

# PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2-14-08

**RESEARCHER:** Mitch Campbell

**TITLE:** Estimating Breeding Female Abundance within the Qamanirjuaq Mainland Migratory Barren-Ground Caribou Subpopulation

**ORIGINALLY FUNDED:** 2014-2015

**NWMB FUNDING:** \$75,000

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** The principle goal of this project is to determine the abundance and distribution of caribou within the Qamanirjuaq mainland migratory barren-ground caribou subpopulation, and in comparison with past abundance estimates, determine the subpopulation's status and trend. Specifically, the project objectives are: 1) obtain an estimate for the number of breeding cows on the calving ground; 2) determine the trend in the number of breeding females on the calving ground since 2008; 3) estimate pregnancy rates; 4) conduct a fall composition study for the purposes of extrapolating to a whole herd estimate; and 5) define the spatial extent of the annual calving ground and compare this to historical calving ground use.

## FINANCIAL REPORT:

<b>Amount from NWMB:</b>	\$ 75,000
<b>Amount from Others:</b>	\$ 478,176
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 553,176
<b>Expenses:</b>	Not provided
<b>Difference</b>	Not provided

**COMMENTS:** The survey was structured into five main components: 1) Systematic reconnaissance survey, 2) Double observer visual survey, 3) Photographic survey, 4) Density stratum based composition surveys and 5) fall composition surveys. All components of the June 2014 Qamanirjuaq survey were successfully completed October 20th, 2014. Analysis is on-going with results expected by March 20<sup>th</sup> 2015. The initial survey deployment and progress has been shared with co-management partners. Formal consultations of survey results will begin in March when survey results have been finalized. As indicated in the interim financial report, additional funding was provided by the Government of Nunavut and other agencies to accommodate over expenditures due to higher photo plane and accommodation costs than expected.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. NWMB Wildlife staff do not have any recommendations for this reporting period. The project leader has met all of the reporting requirements to date. A final financial report will be required by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 as per the NWRT policy. Project results will be captured in the final project report which is required by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**CONSULTATIONS:** Sarah Spencer, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

**PREPARED BY:** Karla Letto, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB