

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER: 2-13-03

RESEARCHER: Jaylene Goorts

TITLE: Caribou Health Monitoring Program

ORIGINALLY FUNDED: 2013-2014 \$19,500
 2014-2015 \$15,250 (Carry-over from 2013-2014)

NWMB FUNDING: \$15,250

PROJECT SUMMARY: The purpose of this project is to establish a hunter-based sample and information collection program that will contribute to the monitoring of caribou health and genetics in the Baffin Region of Nunavut. This program combines the knowledge and resources of hunters and scientists to monitor the occurrence of disease, parasites, and other health related parameters of caribou over time. The main objectives are to: 1) establish baseline values for health related parameters and genetic variation of caribou; 2) long-term monitoring to detect future changes; and 3) increase the capacity of community members, including youth, in research.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Amount from NWMB:	\$15,250
Amount from Others:	\$16,000 + \$5,000 in-kind
TOTAL	\$31,250
Expenses:	\$30,972
Difference	+ \$278 (Unknown amount to be returned)

COMMENTS: The original project budget that was submitted in an application to the NWMB for NWRT funding in 2014/15 amounted to \$46,000. However, instead of funding this project from the 2014/15 NWRT fund, the Board approved a request to carry-over \$15,250 from the 2013/14 fiscal year funding. Due to the decrease in funds, the project leader omitted the dietary analysis (included in the original application) from this years' project activities. A total of 147 sample kits were returned in 2013/14. The samples and data collected are being analyzed to evaluate caribou health and obtain information on age classification, disease and parasite prevalence, and genetics. Interim reporting to communities and Baffin Hunters and Trappers Organizations has occurred during scheduled consultation meetings, and the exchange of project feedback from participants has been ongoing. Due to the harvesting moratorium of Baffin Island caribou, the lead researcher will not be receiving any more samples from hunters unless the moratorium is lifted.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. NWMB Wildlife staff does 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 30th 2015 as per the NWRT policy. Project results will be captured in the final project report which is required by September 30th, 2015.

CONSULTATIONS: Sarah Spencer, Wildlife Management Biologist, NWMB

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