, 2013 and planned for Feb. 2015)
 - Co-management partners development of the Population and Distribution objectives, which guide the identification of critical habitat:

All Peary caribou populations are healthy (self-sustaining) and available for future generations. Peary caribou are able to move freely on the land and sea ice (within and between islands) to ensure natural habitat use and migration as well as migration during catastrophic events (such as weather). Peary caribou populations are able to support a sustainable Inuit/Inuvialuit harvest that is responsive to natural fluctuations in populations.

- IUCN Threat Calculator teleconference/WebEx exercise to be used in the recovery strategy and the COSEWIC status report - Sept. 2014
- Input into the knowledge assessment to inform the identification of critical habitat
- The identification of critical habitat for Peary caribou is being informed by the community knowledge along with the knowledge assessment (TEK and science) being undertaken by Environment Canada's Science and Technology Branch. Preliminary results are expected by February 2015, which the co-management partners will review and provide their input and advice. This includes:
 - Environmental Niche Analysis (ENA), which used community knowledge from mapping sessions - spatial predictive model that will identify relative use of different areas by Peary caribou across their range. The aim of this work is to identify the location and the amount of habitat that is of importance to Peary to inform critical habitat identification.
 - Biophysical attributes – literature review (including the notes taken during meetings with the communities) of the biophysical attributes or a description of the type of habitat required by Peary caribou to satisfy their life history requirements.
 - Population Viability Analysis (PVA) – demographic modelling to assess the population objective, assess if populations are self-sustaining, examine the effect of management actions and environmental changes.
 - Review of population modelling exercise by leading experts to address concerns and ensure the product produced is of the highest quality and scientifically defensible given the available data.
 - If it is determined that there is additional information and research required for the identification of critical habitat, it will be outlined in the schedule of studies section of the recovery strategy.
- The IUCN Threat Calculator was completed on September 12, 2014 with input from communities within the range, along with other co-management partners (HTO/As, WMBs, Parks, GNWT, GN, NTI) and scientists. The following people from Nunavut were present on the teleconference:
 - Phillip Manik, Sr. (Resolute Bay HTO)
 - Peter Qayutinuak Sr. (Spence Bay HTA - Taloyoak)
 - Karla Letto (NWMB)
 - Morgan Anderson and Lisa-Marie LeClerc (GN)

- David Lee (NTI)
- Andrew Maher (Parks Canada, Iqaluit)
- The All-Chairs Meeting (including all co-management partners from Nunavut and the NWT) will be held in Yellowknife in February 2015 to share draft key sections of the recovery strategy and the work on the knowledge assessment for critical habitat identification. The following Nunavut people are expected to attend:
 - Jaypatee Akeeagok or alternate (Iviq Hunters & Trappers Organization, Grise Fiord)
 - Philip Manik, Sr. (Resolute Bay Hunters & Trappers Organization, Resolute Bay)
 - James Qitsualik Taqaugak (Gjoa Haven Hunters & Trappers Association, Gjoa Haven)
 - Abel Aqqaq (Spence Bay Hunters & Trappers Association, Taloyoak)
 - Howard Greenley (Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers Organization, Cambridge Bay)
 - John Kayasark (Kugaaruk Hunters & Trappers Organization, Kugaaruk)
 - Ema Quqqutaq (KWMB)
 - Karla Letto (NWMB, Iqaluit)
 - David Lee, Paul Irngaut (NTI)
 - Morgan Anderson (GN)
 - Andrew Maher (Parks Canada, Iqaluit)
 - Lisa Pirie (Environment Canada, Iqaluit)
- Timeline to complete recovery strategy :
 1. Mid-January – Mid February 2015: Preliminary results from modelling work will be shared with co-management partners for their review and input.
 2. February 17-19, 2015: All-Chairs Meeting in Yellowknife.
 3. Environment Canada will complete revisions to the draft recovery strategy and adjustments to models based on feedback received at the Yellowknife meeting.
 4. 1st Jurisdictional Technical Review – formal request to co-management authorities (WMAC (NWT), NWMB, Parks Canada, GN and GNWT) to conduct technical review.
 5. April 2015 – Fall 2015: Communities will be formally consulted on the revised draft. Environment Canada plans to consult the following communities in Nunavut: Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk and Cambridge Bay.
 6. Environment Canada will provide NWMB, WMAC (NWT), Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Nunavut community consultation results and will formally request approvals/support to post.
 7. Recovery strategy will enter the internal Environment Canada review, finalization, and approval process.

8. Posting of proposed recovery strategy on the Species at Risk Registry for a 60-day public comment period, followed by a 30 day period for EC to consider comments and revise the document.
9. Environment Canada will formally request approval of the final document from NWMB.
10. Final recovery document will be posted on the Species at Risk Registry.

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